

## ABSTRACT

*Women's representation in electoral politics often stops at meeting numerical quotas but has yet to reach substantive empowerment and success. They frequently face an unequal playing field, both within political party structures and in the social dynamics of society. This study aims to identify and analyze the obstacles to the representation of female legislative candidates from PDIP in Electoral District V of Majalengka Regency during the 2024 General Election. Although PDIP is the party with the highest vote share, no female candidates from this party have succeeded in winning seats in the legislature. This research applies Fiona Mackay's Feminist Institutionalism approach and Mansour Fakih's Gender Injustice theory to understand the manifestations of gender injustice within political institutions, highlighting how these obstacles arise both in formal structures and informal institutional norms. The study uses a qualitative case study method conducted in Electoral District V of Majalengka Regency. Purposive sampling was employed to select participants. Data were collected through interviews, documentation, and literature review. Data validity was ensured using triangulation techniques, and data analysis followed Creswell's model assisted by NVivo 15 software. The findings indicate that the obstacles faced by female candidates include minimal support and training from the party, placement on non-strategic ballot numbers, the perception of women as merely complementary, inequality in campaign funding and money politics, gender expectations and social pressures, as well as the increasingly competitive open proportional electoral system. These findings show that women's representation is influenced not only by formal policies but also by internal political practices and social norms that are not yet favorable to women.*

**Keywords:** *Feminist Institutionalism; Gender Injustice; PDIP; Women's Representation.*