

## Community Advocacy through the Recess of the Regional House of Representatives (DPRD) of Kepulauan Riau Province

Ulfiyatun Ma'rifah<sup>1\*</sup>, Juwita Boneka Sinaga<sup>2</sup>, Faisal Wendi<sup>3</sup>, Sahat M. Siburian<sup>3</sup>, Junaidi<sup>4</sup>, Dede Saepudin<sup>4</sup>, Indra<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Accounting Study Programe, Economics and Business, University of Riau Kepulauan, Indonesia

<sup>2</sup>English Language Education, Teacher Training and Education, University of Riau Kepulauan, Indonesia

<sup>3</sup>Law Study Program, Faculty of Law, University of Riau Kepulauan, Indonesia

<sup>4</sup>Government Science, Social and Political Sciences, University of Riau Kepulauan, Indonesia

<sup>5</sup>Management, Economics and Business, University of Riau Kepulauan, Indonesia

Corresponding Author: [ulfia1105@gmail.com](mailto:ulfia1105@gmail.com)

Received: October 2025 | Accepted: November 2025 | Published: January 2026

**Abstract.** The recess activities of the Regional House of Representatives (DPRD) serve as an official forum to absorb the aspirations of communities within their respective electoral districts. This community service program aimed to provide residents of Graha Namarina Housing Complex, Batam City, with an opportunity to express their aspirations through advocacy facilitated by university students. The method applied was a participatory approach, involving socialization, dialogue forums, and the direct delivery of aspirations to DPRD members. The results of the activity indicated a high level of enthusiasm among residents in voicing concerns related to infrastructure, education, health services, employment, and public services. This activity demonstrates that the recess remains relevant as a medium of participatory democracy that bridges the community with their elected representatives.

**Keyword:** Advocacy, Recess, Community Service

**Abstrak.** Kegiatan reses Dewan Perwakilan Rakyat Daerah (DPRD) berfungsi sebagai forum resmi untuk menyerap aspirasi masyarakat di daerah pemilihan masing-masing. Program pengabdian masyarakat ini bertujuan untuk memberikan kesempatan kepada warga Perumahan Graha Namarina, Kota Batam, untuk menyampaikan aspirasi mereka melalui advokasi yang difasilitasi oleh mahasiswa. Metode yang diterapkan adalah pendekatan partisipatif, yang melibatkan sosialisasi, forum dialog, dan penyampaian aspirasi secara langsung kepada anggota DPRD. Hasil kegiatan menunjukkan tingkat antusiasme yang tinggi di kalangan warga dalam menyuarakan keprihatinan terkait infrastruktur, pendidikan, layanan kesehatan, lapangan kerja, dan pelayanan publik. Kegiatan ini menunjukkan bahwa reses tetap relevan sebagai media demokrasi partisipatif yang menjembatani masyarakat dengan wakil rakyat terpilih.

**Kata kunci:** Advokasi, Reses, Pengabdian Masyarakat

### How to Citation:

Ma'rifah, U., Sinaga JB., Wendi F., Siburian, SM., Junaidi, J., Saepudin D., and Indra, I. (2026). Community advocacy through the recess of the Regional House Of Representatives (DPRD) of Kepulauan Riau Province, *STICOS: Sustainable Innovation in Community Service*, 1(1), 1-7. Doi. 10.33373/STICOS.v1i1.xxxxx

## Introduction

Community service is one of the tangible forms of student contribution in the process of regional social, political and economic development. Through service activities, students not only learn in theory, but also interact directly with the community. One form of activity that can be carried out is community advocacy through the Recess of Members of the Riau Islands Provincial Regional Representative Council, together with Tumpal Ari M. Pasaribu, S.E. which is an official forum to convey the aspirations of residents. Recess is an official activity of the DPRD to absorb the aspirations of the people in their respective constituencies. The recess is an important instrument in channeling the aspirations of the community so that the public voice

can enter the process of formulating regional policies (Hamidin et al., 2024). Through recess activities, students and the community are given the opportunity to be able to convey input, suggestions, criticisms and needs related to local government programs.

In Batam City, especially in Graha Namarina Housing, there are several main problems that are still often faced by the community. Housing infrastructure and the environment are uneven, as can be seen from the inadequate condition of roads, drainage systems and public facilities. Employment that is not proportional to the number of job seekers is a problem, especially for the younger generation who have difficulty finding permanent jobs. In the health sector, low-income people, fishermen still have difficulties in accessing BPJS facilities. Meanwhile, in the education sector, assistance and scholarships still do not reach all groups, causing a gap in learning opportunities. Other problems also arise in the field of public services, population administration and bureaucracy which is still slow and suboptimal.

These problems require a communication forum that can connect the community with policy makers. Recess is the answer to this problem, because recess provides an opportunity for people to be able to convey their aspirations directly to the people's representatives. Through the recess, problems that have only been able to be complaints at the citizen level, can now be brought to public policy. Community service through advocacy in this recess activity aims to answer these problems by giving the community an opportunity to voice their aspirations and also ensure follow-up from the DPRD. Advocacy is considered important because it plays a role in connecting the community with political decision-makers (Budiono, 2025; Ullaya & Martini, 2025).

Advocacy can be said to be a process in supporting and defending the interests and rights of the community. The forms of advocacy are very diverse, ranging from the fields of human rights, environment, health, education to social (Azzahri et al., 2021). The main goal is to raise public awareness, expand access to services (Primary, 2025). The methods used vary widely, such as campaigns, lobbying, education, or cooperation with other parties. In this advocacy activity, students act as a communication liaison between the Graha Namarina Housing community and the Riau Islands Provincial Parliament through recess. With this, community advocacy activities are expected to be a communication link between students and the community of Graha Namarina Housing and the local government through people's representatives so that existing problems can be identified and given the best solutions.

## **Methodology**

Based on the background and initial survey conducted at Graha Namarina Housing, the community service team designed activities in the form of community advocacy through the recess forum of members of the Riau Islands Provincial DPRD. The survey shows that there are still problems related to limited facilities and infrastructure, the need for scholarships, and uneven public services. Therefore, advocacy activities with a participatory approach were chosen, by providing facilities to the community so that they can have the opportunity to convey their aspirations directly to the council members.

### **1. Form of Activity**

In this service, it is focused on three things. First, socialization of recess activities is carried out to the community so that the community knows the goals, benefits, and

procedures for conveying aspirations. Second, a dialogue forum was held that brought together students, the community, and members of the DPRD. Third, the peak activity is in the form of conveying aspirations by students and the community orally.

## 2. Technical Implementation

The activity was carried out directly at the RW 021 public facility because of its strategic location and able to accommodate the number of participants who attended. The stages start from the preparation of the facilities to ensure that the event runs smoothly.

## 3. Implementation Time

### a. First Week: Preparation for the Social Humanities Cluster Discussion

The humanities social cluster conducted internal discussions to discuss the concept of activities and the division of tasks.

### b. Second Week: Coordination with the DPRD Secretariat

The team that has been formed began to coordinate with the secretariat to request an official schedule, and also coordinate for technical matters such as procedures for conveying aspirations, attendance schedules, and support related to consumption and necessary equipment.

### c. Week Three: Field Preparation and Administration

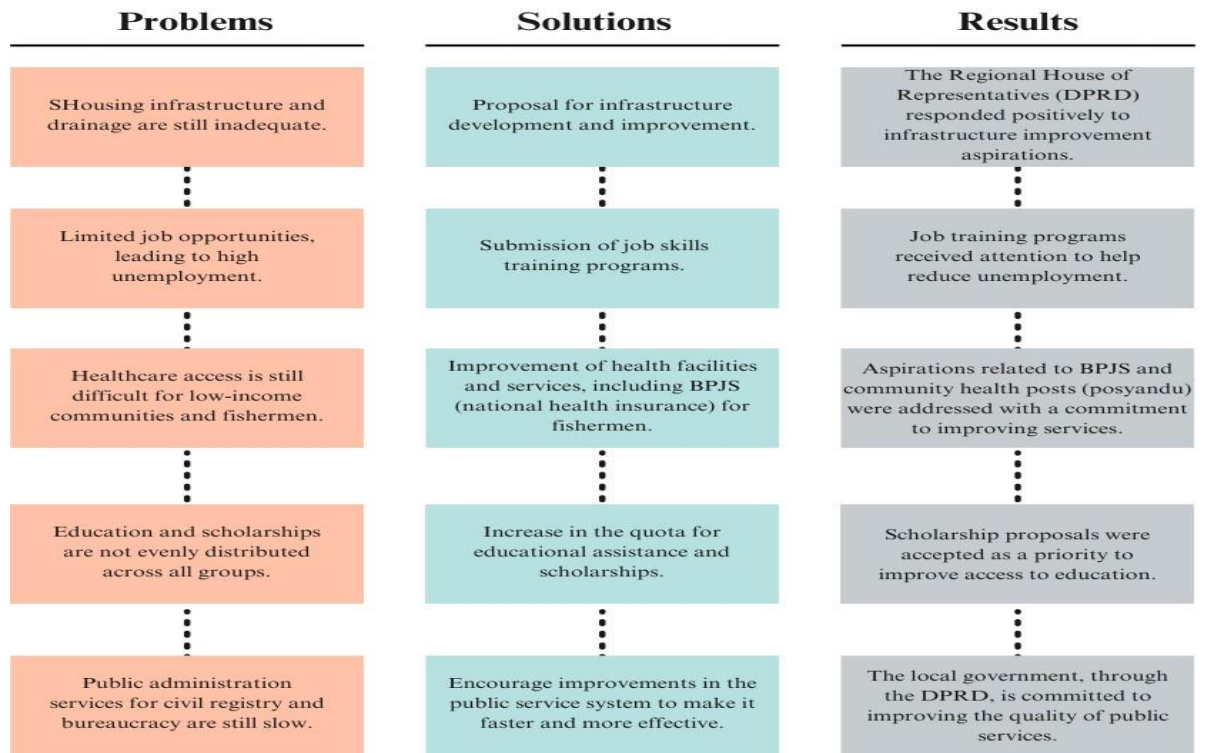
The team began to prepare invitations for residents of Graha Namarina Housing, and also coordinated with local officials regarding the use of fasum as a location for activities. Logistical preparations have also begun such as renting tents, chairs, and *sound system devices*.

### d. Week Four: Recess Implementation

Preparations start from the morning such as cleaning the fasum area, setting up tents, arranging chairs and preparing *sound systems*. The event was divided into two sessions. A special afternoon session for council discussions with students. And evening sessions with the community. Students and the community are given the same opportunity to express their aspirations.

## 4. Evaluation Stage

The evaluation was carried out after the recess activities were completed to assess the effectiveness of the implementation of the activity, community participation and the extent to which the aspirations that had been conveyed received responses from DPRD members.



*Figure 1. Problems Partner*

## Results and Discussion

The results of the implementation of recess activities went well and were conducive. The Graha Namarina Housing Community is very enthusiastic and active in conveying their aspirations. Examples of some of the aspirations conveyed include:

1. Repairs to the posyandu building as an improvement in health services.
2. The construction of culverts is an effort to improve housing infrastructure and drainage.
3. Increase in scholarship quotas for elementary to university levels.
4. Improving public services, especially for BPJS Fishermen at the City level.
5. Proposed job skills training program in an effort to overcome the high unemployment rate.

Mr. Tumpal Ari M. Pasaribu, S.E. responded well to the aspirations that had been conveyed by students and the community and also provided an explanation related to the programs being run by the government, and promised to fight for aspirations in the discussion at the DPRD. The enthusiasm of the residents of Graha Namarina Housing in participating in recess activities can be proof that the recess is still relevant as a media for participatory democracy at the regional level. This is in line with research (Hamidin et al., 2024) which emphasizes the importance of recess in channeling public aspirations. The involvement of students in recess activities makes the community more enthusiastic in conveying their aspirations. This is in line with the argument (Kurniasih, 2021) that the recess function not only articulates aspirations, but also opens up a more inclusive space for participation. The success of this activity can be achieved because of the skills of DPRD members in responding to questions and aspirations given by students and the community. (Holilah & Ismail, 2023) explained that the recess communication pattern is very decisive to the extent to which people's aspirations can be absorbed. In this context, the response given by DPRD members can

strengthen the confidence of students and the community that their aspirations are really considered.

Other studies have also shown that recess effectiveness occurs when there is a clear follow-up, (Dilla et al., 2022) in Medan found that the quick response of council members encouraged public trust. Research (Wenas et al., 2021) in Tomohon emphasized the importance of consistency in the implementation of the recess so that aspirations do not stop at the forum. (Jailani et al., 2025) also proves that the responsive leadership of the DPRD is able to increase public legitimacy. In addition, technological innovations such as e-recess are also starting to develop in several regions. Primary (2025) shows that this digital system facilitates the channeling of people's aspirations and expands the range of participation. Although recess activities are still carried out face-to-face. But the idea of e-recess can be an alternative that should be recommended. For students, being directly involved in recess activities can be a valuable experience, students can understand the democratic process firsthand, and can improve communication and social advocacy skills. Squirting (2025) Explained that political communication in the recess is not just a formal forum, but also an educational medium for the younger generation.



Figure 2. Aspiration delivery activities

**Conclusion and Recommendations**

**Conclusion**

The community advocacy activity through the recess of the Regional House of Representatives (DPRD) of Riau Islands Province successfully achieved its objectives in bridging communication between the residents of Graha Namarina Housing, students, and policymakers. The activity effectively facilitated the expression of public aspirations related to

infrastructure development, educational access, health services, employment, and public administration. The participatory approach adopted during the implementation encouraged active engagement and built community confidence in the democratic process. Furthermore, students gained valuable experiential learning in political communication, advocacy, and social interaction, strengthening their understanding of civic participation. The positive response from the DPRD members also reflected a genuine commitment to follow up on the aspirations voiced, thereby reinforcing the role of recess as an effective medium for participatory democracy and community empowerment.

### **Recommendations**

Based on the implementation experience, several recommendations can be proposed. First, the dissemination of information regarding recess activities should be expanded to encourage greater community participation and inclusivity. Second, there is a need for systematic follow-up and monitoring mechanisms to ensure that public aspirations are not only collected but also acted upon effectively by policymakers. Third, the integration of digital platforms such as e-recess can be explored to enhance accessibility and transparency in aspiration delivery. Fourth, continuous student involvement in advocacy programs should be supported by higher education institutions as part of experiential civic education. Finally, closer coordination between the DPRD, community apparatus, and local government agencies is essential to synchronize policies and ensure that every program derived from community aspirations can be implemented optimally.

### **Acknowledgements**

The authors would like to express their deepest gratitude to the Regional House of Representatives (DPRD) of Riau Islands Province, especially Mr. Tumpal Ari M. Pasaribu, S.E., for the collaboration and support provided during the implementation of this community service program. Appreciation is also extended to the residents and community leaders of Graha Namarina Housing for their active participation and cooperation throughout the activity. Special thanks are given to the University of Riau Islands for institutional support and facilitation under the community service program of the Faculty of Economics and Business, which made this initiative possible. The success of this program reflects the collective effort and commitment of all parties involved in promoting participatory democracy and community empowerment.

### **References**

- Azzahri, R., Andri, S., & Adiarto, (2021). Efektivitas Penggunaan Dana Reses Anggota Dewan Perwakilan Rakyat Daerah (DPRD) Kota Pekanbaru Dalam Menyerap Aspirasi Masyarakat. *Jurnal Niara*, 14(1), 266–275. <https://doi.org/10.31849/niara.v14i1.5133>
- Budiono, F. W. (2025). *Komunikasi Politik Anggota Dprd Kota Malang Dalam Pelaksanaan Reses Tahun 2023*. Universitas Muhammadiyah Malang.
- Dilla, I. U., Nasution, M. A., & Suriadi, A. (2022). Efektivitas Program Reses Dprd Kota Medan Dalam Menyerap Aspirasi Masyarakat Di Kecamatan Medan Labuhan. *GOVERNANCE: Jurnal Ilmiah Kajian Politik Lokal Dan Pembangunan*, 6(4), 141–145. <https://doi.org/10.56015/governance.v6i4.61>
- Hamidin, N., Mustafa, L. O., & Srijuna, W. ode. (2024). Peran Reses DPRD dalam Menyalurkan Aspirasi Masyarakat: Studi di Lakudo, Buton Tengah. *JAPMAS: Jurnal Politik Dan Demokrasi*, 2(2), 107–126. <https://doi.org/10.52423/japmas.v2i2.39>

- Holilah, H., & Ismail, M. (2023). Model Komunikasi Reses Anggota DPRD dalam Menyerap Aspirasi Masyarakat di Kabupaten Bangkalan. *Indonesian Journal of Political Studies (IJPS)*, 3(2), 150–175. <https://doi.org/10.15642/ijps.2023.3.2.150-175>
- Jailani, M. A., Mataram, U. M., Mataram, U. M., Arliani, S., Mataram, U. M., Mataram, U. M., Hidayat, R., & Mataram, U. M. (2025). Efektivitas reses ketua dprd kota mataram dalam menyerap dan merespons aspirasi publik. 4(2), 199–207.
- Kurniasih, D. (2021). Mengartikulasikan Aspirasi Masyarakat. 4, 380–395.
- Pratama, E. (2025). E-Reses Anggota Dewan Perwakilan Rakyat Daerah (Dprd) Musi Banyuasin Menggunakan Metode Prototype. Universitas Bina Darma Palembang.
- Ullaya, E. N., & Martini, R. (2025). Analisis Hasil Reses DPRD Dalam Penyusunan Dan Penetapan Apbd Provinsi Jawa Tengah Tahun Anggaran 2025 (Studi Pada Dapil 1 Fraksi PDIP DPRD Provinsi Jawa Tengah). *Journal of Politic and Government Studies*, 14(2). <http://ejournal3.undip.ac.id/index.php/jpgs/article/view/50159>
- Wenas, E. S., Kimbal, A., & Kumayas, N. (2021). Efektivitas Pelaksanaan Kegiatan Reses Anggota DPRD Kota Tomohon. *Jurnal Governance*, 1(1), 1–8.