**BOTANTE O BOT-ANTI?: Factors Influencing Voter Registration and Non-Registration among Senior High School Students in the 2022 Philippine Elections**

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**ABSTRACT**

The elections are known to pave the way for change, but recent voter turnouts highlight deficits in election participation that lower the vitality of democracies. Registration is the first step in this change-making. Herewith, this study sought to bring to light the perceptions of senior high school students on the 2022 Philippine Elections, and the factors affecting their voter registration or non-registration. Following a qualitative-descriptive research design, this study employed purposive sampling and aggregated data from thirty (30) students of LORMA Colleges Senior High School at least 18 years old residing in La Union, fifteen (15) of which are registered to vote and fifteen (15) of which are non-registered. Data were collected through a textual interview governed by a semi-structured questionnaire facilitated through Facebook Messenger, and were analyzed through Thematization. Upon analysis, students were found to perceive the elections as an opportunity for change, a center of public interest, a period of distress and disorder, and a youth-driven undertaking. Moreover, participants who registered to vote were seen to be pushed by their contribution to poll outcomes, family and peer influence, potential betterment of the status quo, and political and constitutional interest. Meanwhile, those non-registered to vote were identified to be influenced by shortcomings in the registration systems, high political ignorance, low political prioritization, and the monotony of Philippine politics. These findings underscore that while youths demonstrate general awareness towards the national undertaking, there is a need to intensify and revamp voter education methodologies targeting the youngest in the voting-age population.

**Keywords:** elections, politics, voter education, voter registration, youth