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Political dynamics and electoral oversight in Indonesia: An evaluation of Bawaslu's role in upholding democracy

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Abstract

A democratic and integrity-based election is a fundamental pillar in establishing governance under the rule of law. In Indonesia, the Election Supervisory Agency (Bawaslu) plays a strategic role in ensuring that elections are conducted fairly, transparently, and honestly. This study evaluates the role of Bawaslu in overseeing the electoral process amid complex political dynamics. A qualitative research approach was employed through literature analysis and a case study of the 2019 simultaneous elections. The findings indicate that Bawaslu faces challenges related to independence, the effectiveness of supervision, and the enforcement of electoral laws. These findings reaffirm that Bawaslu's existence is crucial in safeguarding the integrity of democracy, but it still requires strengthening in terms of regulatory frameworks and institutional capacity.

Keywords: Bawaslu, Democracy, Election supervision, Electoral integrity.

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1. Introduction

One of the basic requirements for the establishment of democratic governance under the rule of law is the holding of free elections. For modern democratic countries, elections are the main mechanism that must exist in the stages of state administration and the formation of government. Elections are seen as the most tangible form of sovereignty that rests in the hands of the people, as well as the most concrete manifestation of people's participation in the administration of the state [1]. The presence of democratic, integrity-driven, and dignified elections is an absolute and inevitable necessity for a democratic rule-of-law state. This is stated because elections are seen as the most tangible form of sovereignty in the hands of the people, as well as the most concrete manifestation of people's participation in the state. Therefore, in a democratic rule-of-law state, elections are one of the most vital elements and serve as a parameter for assessing the democracy that is developing and being

developed in a country [2]. As a political legal choice, Indonesia held presidential and vice-presidential elections (pilpres), members of the DPR, DPD, provincial DPRD, and district/city DPRD (pileg) simultaneously on 17 April 2019. This was the first experience in holding simultaneous elections based on the Constitutional Court Decision Number 14/PUU-XI/2013. Not excluding Bawaslu along with all its ranks below it, including in the Special Capital Region of Jakarta, the capital city of the country, it is not easy to carry out democratic duties through the election supervisory agency, as it is demanded by various conditions and situations that are not easy, with all eyes focused on Jakarta. The question then arises: was Bawaslu of the Special Capital Region of Jakarta able to carry out this mandate as best as possible, considering the public's expectations? Many people wanted Bawaslu, particularly Bawaslu of the Special Capital Region of Jakarta, to ensure legal certainty and that the enforcement of the election could truly be as fair as possible, answering questions or even doubts from some citizens who might be, and perhaps are, apathetic towards the election administration, especially the aspect of election supervision.

This then becomes a homework assignment for Bawaslu of the Special Capital Region of Jakarta, given the massive political dynamics with an extraordinary spectrum of interests that accompany the conduct of elections. The dynamic interaction between policy actors, who may represent groups, civil society, the government, or other actors, is bound by certain political relations and interests. This dynamic interaction forms the relationships between actors across various government and political institutions; this dynamic interaction is a consequence of the election as a venue for five-yearly political contests. Realizing electoral justice itself is an inherent part of Bawaslu's existence. The implementation of the electoral oversight and law enforcement functions carried out by Bawaslu is nothing other than an effort to ensure the realization of electoral justice in the election process. This aligns with Bawaslu's tagline "together with Bawaslu, uphold electoral justice." Through its duties and authority, Bawaslu is tasked with preventing various irregularities in the election process, providing a mechanism for public complaints, and offering a fair and transparent resolution mechanism for these complaints. Even within certain limits, Bawaslu imposes appropriate sanctions on violators who disrupt the election process. In short, Bawaslu's presence is not only to prevent, identify, and correct election irregularities but also to provide sanctions to those responsible for these irregularities [3].

2. Literature Review

2.1. Democracy

As a product of human civilization [4], democracy is one of the oldest political systems. In the modern era, democracy is widely regarded as an ideal concept, with almost all countries in the world adopting democratic principles. Sri Soemantri highlights this by stating, "there is currently no country in the world that does not claim to be based on democracy. Although the meaning of democracy varies, every country asserts that its governance is based on democratic principles" [5]. Each nation and individual may have their own definitions and criteria for democracy. Even today, communist-leaning countries such as Cuba and the People's Republic of China continue to claim themselves as democratic states. Democracy has become a universal paradigm in political discourse, widely perceived as the ideal system of governance. However, in practice, each country applies different democratic standards based on its respective interests [6]. Regardless of these variations, statesmen agree that the primary challenge for developing countries transitioning to democracy is to build a democratic society while maintaining governmental stability. According to Kelsen, democracy is a political system in which sovereignty rests with the people. Within a political system, "elections serve as a bridge between political infrastructure and superstructure, enabling the formation of a government that is by, of, and for the people," as emphasized by Ronald [7].

Abraham Lincoln, the former President of the United States, defined democracy from a normative perspective, describing it as "government of the people, by the people, for the people" [8]. According to Lincoln, democracy is a system in which supreme political authority and sovereignty reside with the people. The people, as sovereign entities, have the right to govern. Consequently, a democratic government is one that gains legitimacy from the people's consent and holds a mandate to rule by and with the consent of the people. In the modern governance system, Lincoln's concept of "government by the people" is represented through legislative bodies that act on behalf of the people's interests [9]. A similar perspective is expressed by Strong, who defines democracy as a system of government in which the majority of adult members of a political society participate through representative mechanisms [10].

2.2. Democratic Elections

In modern political systems, democratic elections serve as the primary mechanism for the public to directly elect their representatives and leaders. According to Dahl [11], democratic elections must uphold the principles of freedom, fairness, and openness to authentically reflect the people's will [11]. Conceptually, democratic elections must be based on the principle of freedom to vote and be elected without coercion or manipulation. Schumpeter emphasizes that democracy is essentially a political competition among elites regulated within an electoral process [12].

From Przeworski [13] perspective, democratic elections must incorporate elements of uncertainty, repetition, and institutions that guarantee the peaceful transfer of power. He views elections as a mechanism that provides the public with the opportunity to replace leaders without violence [13]. Giovanni Sartori also contributes to the discourse on democratic elections. He argues that a democratic electoral system must accommodate political diversity and create space for governance that represents a plurality of interests. Healthy political competition can only occur if the party system supports pluralism and offers voters genuine choices [14].

2.3. The Theory of Election Supervision

Election supervision is a fundamental element in establishing and maintaining a democratic order within a country. Its presence not only ensures that elections proceed with integrity, transparency, and fairness but also serves as a crucial pillar

in reinforcing the legitimacy of election results as an authentic manifestation of the people's will [15]. This relationship indicates that election supervision is an essential theoretical mechanism for ensuring that democracy functions according to its core values while simultaneously acting as a primary pillar in forming a just and well-governed political system. In this context, no single institution should be able to manipulate the electoral process or results for its own interests. From this understanding, it is undeniable that election supervision, the limitation of power (constitutionalism), and democracy constitute three interrelated pillars in shaping a fair and accountable governance system. Election supervision functions as a control mechanism to ensure that elections adhere to democratic principles such as honesty, fairness, and transparency [16].

Supervision, in a broader sense, is also reinforced by Marbun [17], who asserts that "supervision in government administration has two meanings" [17]. According to Norris, election supervision is part of the mechanism to uphold electoral integrity [18]. According to Diamond [19], election supervision enhances democratic quality, particularly in terms of accountability and the responsiveness of electoral organizers to the public. Effective supervision prevents manipulation and abuse of power during elections. By implementing principles of the rule of law, accountability, fair competition, public participation, and responsiveness to electoral disputes, a country can ensure that its elections are conducted with integrity and credibility [19].

2.4. Electoral Commission Independence

According to Schedler [20], the independence of electoral commissions is a fundamental requirement for a healthy electoral democracy. Election administrators must be free from interference from the executive, legislative, or other political interests to ensure free and fair elections [20]. This view is supported by Norris [18], who states that electoral commission independence is a key indicator of electoral integrity. If election organizers are subject to pressure or intervention from the government or political parties, electoral integrity weakens, and public trust in democracy declines Norris [18]. Elklit [21] further argues that a successful electoral management body is characterized by independence, integrity, dedication, and impartiality, adhering only to agreed regulations. Only in this way can election results be accepted and trusted by all stakeholders [21]. In line with Schedler [20]; Norris [18]; Elklit [21] and López-Pintor [22], it is also highlighted that neutrality and professionalism among election organizers are key determinants of the successful implementation of democratic elections—ensuring they are free and fair [22]. Diamond even asserts that electoral commission independence is the main safeguard against authoritarianism disguised as democracy [23].

From the perspective of constitutional law in Indonesia, elections are not conducted by government bureaucratic institutions but by independent bodies often referred to as state auxiliary institutions [24]. According to Bachtiar and Muh [25], the independence of electoral commissions should not only be seen from an organizational perspective but also in terms of functional independence [25].

2.5. Interest Interaction

One of the key aspects of interaction theory is how emotions and facial expressions influence the perception of interests in social interactions. Research by Hareli, et al. [26] suggests that emotional responses to facial expressions can shape how individuals perceive interests within dyadic contexts [26]. This finding indicates that interactions are not solely influenced by structural factors but also by emotional aspects that can modulate interest dynamics. In a broader context, this research underscores the importance of understanding interactions as processes involving emotions and perceptions, rather than merely being the result of existing social structures. Electoral actor interactions can be seen as a network of social relationships and communication between them. Mukti [27] research emphasizes that actor interactions are crucial in facilitating access to the resources necessary for political and electoral activities Mukti [27]. Libunao, et al. [28] highlight the importance of a favorable social climate during consultations to ensure genuine dialogue between stakeholders [28]. This suggests that power in social interactions is also linked to an individual or group's ability to actively participate in decision-making processes. Electoral interaction network analysis also reveals dominant actors influencing the course of elections. Indainanto, et al. [29] find that in the context of social media, agricultural issues can attract the attention of actors to engage in discussions, leading to influential figures shaping public opinion [29]. This demonstrates that in elections, actors with significant influence on social media can play a key role in shaping narratives and affecting voter behavior.

In the context of elections in Indonesia, conflicts and dynamics between actors are also a crucial focus. Mahpudin [30] observes that political parties, as key actors in elections, are often involved in conflicts, particularly in the context of disputes over independent candidates [30]. This indicates that interactions between actors do not always proceed smoothly and are often marked by tensions and competition that can influence electoral outcomes. Therefore, it is essential to understand how these actors interact and negotiate when dealing with emerging conflicts. Nurfadilla and Nurdin [31] emphasize the importance of collaborative leadership in fostering sustainable democratic participation in elections [31]. In this context, collaboration among various actors, including the government, political parties, and civil society, is vital in creating an environment that encourages active public participation in elections. This suggests that actor interactions are not solely focused on competition but also on cooperation to achieve common goals within the framework of democracy.

In a broader context, interaction theory also encompasses the analysis of how power and interests are established and maintained in society. Berriane [32], in his analysis of the women's movement in Morocco, demonstrates how alliances between various social actors can shape new power dynamics in the context of land commodification [32]. This research highlights the importance of collaboration and organization in driving social change, as well as how power can be transferred through collective processes involving multiple stakeholders.

3. Material and Methods

3.1. Research Design

Referring to the opinion of [Green and Ritzer \[33\]](#), this research is classified into the domain of "qualitative research using a constructivist paradigm" [\[33\]](#). In qualitative research using the constructivist paradigm, the researcher seeks to understand and explore the meaning of individual or group experiences in specific social contexts. This paradigm focuses on how individuals construct knowledge and understanding through interaction with their environment and others. Qualitative research with a constructivist approach often involves data collection techniques such as in-depth interviews, observations, and document analysis, which allow the researcher to gain deeper insights into the subject under study [\[34\]](#). In qualitative research, the researcher often plays the role of the main instrument in data collection and analysis. This means that the researcher must maintain objectivity and reflexivity throughout the research process. The researcher demonstrates how a phenomenological approach can be used to understand individual experiences in specific contexts, where the researcher seeks to uncover the meaning contained within those experiences [\[35\]](#). This approach is in line with the principles of constructivism, which emphasizes the importance of subjective understanding in the construction of knowledge.

In this research, as the fundamental assumption of the reality being studied (ontological aspect), it is stated that supervision is a reality resulting from the mental construction of individuals that is subjective and diverse (multiple). Supervision here refers to a series of supervisory actions focused on prevention and enforcement efforts used as a means of solving election-related issues. Furthermore, to gain accurate knowledge of the reality under study (epistemological aspect), the researcher explores various literature as scholarly works from experts related to the issue under investigation. The exploration of literature by the researcher serves as a reference to construct their own understanding of the research issue, namely a theoretical construction of the role of supervision and the interaction of interests among actors in the 2019 simultaneous elections in the DKI Jakarta Province.

Qualitative research in this study is used to understand phenomena regarding the research object that leads to the formulation of scientific theories based on data. In this research context, it aims to find a theoretical model of election supervision. This is in line with [Corbin and Strauss \[36\]](#) view, as follows: "Qualitative methods can be used to uncover and understand what lies behind any phenomenon about which little is yet known... qualitative methods can give the indicated details of phenomena that are difficult to convey with quantitative methods" [\[36\]](#). Therefore, in this research, it is relevant to use qualitative research methods, especially considering the problem type and research objectives. According to [Creswell and Creswell \[37\]](#), "Qualitative approaches are methods for exploring and understanding meanings that a number of individuals or groups of people attribute to social or human problems" [\[37\]](#). For Sherman and Webb, qualitative approaches refer to a direct focus on experiences because these experiences are "alive," "felt," and "lived" [\[38\]](#).

3.2. Data Sources and Types

Referring to [Creswell and Creswell \[37\]](#) opinion, "the primary data in qualitative research are words and actions, with additional data being documents and so on" [\[37\]](#). Therefore, the types of data in this research are divided into words, actions, and written data sources. The primary data in the form of words were obtained by the researcher through direct interviews with informants selected for this study, while the data in the form of actions and documents were obtained through direct field observations, where the researcher followed and observed the role of supervision and the interaction of interests among actors in the 2019 simultaneous elections in the DKI Jakarta Province. Based on their type and source, the researcher uses two types of data: "primary data and secondary data." Primary data are obtained from informants and sources, while secondary data consist of official documents relevant to and related to the research.

3.3. Selection of Informants

This study uses purposive sampling as the method for selecting informants. Purposive sampling is defined as "the technique of selecting data sources with specific considerations and purposes" [\[39\]](#). This technique is used by the researcher to gain a better understanding of the role of supervision and the interaction of interests among actors in the 2019 simultaneous elections in the DKI Jakarta Province. This method does not require or aim to generalize anything from the case, as the sample is not randomly selected, and the results of the research cannot be generalized to the population. Purposive sampling enhances the informational value of data collected from smaller samples. During the initial data collection phase, the researcher seeks informants, groups, places, or significant events that have important information, and sub-units are chosen for analysis activities. These samples may be selected because they are believed to have extensive and informative knowledge about the phenomenon being investigated.

Based on their credibility, competence, and expertise, as well as their positions, roles, and expertise as sources, the informants in this study are considered capable of providing relevant information on the data and substance of the research subject. The selection of informants in this study is based on the following considerations: (a) the position and objectivity of the data provided by informants as data that can be held accountable in terms of validity and reliability; and (b) the selection of informants in this study is based on purposive sampling, considering that the informants chosen by the researcher are individuals who know the issues well and understand the context of the phenomenon under study.

Table 1.
Research Informants.

No.	Unit	Number
1.	Bawaslu	13
2.	KPU	2
3.	Political Parties	3
4.	Society (Voters)	2
5.	Government	3
6.	Gakkumdu	1
Total		24

3.4. Research Instruments

Based on the findings of this research, the researcher used several research instruments. The research instruments used to collect data involve the researcher as an observer in the study. Additional instruments for data collection were also used to obtain information from research subjects on the design of issues related to Election Supervision in the 2019 simultaneous elections in the DKI Jakarta Province. The process of creating instruments must still refer to scientific methodology, which includes analysis of research aspects, creation of frameworks, turning frameworks into instruments, and testing that includes the interpretation of field facts and interview results with designated informants.

3.5. Data Collection Techniques

Data collection techniques are the most strategic step in research, as the main objective of the research is to obtain data. According to Sugiyono [39] data collection can be done in: (i) various settings, (ii) from various sources, and (iii) using various methods [39]. Regarding this, it is further explained as follows: "If viewed from its setting, data can be collected in a natural setting, in a laboratory using experimental methods, at home with various respondents, at seminars, discussions, in streets, etc. If viewed from its data sources, data collection can use primary and secondary sources. If viewed from the methods of data collection, techniques can include observation, interviews, questionnaires, documentation, or a combination of all of them" [39].

3.6. Data Validity Testing

Ensuring the validity (authenticity), objectivity, and reliability of the data collected through in-depth interviews or document/library studies is achieved through triangulation checks. This research utilized source and method triangulation. Source and method triangulation in this study is conducted by cross-checking data sources and methods with other data sources. This technique is performed to strengthen the data and to instill confidence in the researcher regarding the truth and completeness of the data. This process is carried out continuously until the researcher is satisfied with the data and certain of its validity. The validity of the data in qualitative research follows validity steps according to Creswell, which are divided into two parts: internal validity and external validity [37]. In this research, internal validity assurance can be achieved by employing strategies such as data triangulation, checks by members or informants who act as reviewers, and long-term and repeated observations at the research site.

3.7. Data Analysis

This study employs the qualitative analysis model of Miles and Huberman [40], which consists of three cyclical stages: (1) Data Coding, where data is labeled based on key themes, and important themes are interpreted; (2) Data Presentation, in which findings are categorized into specific groups; and (3) Conclusion Drawing or Verification, where results are reanalyzed to ensure their validity. Data interpretation is conducted using both the structuralism method, which examines the relationship between words, phrases, and sentences within the text, and the hermeneutic method, which relies on knowledge derived from literature reviews. This approach enables researchers to filter complex data into meaningful insights that contribute to a robust theoretical framework based on empirical evidence.

This research focuses on the supervision and actor interactions during the 2019 Simultaneous Election in DKI Jakarta, with five key aspects: updating the Permanent Voter List (DPT), restrictions on ex-convict legislative candidates, campaigns in educational institutions by civil servants (ASN), money politics practices, and the 30% female representation in political parties. The study involves actors such as the General Election Commission (KPU), Gakkumdu, the government, political parties, and society in the dynamics of election supervision.

4. Result

The organization of General Elections (Pemilu) in Indonesia, particularly in the Province of DKI Jakarta, is one of the crucial aspects of implementing a healthy democracy. The 2019 General Election was a critical moment, as it not only involved the election of the President and Vice President but also the election of legislative members at both national and regional levels. In this context, oversight became one of the key pillars to ensure that the election process was conducted in a transparent, fair, and accountable manner. Effective oversight can prevent fraud, abuse of power, and violations of applicable regulations. The role of election oversight in the 2019 General Election in DKI Jakarta was vital in maintaining the integrity and accountability of the democratic process. The oversight role in the simultaneous 2019 election in DKI Jakarta focused on five (5) key study areas, including: Oversight of the Updating of the Final Voter List (DPT), Oversight of Restrictions on Former Convict Legislative Candidates, Oversight of Campaigning in Educational Institutions Involving Civil

Servants (ASN), Oversight of Vote-Buying Practices in Campaigns, and Oversight of the 30% Women's Representation Requirement in Political Parties.

4.1. The Role of Oversight in Updating the Final Voter List (DPT)

Regarding the issue of updating the Final Voter List and the role of Bawaslu's oversight, the researcher identified several obstacles in the updating process that occurred during the 2019 Simultaneous Election in DKI Jakarta from the perspectives of Bawaslu, the KPU, the public, and the government. These obstacles fall into two categories. The first category concerns the lack of human resources, which was highlighted in interviews with several key informants, as illustrated in the following excerpts:

"Of course, the main challenge is the availability of supervisory human resources, as Bawaslu only has one supervisor at the village level. Meanwhile, each polling station (TPS) is managed by one Pantarih officer. This makes it difficult for a single Paswaskel to oversee the updating of voter data at each polling station. In one village, there can be dozens or even hundreds of polling stations." (Interview, ISR, 30/5/2024).

Additionally, another key informant, SR, expressed concerns about the challenges in updating the Final Voter List on 30/05/2024:

"There is a limitation in the number of supervisors overseeing the matching and verification process conducted by Pantarlih." (Interview with SR, Head of East Jakarta Bawaslu, 30/5/2024).

Based on the interview excerpts and Newman's theory of oversight, reinforced by Bawaslu Regulation No. 21 of 2018 on Election Supervision, it can be analyzed—also serving as source triangulation—that effective oversight is essential to ensuring that elections are conducted honestly, fairly, and transparently. The above interview excerpts indicate that Bawaslu frequently faces challenges in carrying out its supervisory duties, especially regarding the limited availability of human resources. These limitations include an insufficient number of personnel, inadequate skills, and a lack of systematic training to enhance the abilities of supervisors in performing their tasks.

Election oversight should not only be the responsibility of formal institutions such as the Election Supervisory Agency (Bawaslu) but should also involve broader public participation. This aligns with various research findings indicating that participatory oversight can improve transparency and accountability in elections while addressing the human resource constraints often faced by supervisory institutions [41].

Furthermore, despite Bawaslu's crucial role in monitoring elections, it frequently encounters challenges related to capacity and understanding of duties at the local level, particularly in villages. Research findings from South Buton Regency revealed that village-level election supervisors had not fully understood their primary duties and functions, potentially reducing the effectiveness of oversight [42]. Additionally, a study in Gianyar Regency highlighted obstacles in handling administrative election violations, which were also linked to limited human resources and legal comprehension among supervisors [43].

In addition, the researcher identified a second category of challenges in updating the Final Voter List during the 2019 Simultaneous Election in DKI Jakarta, namely technical and coordination-related obstacles in the oversight process. The researcher noted several issues in updating the voter list, as identified through interviews with key informants, as illustrated in the following excerpts:

"One of the challenges faced by Bawaslu DKI in overseeing the voter data updating process is that KPU DKI did not grant access to SIDALIH to Bawaslu DKI in the preparation and updating of voter data." (Interview, MJ, Member of Bawaslu DKI Jakarta 2017-2022, 30/05/2024).

Based on the above interview excerpt, the researcher interprets that the challenges in updating the Final Voter List stem from a lack of coordination among actors involved in the election process, which affects the effectiveness of oversight. As explained by the informant, the unavailability of access to the Voter Data Information System (SIDALIH) made it difficult for Bawaslu to monitor and ensure the accuracy of voter data. This could potentially undermine the integrity of the electoral process, as Bawaslu was unable to conduct thorough verification of the data used in the 2019 simultaneous election.

An interview with SR, Head of East Jakarta Bawaslu, conducted on 30/05/2024, also highlighted technical and coordination-related challenges in updating the Final Voter List, as presented in the following excerpt:

"Coordination is quite good, but regarding voter data, both from the Civil Registry Office (Disdukcapil) and the City KPU, they do not immediately provide data to the City Bawaslu. There is a delay, so for voter data analysis, City Bawaslu must find data from other sources, which is quite challenging."

SK, a Member of Bawaslu DKI Jakarta for the 2017-2022 period, in an interview on 30/5/2024, also shared a similar perspective, as quoted below:

"However, there are some challenges faced, including that during the direct monitoring of the voter registration process (coklit), election supervisors were not informed about the locations where the coklit process would be conducted by KPU staff. Some recommendations were not followed up, and there were difficulties in scrutinizing data due to limited access to the necessary data. Additionally, the corrected data sometimes changed at the next stage."

There are, however, differing perspectives. In an interview on 30/5/2024, EI, the Chair of Bapilu DPW PAN DKI Jakarta, representing a political party, stated the following regarding the challenges in updating the Final Voter List:

"So far, there have been no significant obstacles, and everything is running smoothly."

Similarly, MP, a liaison officer (LO) of the Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle (PDIP), also representing a political party, conveyed a similar view in an interview conducted on 30/05/2024, as follows:

"Overall, there are no major issues because from the beginning, we have prepared for the voter data updating process. The only minor challenge is ensuring the verification of changes in the voter list. We have submitted our

proposals and requested that KPU and Bawaslu provide legal clarity on matters related to voter data updates within the application."

Since 2020, the KPU has implemented the Continuous Voter Data Updating (PDPB) program to update voter data, as regulated by Law No. 7 of 2017 on Elections [44]. However, despite these efforts, many challenges persist in the updating process, such as difficulties in accessing valid and up-to-date population data and the presence of duplicate data, which can cause confusion among voters [45].

Such a situation can be understood as the coordination between various parties being an important factor in the management of the Final Voter List (DPT). The General Election Commission (KPU) is not only responsible for the preparation of the DPT but must also collaborate with local governments and other institutions to ensure that all eligible citizens are correctly registered [46]. This is often hampered by a lack of communication and coordination between the relevant actors, which can lead to errors in the collection and verification of voter data [45]. This issue is exacerbated by the challenges in socializing the importance of citizens checking their voter status, which is often overlooked by many people [47].

The main issues in the updating of the voter data can be categorized into two. The first category relates to coordination between institutions and the lack of supervising officers. The second category concerns coordination between institutions. The researchers found two key sub-issues: the lack of active participation from voters and the resolution of problems through coordination and meetings. This shows that voter involvement in the oversight process and communication between institutions play a significant role in overcoming existing challenges. On the other hand, the shortage of supervising officers also presents a major challenge, leading to difficulties in synchronizing voter data, which is a crucial aspect in ensuring the accuracy of the DPT.

4.2. The Role of Supervision in Restrictions on Former Convict Legislative Candidates

When exploring various perspectives on the supervision of restrictions on former convict legislative candidates, the researcher conducted interviews with key and supporting informants from various elements, including representatives from Bawaslu, KPU, Gakkumdu, the public, and the government, on the topic. The following interview excerpt presents these views:

"Regarding the supervision of the nomination of legislative candidates who are former convicts, Bawaslu DKI adheres to the prevailing Election Law. One of the prominent issues in the 2019 election was the administrative requirements imposed on former corruption convicts running as candidates. Bawaslu DKI requested KPU DKI to carry out the nomination process in accordance with the applicable law. In fact, based on the experience of the 2019 election, Bawaslu DKI eventually handled a dispute over the nomination process of a former corruption convict who was deemed ineligible (TMS). Mediation was conducted but did not reach a resolution, leading to a legal dispute over the nomination process. To uphold justice and legal certainty, the nomination process dispute was resolved in accordance with the applicable laws and regulations." (Interview with ISR, Commissioner of Bawaslu DKI Jakarta 2018–2023, 30/05/2024).

DHW, as the Head of the Violation Handling, Process Dispute Resolution, and Legal Division, who was interviewed on 30/05/2024, also stated:

"Supervision involves requesting a clearance letter issued by correctional facilities and detention centers and ensuring verification by the Directorate General of Correctional Institutions for former convict candidates."

Furthermore, SR, the Chair of Bawaslu East Jakarta, expressed a similar view during an interview on 30/05/2024, as cited in the following excerpt:

"Bawaslu carries out supervision to ensure compliance with Article 240, paragraph (1), letter g of Law No. 7 of 2017, which states that 'Prospective members of the DPR, provincial DPRD, and district/city DPRD must be Indonesian citizens and meet the following requirements: g. have never been sentenced to imprisonment based on a final court ruling for a crime punishable by imprisonment of five (5) years or more, unless they openly and honestly declare to the public that they are former convicts.' This provision must be implemented by both the municipal KPU and political parties participating in the election."

The results of the interviews regarding the supervision of restrictions on former convict legislative candidates by Bawaslu in the 2019 Simultaneous Election indicate that supervision was carried out based on the applicable regulations, including Law No. 7 of 2017, Bawaslu Regulations, and PKPU. Concrete measures included direct supervision of the temporary candidate lists from political parties, in-depth analysis, and public input on candidates, as well as coordination with relevant parties to verify the legal status of candidates—specifically whether their prison term had been completed and whether they had exceeded the five-year waiting period. Additionally, cooperation with the mass media was undertaken to ensure that former convict candidates publicly disclosed their status. If violations were found, Bawaslu recommended that KPU disqualify candidates who did not meet the eligibility criteria, particularly those who had not completed the five-year waiting period since their release. These efforts were complemented by dispute resolution mechanisms to ensure compliance with existing regulations, thereby maintaining fairness and transparency in the electoral process.

On the other hand, an interview with a KPU representative, MR, conducted on 30/05/2024, provided the following perspective:

"As an organizing body that merely implements the law, KPU refers to the prevailing legislation. However, it does not have the authority to determine whether a regulation is ideal or not. Whatever is stipulated in the law is what we will implement."

A similar statement was made by SP, a Senior Expert Staff at the Presidential Staff Office and a member of KPU RI from 2014 to 2017, as reflected in the following interview excerpt:

"KPU adheres to the Electoral Law and Constitutional Court rulings. In terms of regulations, KPU was very firm and progressive in prohibiting anyone previously convicted of corruption from running for office. KPU included this in PKPU. Several candidates were eventually disqualified by KPU. However, issues arose when KPU's stance was challenged in Bawaslu and brought before the Constitutional Court. KPU lost the case and was required to reinstate the candidates."

Although many informants supported the supervision and restriction of former convict legislative candidates, alternative perspectives were also identified, as cited in the following interview excerpt:

"In my opinion, the Constitutional Court ruling has already been incorporated into PKPU. Formally, the legal framework is appropriate. Although I personally disagree with the notion that former convicts should be punished twice (prison sentence and waiting period), it is a decision that must be respected." (Interview, MA, 30/05/2024).

The results of interviews regarding the supervision of restrictions on former convict legislative candidates by Bawaslu in the 2019 Simultaneous Election highlight the complexities and controversies in implementing these regulations. Based on interviews with various informants, it was found that although the Constitutional Court ruling had been clearly incorporated into PKPU prohibiting former convicts from running for legislative positions, its implementation in practice faced multiple challenges. This study delves into the legal aspects of the issue, particularly focusing on the rights of former convicts to run for public office, as determined by the Constitutional Court ruling. In terms of legal implications, the study provides an in-depth analysis of the regulations concerning the political rights of candidates post-Constitutional Court ruling, offering insights into how the existing legal framework governs this situation [48].

Meanwhile, the study also highlights the justice dimension that must be considered when former corruption convicts seek public office, emphasizing that such prohibitions should consider principles of fairness, both for society and the individuals involved. Additionally, it raises discussions on the conflict between policies that permit the political rights of former corruption convicts and Islamic values, which tend to prioritize morality and integrity [49]. Collectively, these studies suggest that the issue of political rights for former corruption convicts is not only rooted in legal debates but also touches upon ethical, moral, and social justice aspects, all of which require careful consideration in formulating fair and balanced policies. Furthermore, research exploring the political rights of former corruption convicts in elections aims to understand the policymaking process and its impacts [50]. This aligns with studies examining the nomination of former corruption convicts as legislative candidates, highlighting electoral flaws that affect election quality [51].

4.3. The Role of Campaign Monitoring in Educational Institutions Involving Civil Servants (ASN)

Exploring the diverse perspectives of informants regarding campaigns in educational institutions must be carried out. The researcher conducted interviews with key and supporting informants from various elements, namely representatives from Bawaslu, KPU, Gakkumdu, the community, and the government regarding this topic, as presented in the following interview excerpts:

"Supervision of ASN involvement is carried out through direct monitoring of the campaign stages conducted by election participants, including conducting socialization to ensure that ASN does not participate in or are involved in campaign activities, which we continue to implement in both formal and informal activities." (Interview, MY).

Furthermore, MY also provided a more specific statement regarding cooperation between actors in preventing campaigns in educational institutions, as seen in the following interview excerpt:

"Supervision is carried out through prevention and enforcement. Regarding political parties and legislative candidates, Bawaslu DKI actively provides briefings to political party candidates to ensure they do not campaign in prohibited places, including educational institutions, and to prevent them from involving ASN. Bawaslu DKI, together with its supervisory ranks at the lower levels, actively monitors campaign practices in educational institutions by issuing warnings and reprimands if campaign-related activities are to be conducted in educational institutions. Moreover, if campaign activities in educational institutions persist despite the prohibition, Bawaslu takes enforcement actions, as in the case of a legislative candidate campaigning at an educational facility in West Jakarta, which also involved ASN. The election law enforcement process was carried out, and the case was taken to court and reached a final and binding decision (in kracht)." (Interview, MY).

An interview was also conducted with ISR on 30/05/2024. According to ISR, efforts to prevent campaigning in educational institutions require special attention and collaboration among stakeholders, as reflected in the following interview excerpt:

"Establishing an MoU with the government and the ASN commission to ensure ASN neutrality is upheld within the government ranks. In implementation at the provincial and municipal levels, Bawaslu conducts a peace declaration involving the DKI regional government, one of the points of which is ASN neutrality in the 2024 election campaign activities." (Interview, ISR).

TB provided a more specific perspective on preventing campaigns in educational institutions, as conveyed in the following interview excerpt:

"The legal basis for this is outlined in Government Regulation Number 53 of 2010 concerning the Discipline of Civil Servants, which prohibits ASN from engaging in practical political activities. The government needs to enhance monitoring and enforcement of regulations related to ASN neutrality in political activities. Strict law enforcement against violations of the code of ethics and regulations regarding practical politics must be strengthened. Additionally,

outreach and training on ASN neutrality in politics can help improve ASN's understanding and awareness of their role in maintaining bureaucratic integrity." (Interview, TB).

This view was contrasted by an alternative perspective identified through an interview with FS, as stated by several informants:

"As far as I recall, there was no MoU between Bawaslu and the Ministry of Education and Culture for the 2019 General Election. However, to my understanding, several district/city/provincial Bawaslu offices have established cooperation with local Education Departments." (Interview, FES).

The supervision of campaign activities in educational institutions involving ASN during the 2019 Simultaneous Elections demonstrated considerable efforts by Bawaslu DKI Jakarta, despite various challenges and obstacles in its implementation. Based on interviews with various informants, it was found that although supervision was conducted through socialization, direct monitoring, and warnings, limitations in Bawaslu's personnel and resources meant that monitoring was not always optimal. Moreover, although there was cooperation between Bawaslu and various stakeholders, including the regional government and KASN, implementation in the field was often hindered by a lack of legal awareness among ASN and weak enforcement of regulations, which led to continued campaign violations in educational institutions.

The restriction of political campaigns in educational institutions is becoming an increasingly relevant issue in the context of education and politics today. In many cases, political campaigns in educational settings can influence the teaching and learning process and create tensions among students, teachers, and school administrators. Other studies suggest that the increasing involvement of interest groups and political donations can impact education policies and elections, including at the local level, such as school board elections [52].

One of the key reasons for limiting political campaigns in educational institutions is to maintain the neutrality of educational institutions. Schools should be safe spaces for students to learn and grow without political pressure. Research has shown that when political campaigns take place in schools, they can create an uncomfortable environment for students with differing political views [53]. Furthermore, aggressive political campaigning can disrupt the educational process and divert students' attention from learning, which should be the primary focus in schools [54].

On the other hand, some argue that political education in schools can serve as a tool to increase political awareness among students. However, it is essential to distinguish between neutral political education and partisan political campaigning. Neutral political education can help students understand the democratic process and the importance of their participation in elections, whereas partisan political campaigning can create polarization and conflict among students [55]. Therefore, restricting political campaigns in educational institutions can be seen as a step to protect educational integrity and encourage healthy and constructive discussions on political issues.

The Constitutional Court (MK) Decision Number 65/PUU-XXI/2023, which regulates the prohibition of campaigning in educational institutions, represents an important step in maintaining the integrity and neutrality of educational environments in Indonesia. This decision reflects a commitment to protecting the right to education as guaranteed by the constitution, where every citizen has the right to receive an education free from the influence of practical politics [56]. In this context, education is not only a means of knowledge transfer but also a place for shaping the character and morality of future generations [57].

The prohibition of campaigning in educational institutions aims to create a conducive environment for the teaching and learning process. This aligns with the principle that education should be free from political influences that could compromise its objectivity and quality [58]. Studies have shown that education influenced by politics can lead to a decline in educational quality and hinder students' character development [59]. Therefore, the MK decision can be seen as an effort to ensure that education remains a safe and neutral space for all students, regardless of their political backgrounds.

4.4. The Role of Oversight in Preventing Vote Buying Practices During Campaigns

The development of an effective reporting mechanism that allows the public to report suspected vote-buying safely and swiftly is crucial. Bawaslu must also enhance its technological capacity and sophistication in monitoring and investigating suspicious transactions while providing adequate training to election monitoring officers to detect and follow up on reports of vote buying. Strengthening regulations with stricter measures and harsher sanctions for those involved in vote buying is essential to create a deterrent effect and ensure that all violations are processed legally in a timely and fair manner, thereby maintaining public trust in the democratic process.

To gain a more comprehensive understanding of vote buying, interviews were conducted with various informants from different sectors, including Bawaslu, KPU, Gakkumdu, the public, and the government. The following excerpts from the interviews illustrate their insights:

"We conduct various outreach activities not only for election participants but primarily for the public to reject vote-buying practices in elections. Our outreach efforts aim to raise public awareness so they can vote according to their own will rather than being influenced by financial or material inducements from election participants." (MY)

The perspectives of informants on the issue of vote buying were further elaborated by ISR, a Commissioner of Bawaslu DKI Jakarta (2018–2023), as reflected in the following interview excerpt:

"Oversight of vote-buying practices during the 2019 election campaign was carried out through both preventive and enforcement measures. Prevention was undertaken through outreach and training for political parties and candidates. Public awareness campaigns were also actively conducted among voters and election monitors. These efforts were extensive, involving multiple stakeholders, including election participants and voters. In addition to face-to-face outreach and disseminating information via mass media and social media, Bawaslu also initiated a public declaration to reject vote buying. On the enforcement side, Bawaslu implemented electoral law enforcement by conducting anti-vote-buying patrols and acting against those involved in vote-buying. This involved Sentra

Gakkumdu, both in handling reports submitted by the public and in addressing cases identified through Bawaslu DKI's active monitoring, as well as cases referred from Bawaslu RI to Bawaslu DKI." (Interview with ISR)

Insights from MJ regarding preventive measures against vote buying can be observed in the following statement:

"Preventive measures against vote buying have been carried out in collaboration with thirty-four (34) institutions, including universities, NGOs, monitoring bodies, and civil society organizations." (Interview with MJ)

Similarly, BR expressed their views on preventing vote buying, as illustrated in the following interview excerpt:

"We conduct field monitoring during election campaign activities, carry out anti-vote-buying patrols, and urge all stakeholders and election participants not to engage in vote buying." (Interview with BR)

Informants from the KPU also provided further insights into vote-buying issues. The following interview excerpt with MR illustrates this perspective:

"We conduct outreach activities with stakeholders, particularly with voters and political parties, regarding the prohibition of vote buying and its sanctions."

However, the researcher also identified an alternative perspective presented by SP, who stated:

"The KPU differentiates between campaign funding and vote buying. We must be realistic that campaigning requires money. At this point, the KPU permits activities that require financing but sets limits on the amounts. Once again, voter education is key, and the KPU plays a role in that."

An informant representing a political party also provided deeper insights into vote buying, as illustrated in the following interview excerpt:

"Vote buying must be recognized as a persistent issue in Indonesian elections, occurring not only in Jakarta but across the entire country. The public perception is that candidates who provide money or material goods, such as staple food items, are the ones who get elected, while those who do not offer anything are unlikely to be chosen. As a result, election candidates are inevitably compelled to conform to this perception, leading to a situation where vote buying becomes a norm." (Interview with YH)

Based on the interviews and findings, the researcher concludes that Bawaslu DKI Jakarta should implement several comprehensive strategic measures to address vote buying. First, strengthening oversight through digital technology, such as financial transaction monitoring systems and online reporting platforms that allow the public to report suspected violations anonymously and in real time. Second, enhancing collaboration with law enforcement agencies, such as the police and public prosecutors, to ensure prompt and decisive action against reported vote buying cases, including in-depth forensic financial investigations. Third, involving civil society organizations, the media, and academics in political education campaigns aimed at increasing voter awareness of the detrimental effects of vote buying on the quality of democracy and governance. Fourth, conducting intensive training for election monitors to improve their ability to detect and address vote buying cases, including simulation exercises on handling complex vote-buying scenarios. Finally, advocating for regulatory revisions to impose harsher legal sanctions on those involved in vote buying, including automatic disqualification of candidates proven to be engaged in such practices, as well as providing incentives for whistleblowers who assist in uncovering vote-buying networks. Through these measures, Bawaslu can strengthen electoral integrity and ensure that every vote cast reflects a free and honest choice rather than being influenced by financial manipulation.

4.5. The Role of Oversight in Fulfilling the 30% Women's Representation Quota in Political Parties

The development of training programs and capacity-building for election monitors is also crucial to ensure that they can identify and address various forms of violations appropriately. Additionally, raising public awareness about the importance of women's representation and inclusive political participation should also be a priority so that society becomes more involved in monitoring and enforcing regulations. Through more coordinated and comprehensive efforts, it is hoped that the integrity of the 2019 Simultaneous Elections can be maintained, and the principles of fair and inclusive democracy can be realized.

To gain a more comprehensive understanding of women's representation in the 2019 simultaneous elections, interviews were conducted with several informants from various elements, such as Bawaslu, KPU, Gakkumdu, the public, and the government. The excerpts from these interviews are presented as follows:

"In my opinion, it is very strict. This is due to KPU's commitment to complying with PKPU regulations, both in terms of numbers and ranking/zipper system. Non-compliance led to the loss or absence of candidates in a constituency. Many disputes in the 2019 legislative election nominations occurred due to the failure to meet this quota. However, before the nomination process encountered issues, Bawaslu had no role in compelling political parties to comply." (Interview, FES).

A similar perspective was expressed by MJ, who provided a more specific view on vote-buying, as seen in the following excerpt:

"Oversight of the fulfilment of the 30% women's quota in party verification involved issuing advisory letters to political parties to ensure women's representation in the party leadership structure and conducting direct supervision during the verification of party management." (Interview, MJ).

The views of informant SR were gathered through an interview conducted on 30/05/2024, with the following results:

"According to the Election Law Article 245, the candidate list as referred to in Article 243 must include at least 30% women's representation. Article 246, paragraph (2) states that within every three prospective candidates in the list, at least one must be a female candidate. Article 248 states that KPU verifies the completeness and accuracy of administrative documents for prospective members of the DPR and the fulfilment of the minimum 30% women's

representation. The Provincial KPU verifies the completeness and accuracy of administrative documents for prospective DPRD provincial members and the fulfilment of at least 30% women's representation. The Regency/Municipal KPU verifies the completeness and accuracy of administrative documents for prospective DPRD regency/municipal members and ensures at least 30% women's representation. In the supervision process, Bawaslu and its ranks ensure that these provisions are implemented by KPU and its ranks, as well as by political parties participating in the elections.” (Interview, SR).

Furthermore, an informant from KPU elaborated in more detail on women's representation, as seen in the following interview excerpt:

“The 30% women's representation is mandatory. KPU informs the public about the percentage of women's representation from each party. Issues in each region are pushed to be resolved at the appropriate level. If there are no complaints to the higher levels of KPU, the process is running well. After all, Bawaslu is also conducting oversight.” (Interview, SP).

The perspective of a government representative regarding women's representation was explained more specifically by TB, as reflected in the following interview excerpt:

“The fulfilment of the 30% women's representation quota in the verification of political parties participating in the elections: Ensuring women's representation is a crucial issue in achieving inclusive and equitable political participation. The legal basis for this quota is stated in Law No. 2 of 2008 on Political Parties, which mandates that every political party must meet a minimum quota of 30% women's representation in both leadership structures and legislative candidates.” (Interview, TB).

The oversight process for ensuring the 30% women's representation quota in the verification of political parties in the 2019 Simultaneous Elections revealed that despite the strong commitment from the General Election Commission (KPU) to enforce compliance with relevant regulations, challenges remained in practical implementation. From the interview results, FES stated that KPU was firm in enforcing regulations, including the application of the zipper system for candidate ranking, but Bawaslu's role before the nomination process encountered issues that were limited. This indicates that Bawaslu lacked sufficient authority to compel political parties to fulfill the quota from the outset, often leading to disputes later.

The oversight of the 30% women's representation quota in elections involves various key elements influencing the implementation of this policy. Fundamentally, Bawaslu's supervision of women's representation in the 2019 Simultaneous Elections was crucial, given the affirmative provisions outlined in PKPU and Perbawaslu. These provisions not only regulate the placement of women in legislative candidate lists but also include efforts to ensure substantive female participation in politics. This affirmative action is expected to encourage more significant female participation and improve gender representation in parliament. However, in practice, challenges remain in meeting this quota. One of the main obstacles is the limited ability of political parties to fulfil the quota, which is often met only formally without a genuine commitment to empowering women.

This process includes verifying whether political parties have met the women's representation requirements in their candidate lists. If not met, the party may face sanctions, including disqualification from the elections. However, before reaching this stage, intensive socialization efforts are necessary to highlight the importance of women's representation, ensuring that political parties fully understand and commit to fulfilling the set quota. Bawaslu must ensure that this socialization is effectively carried out and reaches all societal elements. The affirmative action for women's representation regulated in PKPU and Perbawaslu must be implemented effectively. Bawaslu's role is not only limited to technical supervision but also involves ensuring that women's representation is substantive rather than just a formality. This includes encouraging internal policy changes within political parties and strengthening the capacity of election monitors to be more responsive to issues of women's representation. These efforts can better ensure meaningful female participation in the political process, which, in turn, will enhance the quality of democracy in Indonesia.

Women's representation in simultaneous elections is an important issue in the context of Indonesian politics. Various studies have examined aspects related to women's representation in different political contexts, such as in the oversight of the 2020 regional elections [60]. Research findings indicate that women's political rights as election monitors have largely been fulfilled according to existing regulations. However, challenges remain regarding women's representation in various political institutions, including elections in different regions of Indonesia [61].

There are also obstacles in increasing women's representation in politics. Patriarchal culture, kinship factors, and other inhibiting factors remain challenges in achieving truly representative women's participation in various political institutions [62]. The evaluation of women's representation policies in politics needs to be continuously carried out to identify existing barriers and find appropriate solutions [63].

In the context of simultaneous elections, the use of technology such as e-voting can help strengthen the electoral system and increase public participation in elections. Moreover, attention must be paid to aspects of justice and legal certainty in the implementation of simultaneous elections to ensure that the process runs smoothly and fairly [64]. Additionally, the role of the state in political education is also a key factor in increasing political awareness among society, including women, regarding the importance of participation in elections [65].

5. Discussion

This study reveals the political dynamics in the administration of the 2019 Simultaneous Elections in DKI Jakarta and the crucial role of the Election Supervisory Agency (Bawaslu) in maintaining the integrity and transparency of the electoral process. However, in carrying out its duties, Bawaslu faces various challenges that reflect the complexity of election oversight in Indonesia.

One of the biggest challenges is the updating of the Final Voter List (DPT), which is hindered by limited human resources and weak technical coordination. The lack of personnel at the district level makes voter data validation oversight less effective. The absence of access to the Voter Data Information System (SIDALIH) further exacerbates the situation, as Bawaslu cannot directly verify the accuracy of the data used in the election. This condition has the potential to cause inaccuracies in the voter list, ultimately undermining the legitimacy of the election results.

Additionally, the implementation of regulations restricting former corruption convicts from becoming legislative candidates has also sparked controversy. Although the regulations have set strict limitations, political realities indicate that the law often faces moral and ethical dilemmas. The decision to allow former convicts to run again if they meet certain requirements has triggered debates on the balance between individual political rights and public trust in electoral integrity. Weak enforcement of this regulation creates loopholes for political practices that disregard democratic values.

On the other hand, Bawaslu's efforts to monitor campaigns in educational institutions and ensure the neutrality of the State Civil Apparatus (ASN) continue to face serious obstacles. The involvement of ASN in practical politics persists despite existing regulations prohibiting such actions, indicating that the sanctions imposed are not effective in deterring violations. Low awareness and weak law enforcement mechanisms make these regulations tend to be mere formalities without strict implementation. This highlights that ASN neutrality remains a weak point in Indonesia's democratic system.

Another persistent issue is vote-buying, which continues to threaten electoral fairness. While Bawaslu has conducted socialization efforts and patrols, these strategies have not been sufficient to curb the increasingly sophisticated practice of vote-buying. Without stricter monitoring and the use of more advanced technology to detect suspicious transactions, vote-buying will remain a latent threat that is difficult to eradicate. Weak coordination between Bawaslu, law enforcement agencies, and other relevant institutions results in inadequate sanctions for perpetrators, failing to create a deterrent effect.

In the context of women's representation, Bawaslu also faces challenges in ensuring compliance with the 30% female candidate quota in legislative candidate lists. Although regulations mandate this requirement, many political parties continue to treat women's representation as a mere formality. The lack of effective oversight means that many parties fail to genuinely fulfill the quota, rendering the essence of this affirmative policy unachieved. Without stronger intervention, women's representation in politics will remain just a statistic without substantive meaning.

6. Conclusion

This research examines the political dynamics and the role of election supervision conducted by Bawaslu in upholding democracy in Indonesia. As the institution responsible for overseeing the election process, Bawaslu faces various significant challenges, including limited access to voter data as recorded in the Voter Data Information System (SIDALIH) managed by the KPU. Bawaslu's dependence on data provided by the KPU has the potential to limit the effectiveness of oversight, given that without full access to accurate and up-to-date data, supervision becomes less effective. Therefore, this study recommends that Bawaslu be granted full access to SIDALIH and improve coordination with the KPU and Disdukcapil to ensure that voter data updates are conducted more transparently and accurately, thus reducing the potential for errors in the voter list.

Furthermore, this study demonstrates that election supervision is not only about enforcing the law but also involves interactions between various actors with different political interests. In this context, Bawaslu plays the role of a mediator that must manage the competing interests between various parties, including the KPU, political parties, the government, and civil society. Issues such as the restriction on the candidacy of former convicts and efforts to ensure gender representation in politics serve as examples of how political interests often influence the oversight process. Therefore, Bawaslu must maintain its independence and ensure that oversight decisions are not influenced by political pressure or regulatory inconsistencies.

The main recommendations from this research include increasing transparency in voter data updates by providing the public with access to independently verify the data, as well as strengthening coordination between institutions to improve data validity. In addition, regulatory harmonization between KPU regulations and the Election Law needs to be carried out to avoid any discrepancies that could lead to legal conflicts, particularly in the case of former convict candidacies. Law enforcement against vote-buying practices and firmness in overseeing the neutrality of civil servants also need to be strengthened. Increasing public participation in election supervision and improving oversight of gender representation in political parties are also key elements in electoral reform. The implementation of these recommendations will strengthen the integrity of democracy and improve the quality of elections in Indonesia, as well as support Bawaslu's role in effectively upholding democracy.

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