

THE ILLUSION OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN REPORTING ELECTORAL VIOLATIONS UNDER INDONESIAN REGULATIONS

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Abstract

This study aims to analyze Article 13 of Bawaslu Regulation Number 7 of 2018 and the strategic role of the Election Supervisory Agency (Bawaslu) in increasing public involvement in election supervision and law enforcement. The methods used in this study are a statutory approach applied to examine regulations related to election supervision, with a focus on the extent to which Article 13 provides support for public participation in reporting alleged election violations. The results show that although Bawaslu Regulation Number 7 of 2018 opens opportunities for public participation in supervision, the main challenge faced is the public's low understanding of the reporting mechanism and the importance of their involvement in the election process. Therefore, this study recommends that Bawaslu (Elections Supervisory Agency) increase its education and outreach efforts to raise public awareness of their rights and obligations, as well as how to report suspected violations. Furthermore, the use of technology and online media should be maximized to reach a wider audience and encourage local community involvement. This is expected to make Bawaslu more

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effective in creating more transparent, fair, and accountable elections, in accordance with the provisions of Article 13 of Bawaslu Regulation Number 7 of 2018.

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Introduction

General elections are one of the main pillars of a healthy democratic system, which requires strict supervision to ensure integrity and fairness in every stage of the election process (Amin & Hayatulah, 2024). In this context, the Election Supervisory Agency (Bawaslu) plays a very important role in ensuring that elections take place honestly, fairly, and transparently (Anwar, 2019). As the institution responsible for supervising the implementation of elections, Bawaslu has a mandate to oversee all aspects of elections, from campaigning to vote counting, to ensure that all parties comply with applicable regulations. This mandate is carried out in accordance with the mandate of Law Number 7 of 2017 concerning General Elections (hereinafter referred to as the Election Law), specifically in Article 93 paragraph D points 1 to 11, which explains Bawaslu's responsibilities in conducting supervision to maintain the quality and integrity of elections. Accordingly, the role of the Election Supervisory Agency of the Republic of Indonesia becomes fundamentally significant in ensuring that elections are conducted in a democratic, transparent, and accountable manner (Undang-Undang Nomor 7 Tahun 2017 Tentang Pemilihan Umum, 2017).

Through such reports and preliminary findings, the Election Supervisory Agency of the Republic of Indonesia is afforded the authority to undertake further investigative measures aimed at collecting the evidence necessary to examine and follow up alleged electoral violations (Yuhandra et al., 2023). This process of investigation is essential not only for ensuring the effective, fair, and consistent enforcement of election law but also for promoting transparency and strengthening public confidence in the integrity of the electoral process. Furthermore, the effectiveness of Bawaslu in handling electoral violations is largely dependent upon the accuracy, completeness, and timeliness of the initial information received. Accurate and prompt information enables Bawaslu to adopt preventive and corrective measures more effectively, thereby reducing the likelihood of similar violations occurring in future elections (Afifuddin, 2020). By obtaining accurate and timely information, the Election Supervisory Agency of the Republic of Indonesia is able to implement effective preventive measures aimed at minimizing the recurrence of similar electoral violations in future election processes.

Although the Election Supervisory Agency of the Republic of Indonesia has been provided with regulatory frameworks and procedural guidelines to carry out election supervision, the practical implementation of such responsibilities remains highly challenging (Hasanah & Rejeki, 2021). In exercising its supervisory mandate, Bawaslu encounters a variety of obstacles that may affect the effectiveness of election oversight and law enforcement. One of the most significant challenges lies in the limited level of public awareness and understanding regarding both the role of Bawaslu and the mechanisms available for reporting electoral violations. A considerable number of citizens still lack awareness of the importance of public participation in safeguarding electoral integrity, which consequently contributes to the relatively low level of community involvement in reporting suspected election violations. The Election

Supervisory Agency of the Republic of Indonesia is also confronted with limitations relating to human resources and institutional funding. The disproportionate ratio between the number of election supervisors, the extensive geographical scope of electoral administration, and the large number of voters often hinders the implementation of comprehensive and effective election oversight. In addition, Bawaslu frequently encounters political pressure and various forms of intimidation directed at election supervisors who seek to perform their duties impartially, independently, and in accordance with the principles of honest and fair elections [(Prayogo, 2022) (Duwila, 2022) (Ahmad, 2024)].

This study aims to analyze Article 13 of Bawaslu Regulation Number 7 of 2018 and the strategic role of the Election Supervisory Agency (Bawaslu) in increasing public involvement in election supervision and law enforcement. This study contributes theoretically to mapping the logical relationship between the level of public legal literacy and the accountability of election results in developing democracies.

Research Method

This research adopts a statutory approach to analyze in depth the role of the Election Supervisory Agency (Bawaslu) in increasing public participation in election supervision (McMunigal, 2004), specifically related to Article 13 of Bawaslu Regulation Number 7 of 2018. A normative juridical approach is employed in this research to examine the relevant legal regulations and frameworks governing election supervision (Diantha, 2019). This approach includes a comprehensive analysis of the legal norms embodied within the applicable regulations (Kharel, 2018), particularly those designed to encourage and facilitate public participation in the electoral oversight process. The analysis further considers the potential limitations and practical obstacles that may arise in the implementation of such regulations. Accordingly, this research does not merely focus on the textual interpretation of legal provisions, but also takes into account broader social, political, and cultural factors that may influence the effectiveness of election supervision in practice (Muhaimin, 2020).

In addition, a literature-based study is conducted to collect information and data from various academic and scientific sources, including books, journal articles, legal publications, and official documents relevant to the research topic (Marzuki, 2017). The literature review is carried out using specific keywords, such as “law enforcement in the 2024 Election” and “public participation in the 2024 Election,” in order to ensure the relevance and quality of the collected materials. Through this process, previous studies are critically examined to identify recurring patterns, principal findings, and scholarly perspectives that may provide deeper insight into the challenges encountered by the Election Supervisory Agency of the Republic of Indonesia in promoting public involvement in election supervision. The data obtained through the literature review are subsequently analyzed using a qualitative approach in order to identify key issues, prevailing challenges, and proposed solutions discussed in prior research. Thematic analysis techniques are applied to systematically organize and categorize the data, thereby facilitating the formulation of conclusions and recommendations (Negara, 2023). This analytical process is intended to strengthen the understanding of the relationship between the existing regulatory framework and its implementation in practice, while also providing a clearer perspective on how Bawaslu may enhance its effectiveness in engaging the public within the electoral oversight process (Firmansyah et al., 2022).

Results and discussions

The Role and Challenges of Bawaslu

Bawaslu Regulation Number 21 of 2018 establishes a comprehensive legal framework governing the supervision of general elections in Indonesia. Through this regulatory instrument,

the Election Supervisory Agency of the Republic of Indonesia is expected to exercise its duties and supervisory authority effectively to safeguard the integrity, fairness, and transparency of the electoral process. The regulation further serves as an important guideline not only for Bawaslu itself, but also for the public and other relevant institutions involved in election oversight. In this regard, the regulation reflects the broader objective of strengthening democratic governance through the realization of elections that are honest, fair, transparent, and accountable.

One of the most significant provisions within the Bawaslu Regulation Number 21 of 2018 is Article 13, which specifically regulates the submission of preliminary information concerning alleged election violations. This provision emphasizes that preliminary information constitutes an essential initial basis for identifying, examining, and following up allegations of violations arising during the electoral process. Such preliminary information may originate from various sources and may be conveyed either orally or in written form, thereby facilitating Bawaslu's efforts to collect initial data and evidence relating to alleged electoral misconduct.

Considering the central role of preliminary information in addressing electoral violations, Bawaslu Regulation Number 21 of 2018 provides significant opportunities for public participation in election oversight activities. Through the communication mechanisms established under the regulation, members of the public are expected to report suspected violations more easily, efficiently, and promptly. Nevertheless, substantial challenges remain, particularly concerning the limited level of public understanding regarding the procedures and mechanisms for reporting election violations. In many instances, inadequate access to information and limited legal awareness discourage individuals from reporting violations that they witness. This condition illustrates the continuing need for greater public education and awareness concerning the importance of citizen participation in safeguarding electoral integrity.

In evaluating and analyzing relevant literature by applying the analytical framework provided under the PRISMA (Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses) guidelines, as well as the article eligibility assessment standards developed through the Joanna Briggs Institute (JBI) Critical Appraisal framework (Moher et al., 2009). Such an approach is intended to ensure that the selection, evaluation, and analysis of the literature are conducted systematically, objectively, and in accordance with recognized academic research standards.

The research process commenced with the identification and collection of relevant scholarly articles through the Google Scholar search engine by employing keywords such as "law enforcement in the 2024 elections" and "public participation in the 2024 elections." The literature search was conducted within the publication period spanning from 2019 to 2024 in order to ensure the relevance, contemporaneity, and adequacy of the academic sources utilized in this study. The inclusion criteria used in this search were:

1. Articles are written in Indonesian or English.
2. Articles are relevant to the specified keywords.
3. Articles are in full text.

The initial search using the Google Scholar database yielded 39 articles deemed relevant. Next, a screening process was conducted to evaluate whether the articles met the established inclusion criteria. This screening resulted in 29 articles meeting the initial requirements.

The next stage was abstract screening to ensure the relevance and quality of the articles in greater depth. After abstract screening, 25 articles were selected for further review. In the final stage, a selection process was conducted based on stricter inclusion criteria, resulting in 11 articles meeting all criteria for further in-depth review.

One of the most fundamental roles of the Election Supervisory Agency of the Republic of Indonesia lies in the enforcement of election law as an essential mechanism for maintaining integrity, fairness, and legitimacy within the democratic process. Effective election law enforcement, however, cannot rely solely upon the institutional authority of Bawaslu, but also requires active public participation in the election oversight process. Based on the literature

reviewed in this study, community involvement constitutes an important element in ensuring transparency and accountability in electoral governance, thereby enabling the public to function as independent actors in safeguarding democratic integrity. (Ramayanti et al., 2023) emphasized that community service activities conducted by students and academic institutions may serve as an effective instrument for increasing public understanding and encouraging active participation in election monitoring activities (Ramayanti et al., 2023). Through such community engagement programs, students and lecturers not only disseminate information concerning electoral processes and supervision mechanisms, but also encourage communities to participate directly in oversight activities. Educational outreach directed toward village communities has proven effective in strengthening public awareness regarding their rights and obligations as voters, while simultaneously encouraging broader participation in election supervision. In this context, society is positioned not merely as the recipient of information but also as an active participant contributing to the preservation of electoral integrity. These findings demonstrate that efforts to strengthen public participation in election oversight must continue to be promoted by involving various sectors of society, including educational institutions, in order to cultivate collective awareness regarding the importance of democratic and corruption-free elections.

Similarly, the research conducted by Yuniarti, Wijaya, and Juhad (2023) demonstrated that community-based approaches possess considerable effectiveness in increasing public participation in election oversight. Their study highlighted that programs involving local communities, including public outreach initiatives and focus group discussions, significantly enhanced public awareness and understanding concerning the importance of election supervision. Through direct involvement in these activities, members of the public not only gained access to relevant information but also developed a stronger sense of responsibility toward safeguarding the integrity of elections within their respective communities. This development was reflected in the increasing number of reports concerning alleged election violations submitted to the Election Supervisory Agency of the Republic of Indonesia following the implementation of such community-based programs, indicating that citizens had become more confident, proactive, and participatory in exercising their role within the electoral oversight process (Yuniarti et al., 2023).

Likewise, Anang (2022) emphasized the importance of public involvement during the preliminary stages of the electoral process, particularly in relation to the registration of political parties. Such participation is essential to ensuring transparency and accountability from the outset of the election process, thereby enabling the registration procedure to be conducted openly, fairly, and in accordance with democratic principles. According to Anang, the involvement of the community at this stage strengthens supervisory mechanisms against potential manipulation, abuse, or electoral violations that may arise during the political party registration process. Public participation in the registration of political parties not only enhances society's sense of ownership over the democratic process but also encourages political parties to operate in a more transparent and accountable manner before the public. In this regard, the integration of active community-based approaches with broader public participation during the early stages of elections contributes to the establishment of a more effective and participatory oversight ecosystem. Ultimately, such conditions are expected to support the realization of elections that are cleaner, fairer, more transparent, and more democratic (Arniti, 2020).

Research conducted by Silalahi and Siregar (2023) demonstrates that public participation occupies a strategic position not only within the framework of election supervision but also in preparing society to actively engage in the electoral process itself. Increased public involvement is considered essential in minimizing the potential occurrence of electoral violations and in ensuring that elections are conducted in a more democratic, transparent, and accountable manner. By involving the public throughout every stage of the electoral process, ranging from planning to implementation, the Election Supervisory Agency of the Republic of Indonesia is able to strengthen public trust and foster a collective commitment toward maintaining electoral

integrity (Silalahi et al., 2023). In a similar vein, research by Khopipah, Susilowardhani, and Djuhardi (2023) highlights the increasingly important role of digital and online media as effective instruments for public campaigns and political education. The utilization of digital platforms by the Election Supervisory Agency of the Republic of Indonesia enables broader dissemination of information, increases public awareness regarding the importance of electoral participation, and facilitates access to information concerning election procedures and supervisory mechanisms (Khopipah et al., 2023). The use of technology in election supervision, therefore, reflects an adaptive strategy capable of strengthening communication between election supervisory institutions and the wider community. Furthermore, Siregar, Lestari, and Sumantri (2024) emphasized the crucial role of civil society in election oversight, particularly at the regional and local levels. According to their findings, public participation originating from various social elements, including local communities and non-governmental organizations, significantly contributes to enhancing the effectiveness of election supervision as a whole (Siregar et al., 2024). This perspective is consistent with the views expressed by Daerani and Islami (2023), who argued that community involvement constitutes one of the key elements in safeguarding the integrity of electoral processes. Through active participation, members of the public are capable of identifying potential electoral violations at an early stage and assisting in ensuring that such violations are properly addressed, thereby supporting the realization of a more transparent and accountable electoral system. Collectively, these studies demonstrate that synergy among various elements of society, whether at the individual, community, or institutional level, constitutes an indispensable factor in the realization of elections that uphold democratic values, transparency, accountability, and integrity in Indonesia (Dairani & Islami, 2023).

Research conducted by Winanda et al. and Mahyudin et al. demonstrates that public political participation at the sub-district level can make a substantial contribution to the effectiveness of election supervision. These findings emphasize the importance of involving communities from diverse social backgrounds throughout every stage of the electoral process, both in providing preliminary information regarding alleged electoral violations and in actively participating in supervisory activities. Such participation is not limited merely to physical involvement in the voting process, but also includes public awareness and understanding concerning citizens' rights and obligations as voters within a democratic system. In this regard, political and legal awareness among the public constitutes an essential foundation for the development of an election oversight mechanism that is more effective, responsive, and participatory ; . Through broader public involvement, Election Supervisory Agency of the Republic of Indonesia can further strengthen the implementation of its supervisory functions while simultaneously enhancing public confidence in the integrity and legitimacy of the electoral process.

Meanwhile, Josviranto (2022) examined the challenges and strategies encountered by Election Supervisory Agency of the Republic of Indonesia in enforcing election law, emphasizing the institution's strategic role in ensuring that electoral violations are addressed firmly, consistently, and transparently. Effective and transparent law enforcement is considered fundamental in strengthening public trust and confidence in the electoral process. Furthermore, Josviranto highlighted that Bawaslu must possess the institutional capacity to proactively identify, prevent, and respond to various forms of electoral violations, including abuses of power, intimidation, and other forms of electoral fraud that may threaten the integrity and fairness of democratic elections (Josviranto, 2022).

Kurniawan (2021) further examined the various measures undertaken by the Election Supervisory Agency of the Republic of Indonesia in addressing the challenges associated with election law enforcement. In his study, Kurniawan emphasized that public support and active community participation constitute essential elements in enabling Bawaslu to perform its supervisory and enforcement functions more effectively. A society that is adequately educated

and actively engaged in the electoral process is capable of providing valuable information, while simultaneously encouraging Bawaslu to respond to alleged violations in a more prompt, precise, and appropriate manner (Kurniawan, 2022).

On the other hand, Tahe, Yasin, and Jaya (2021) provide a historical and evaluative perspective concerning the role of the Election Supervisory Agency of the Republic of Indonesia, beginning from previous electoral periods through the preparations for the 2024 General Election. Their study demonstrates the continuity and progressive development of Bawaslu's strategies in enforcing election law, while also illustrating how the institution continues to adapt to emerging political dynamics and the evolving challenges arising within each electoral cycle. According to their findings, experiences derived from previous elections constitute valuable institutional lessons that may be utilized in formulating more effective supervisory and enforcement strategies for future elections. The study further emphasizes that continuous institutional adaptation is essential for maintaining the effectiveness of election oversight in the face of increasingly complex electoral challenges. Through an in-depth analysis of Bawaslu's institutional role and strategic approach, the research provides a comprehensive understanding of the importance of collaboration between Bawaslu and the public in realizing elections that are fair, transparent, democratic, and accountable (Tahe et al., 2021).

Tactical Recommendations for Increasing Public Involvement in Election Oversight and Law Enforcement

The following are several strategic recommendations that may be implemented by the Election Supervisory Agency of the Republic of Indonesia to strengthen public participation in election supervision and electoral law enforcement:

1. **Optimizing Public Outreach and Political Education:** Bawaslu should continue to strengthen outreach and public education programs concerning the importance of community participation in election oversight. Educational initiatives involving universities, students, and academic institutions may serve as effective instruments for increasing legal awareness and civic engagement, as demonstrated in the research conducted by Ramayanti et al. (Ramayanti et al., 2023). Such programs are essential in fostering a broader public understanding of electoral rights and supervisory responsibilities.
2. **Maximizing the Utilization of Technology and Digital Media:** The use of digital technology and online media platforms should be optimized as instruments for public campaigns, the dissemination of information, and political education. Through broader digital engagement, Bawaslu may reach a wider segment of society and facilitate greater public participation in election oversight activities, consistent with the findings of (Khopipah et al., 2023). The strategic use of technology also enables more accessible communication between supervisory institutions and the public.
3. **Strengthening Community-Based Approaches:** Bawaslu should encourage greater involvement of local communities through community-based election monitoring programs. Approaches centered upon local participation have proven effective in increasing public awareness, responsiveness, and active engagement in safeguarding electoral integrity, as highlighted in the research by Yuniarti et al. (Yuniarti et al., 2023). Community participation at the grassroots level is therefore essential in creating a more participatory and responsive oversight mechanism.
4. **Encouraging Public Involvement from the Early Stages of Elections:** Public participation should be strengthened from the earliest stages of the electoral process to ensure transparency and accountability throughout every phase of election administration. By involving the community in supervision from the outset, Bawaslu can strengthen preventive oversight mechanisms and minimize the potential occurrence of electoral violations, as emphasized by Astuti et al. (Astuti et al., 2024).

Early public engagement also reinforces democratic legitimacy within the electoral process.

5. Strengthening the Role of Civil Society: The participation of civil society organizations in election supervision should be continuously enhanced at both local and national levels. Cooperation with community organizations, non-governmental institutions, and civic groups can significantly strengthen the effectiveness of electoral oversight and promote collective responsibility in maintaining democratic integrity (Silalahi et al., 2023).
6. Ensuring Firm and Transparent Election Law Enforcement: that all allegations of election violations are handled consistently, firmly, and transparently in accordance with applicable legal principles. Transparent law enforcement is indispensable in maintaining public trust in electoral institutions and in safeguarding the credibility of democratic processes. As emphasized by Josviranto (Josviranto, 2022) and Kurniawan (Kurniawan, 2022), effective law enforcement combined with active public support constitutes a fundamental pillar in preserving the integrity and legitimacy of elections.

By implementing these recommendations, the Election Supervisory Agency of the Republic of Indonesia is expected to strengthen its effectiveness in increasing public participation in election supervision and electoral law enforcement, particularly in accordance with the framework established under Article 13 of Bawaslu Regulation Number 7 of 2018. Broader public involvement in electoral oversight will not only strengthen transparency and accountability within the democratic process but will also reinforce the legitimacy and integrity of election administration in Indonesia.

Nevertheless, the fundamental effort to restore public trust and encourage meaningful community participation must begin from the upstream dimension of electoral governance, namely the process of selecting election organizers themselves. Referring to Partono's analysis, there is an urgent need to improve transparency within the Computer Assisted Test (CAT) mechanism used in the recruitment and selection process for election administrators. The current implementation has been criticized as insufficiently transparent, particularly because participants' scores are not displayed in real time, thereby creating suspicion regarding the potential existence of manipulation or opaque decision-making practices during the selection process (Partono, 2021). Greater transparency in the publication of assessment results would provide the public with stronger assurance that elected officials are individuals possessing integrity and professionalism, rather than products of political patronage or elite interests. At the same time, the parliament, particularly the People's Representative Council of the Republic of Indonesia, bears an important moral and constitutional responsibility to avoid transactional political practices in the selection of election commissioners. The legislative institution must restrain excessive political interests and reject any form of covert political commitment that may compromise the independence and impartiality of election organizers for short-term electoral or political advantage (Ramadhanil, 2022). In this regard, the combination of technical transparency in the selection process and the preservation of political integrity within parliamentary mechanisms constitutes a *sine qua non* condition for establishing credible and participatory election oversight. Without institutional integrity at the foundational level, efforts to strengthen public participation in election supervision risk losing their legitimacy and democratic credibility.

Furthermore, a comprehensive and fundamental evaluation of the recruitment process for election officials at the regional level must be undertaken in order to break the cycle of incompetence that repeatedly gives rise to procedural violations and electoral disputes. Referring to the analysis presented by Ahmad Farisi, the recurring phenomenon of re-voting (*Pemungutan Suara Ulang/PSU*) and the disqualification of regional head candidates in previous regional elections constitutes a strong indication of the inadequate quality and compromised

independence of certain election officials who are closely associated with particular political interests (Farisi, 2025). Recruitment practices that prioritize political proximity and patronage relationships, rather than professionalism and merit-based standards, ultimately produce election officials who lack firmness and impartiality in enforcing electoral law. This problem is further aggravated by the composition of the Selection Committee (*Tim Seleksi/Timtsel*), which frequently generates public controversy regarding its independence and neutrality. Based on findings published by Kompas Research and Development, public participation in examining the background and track records of prospective election commissioners must be institutionalized substantively and transparently, rather than merely functioning as a procedural formality. Such participation is necessary to ensure that the Selection Committee remains free from excessive executive or partisan political influence (Wahyu, 2021). In this context, the establishment of a transparent, merit-based, and publicly accountable recruitment mechanism becomes indispensable for strengthening the credibility of electoral institutions. The appointment of professional, independent, and integrity-driven election officials will encourage greater public confidence in the electoral oversight system. Consequently, members of the public will feel more secure and empowered to report alleged electoral violations without fear that their reports will be ignored, manipulated, or suppressed by partisan interests within the election administration structure.

The election vulnerability database must function as a primary strategic instrument for the Election Supervisory Agency of the Republic of Indonesia in formulating targeted and effective election oversight mechanisms that actively involve elements of civil society. Referring to the findings of Kompas Research and Development, the substantial increase in the Election Vulnerability Index (*Indeks Kerawanan Pemilu/IKP*) in several provinces, including Jakarta and North Sulawesi, demonstrates that the potential for electoral violations has expanded significantly across both socio-political and electoral contestation dimensions (Marsyukrilla, 2023). Such data should not merely function as a static administrative document, but rather must be transformed into a dynamic early warning system capable of being understood and utilized by the public as part of participatory election supervision. Such data should not merely function as a static administrative document, but rather must be transformed into a dynamic early warning system capable of being understood and utilized by the public as part of participatory election supervision.

Moreover, the complexity of the electoral challenges in the 2024 election period is further intensified by the establishment of several New Autonomous Regions (*Daerah Otonom Baru/DOB*) in Papua. Strategic issues relating to the readiness of electoral infrastructure, administrative capacity, and the neutrality of election organizers within these newly established regions require heightened institutional attention through measurable and comprehensive risk mitigation strategies (Marsyukrilla, 2023). In this context, communities residing within high-risk electoral areas must receive specific forms of civic and political education tailored to their respective local conditions and socio-political realities. Such educational efforts are essential in enabling local communities to function as an effective social “radar” capable of identifying and reporting irregularities, anomalies, and potential violations at an early stage of the electoral process. Through the integration of vulnerability mapping, preventive oversight, and community-based participation, the Election Supervisory Agency of the Republic of Indonesia can strengthen the effectiveness of election supervision while simultaneously reinforcing democratic resilience and public trust in electoral governance.

In the context of enforcing electoral law against the pathological phenomenon of money politics, the Election Supervisory Agency of the Republic of Indonesia must adopt a more progressive and adaptive approach by maximizing the utilization of information technology and digital supervisory mechanisms. The practice of vote buying, which has increasingly developed into a systemic threat to democratic integrity at various electoral levels from regional legislative elections to presidential elections, requires forms of oversight that go beyond conventional

supervisory models (Iskadrenda & Hiariej, 2024), for example, through optimizing CCTV and online reporting applications that protect the identity of the reporter (whistleblower). Conventional outreach is no longer sufficient; actions are needed that provide a real deterrent effect, such as disqualifying candidates legally and convincingly proven to have engaged in money politics. The public must be assured that their reports will be seriously followed up through an integrated law enforcement mechanism with the Police and the Prosecutor's Office (Gakkumdu). Election integrity can only be saved if Bawaslu dares to take action against the intellectual actors behind money politics, rather than simply punishing the field implementers, so as to create a climate of fair play and dignified competition.

Finally, strengthening election supervisory institutions must be supported by an autonomous and collaborative funding scheme to ensure the sustainability of participatory oversight at the grassroots level. Adopting Apridar's thinking, Bawaslu must be positioned as a strong "gateway" for democracy, where recruitment of volunteer supervisors is not merely ad-hoc, but supported by regional government budgets without sacrificing the institution's vertical independence (Apridar, 2023). The rigid funding dichotomy between the national and regional budgets often hampers operational oversight in the field, necessitating regulatory breakthroughs from the central executive to mandate regional facilitation for these "independent supervisors." With adequate resources, volunteer nodes can work optimally to safeguard the purity of the people's voice. If all of these elements can operate in synergy, ranging from transparent and merit-based recruitment processes, data-driven risk mitigation mechanisms, to adequate and proportional institutional support, then elections may truly return to their fundamental purpose as an instrument of national integration and democratic consolidation, rather than merely functioning as a procedural and formalistic political ritual. Through such an integrated framework, the Election Supervisory Agency of the Republic of Indonesia can more effectively safeguard electoral integrity while strengthening public trust in democratic institutions and the constitutional electoral process itself.

Conclusion

The Election Supervisory Agency of the Republic of Indonesia plays a strategic and indispensable role in improving the quality, integrity, and legitimacy of elections in Indonesia, particularly through the implementation of Bawaslu Regulation Number 7 of 2018, especially Article 13 concerning the handling of findings and reports of alleged election violations. This regulatory framework provides broader opportunities for public participation in electoral oversight by enabling citizens to report suspected violations through various accessible mechanisms. Nevertheless, one of the principal challenges faced by Bawaslu remains the limited level of public understanding regarding reporting procedures and the importance of community involvement in safeguarding electoral integrity. Consequently, Bawaslu must continue to strengthen educational initiatives, public outreach programs, and civic awareness campaigns in order to enhance public understanding concerning their rights and obligations within the democratic process. Based on a systematic analysis of the literature concerning public participation and election law enforcement in the context of the 2024 elections, this study demonstrates that community involvement constitutes a fundamental element in ensuring transparency, accountability, and democratic legitimacy in electoral governance. Various studies examined in this research indicate that educational programs, public outreach activities, and community-based approaches have proven effective in increasing public engagement in election oversight. Accordingly, Bawaslu is encouraged to optimize its public education strategies, maximize the utilization of digital technology and online media platforms, and strengthen the involvement of local communities in participatory election supervision. Furthermore, public engagement should be encouraged from the earliest stages of the electoral process to maintain transparency and accountability throughout every phase of election administration. The role of civil society must also be reinforced through broader participation at both local and national

levels, thereby strengthening collective responsibility in safeguarding democratic integrity. In addition, consistent, transparent, and firm law enforcement against alleged electoral violations remains essential in preserving public trust in electoral institutions and maintaining the credibility of democratic processes. By implementing these strategic measures comprehensively, the Election Supervisory Agency of the Republic of Indonesia is expected to further strengthen public participation in election oversight and contribute to the realization of elections that are fairer, more transparent, accountable, and fully consistent with the objectives embodied in Article 13 of Bawaslu Regulation Number 7 of 2018.

Declaration of AI and AI-Assisted Technologies in the Writing Process

During the preparation of this work, the author(s) used GeminiAI for grammar checking and correction of ambiguous words. After using this tool/service, the author(s) reviewed and edited the content as needed and take full responsibility for the integrity, accuracy, and originality of the publication's final version.

CRedit Authorship Contribution Statement

Authorship contributions are reported following the CRediT (Contributor Roles Taxonomy) system. Each author's specific role in the research and writing process should be identified clearly.

- a. Moh. Imron Rosyadi: Conceptualization, Formal Analysis.
- b. Moch. Syahfudin: Conceptualization, Investigation, Writing Original Draft, and Writing Review & Editing.
- c. Ahmad Abdullah Zawawi: Supervision, Validation, and Project Administration.
- d. Nazhif Ali Murtadho: Data Curation, Formal Analysis, and Writing Review & Editing.
- e. Muhammad Galuh Pamungkas Wahyu Ramadhan: Resources, and Writing Review & Editing.

Declaration of Competing Interest

The author declares that there are no relevant conflicts of interest related to the authorship or publication of this article. All research and analysis presented are original works conducted independently without any influence from third parties.

Data Availability Statement

The data used in this study will be available upon request to the corresponding author at elauva_indonesia@uinsby.ac.id

Ethical Approval Statement

This research fully complies with the ethical standards of scientific research and academic ethical standards.

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