

## 2024 Election Reflections: Political Ambition and Legal Defeat

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### ABSTRACT

The 2024 election in Indonesia faces significant challenges related to political ambitions and legal defeats, which have impacted the integrity and implementation of the election process. Political ambitions from candidates and political parties often lead to violations of election rules, including the spread of misleading information and manipulation of voting results. Legal defeats, such as violations of campaign rules and the inability of law enforcement to handle these cases, undermine public trust in the democratic system and law enforcement institutions. This article examines the impact of these legal defeats and provides recommendations for reforms in election regulations, increased law enforcement, transparency, and political education. Comprehensive reform efforts are needed to ensure fair elections and increase public trust in the democratic process in the future

## **INTRODUCTION**

The 2024 General Election in Indonesia is an important moment in the history of national democracy, marking a political shift and new dynamics on the country's political stage. With various candidates and political parties competing to gain public support, this election presents a very tight and colorful competitive atmosphere. The burning political ambitions of various parties show how great the hopes are to gain power and influence the direction of state policy in the future. However, behind this ambition, there is a major challenge that is often overlooked, namely the legal aspect that plays a crucial role in the election process.

One of the main issues that emerged in the 2024 Election was the legal problem related to integrity and fairness in the implementation of the election. Although there are regulations governing various aspects of the election, violations of the law, such as election fraud and abuse of power, often color the election process. Legal defeat in dealing with these violations can have a negative impact on public trust in the democratic system, as well as damage the legitimacy of the election results themselves. This is an important highlight, because it indicates imperfections in the implementation of the law and the need for deeper reform.

Furthermore, high political ambitions often have the potential to create conflicts of interest and corruption. Candidates and political parties strive to win seats in various ways, sometimes ignoring existing ethics and laws. These conflicts of interest can lead to manipulation of election results, illegitimate influence on voters, and various other forms of irregularities. Therefore, it is important to evaluate how the law and its enforcement institutions can adapt and overcome new challenges in this increasingly complex political era. In this context, reflection on the 2024 Elections does not only focus on political outcomes and impacts, but also on how the legal system functions in maintaining the integrity of the election. This study aims to analyze the political ambitions that dominate the election and the legal defeats that occur, with the hope of providing insights for improving the democratic system and law enforcement in the future. This evaluation is important to ensure that the election process in Indonesia remains fair, transparent, and accountable, so that it can increase public trust and the quality of democracy in this country.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **Reflection**

Reflection is a process of introspection that allows individuals or groups to evaluate and analyze specific experiences or events. In the context of the 2024 Election, reflection refers to an in-depth evaluation of the election process and results, including the challenges and successes faced. This involves a critical analysis of how the election was conducted, whether the goals of democracy were achieved, and how the existing systems and procedures functioned in practice. This reflection is important for understanding the weaknesses and strengths of the existing election system, as well as for formulating recommendations for future improvements.

In addition, reflection also includes an assessment of the impact of the election on society and the state. This includes considering whether the election results fairly reflect the will of the people and whether the election process produced legitimate results. By reflecting, we can learn from previous election experiences to improve the quality of democracy, improve the election system, and ensure that the political process is increasingly transparent and accountable.

### **Election**

General Election (Pemilu) is a democratic mechanism that allows people to elect their leaders and representatives. Elections are held periodically and are a means to channel people's aspirations and determine the direction of government policy. The 2024 election is a pivotal moment in the history of Indonesian democracy, where various candidates and political parties compete to gain the people's mandate. The election process involves voter registration, campaigning, voting, and counting results, all designed to ensure that the people's voices are effectively represented.

However, the implementation of elections is often faced with various challenges, such as fraud, abuse of power, and administrative problems. The 2024 election is no exception to these problems, which require serious attention and handling. The evaluation of this election includes an analysis of how effective the election mechanism is in reflecting the will of the people and how these problems can be overcome to ensure a better democratic process in the future.

### **Politics and Law**

Politics is a decision-making process that involves the selection and implementation of policies to achieve common goals in a society. In the context of the 2024 election, politics includes the dynamics of competition between candidates and political parties, campaign strategies, and political influence in gaining public support. Political ambition is often the main driver in elections, where candidates and parties strive to win seats and gain positions of power. This includes the use of a variety of strategies to influence voters and win support, which often includes aspects such as political promises, lobbying, and media campaigns. On the other hand, politics can also pose challenges and controversies, especially when political ambitions lead to conflicts of interest or manipulation. Politicians may engage in practices that undermine the integrity of elections, such as fraud or bribery. Therefore, it is important to ensure that the political process remains transparent and focused on the public interest, and to address potential irregularities that could undermine public confidence in the democratic system.

Law is a system of rules designed to regulate behavior and maintain order in society. In the context of the 2024 Election, law includes various regulations and rules governing the implementation of elections, including rules on campaigning, voting, and counting results. The law aims to ensure that elections are carried out fairly, transparently, and accountably, as well as to prevent and address violations that may occur. Law enforcement in elections is essential to maintaining the integrity of the election process and ensuring that the results accurately reflect the will of the people.

However, there are often challenges in law enforcement, such as inconsistent enforcement, lack of resources, or strong political influence. In the case of the 2024 Election, there may be legal issues that arise, such as election fraud or abuse of power, that require serious attention from law enforcement agencies. Evaluation of the application of the law during elections can provide insights into the effectiveness of the legal system and the need for reform to improve the quality of democracy in the future.

## **METHODOLOGY**

In this study, the method used is a qualitative approach with case study analysis to evaluate political ambition and legal defeat in the 2024 Election. Data were collected through in-depth interview techniques with various related parties, such as politicians, election observers, and legal practitioners, as well as document analysis including election reports, legal decisions, and media news. Data analysis was carried out using a thematic approach to identify patterns and trends related to how political ambition affects the implementation of elections and how legal defeat in enforcing rules impacts the integrity of the election process. The findings of this study are expected to provide in-depth insights into the relationship between political ambition and law enforcement in the context of elections, as well as recommendations for improving the system in the future.

## RESULTS

### **Impact of Political Ambition on the Integrity and Implementation of the 2024 General Election**

Political ambition is one of the main drivers in the General Election (Pemilu) process, which often affects the implementation and integrity of the election. In the 2024 Election, the dynamics of political ambition of candidates and political parties provide a clear picture of how the desire to gain power can impact various aspects of the election. This study aims to analyze how political ambition affects the election process and its final results, as well as its implications for election integrity.

High political ambition among candidates and political parties can have a significant impact on election integrity. Candidates and political parties often try hard to gain public support in various ways, sometimes involving strategies that can undermine democratic principles. In an effort to win the election, some candidates may engage in practices such as spreading misleading information, negative campaigns, and attempts to influence the election results illegally. For example, during the 2024 Election, there were reports of the spread of fake news and hoaxes aimed at discrediting political opponents or influencing public opinion unethically. Such practices can undermine public trust in the election process and create injustice for candidates who are not involved in the activity. In addition, allegations of bribery or providing facilities to voters can also reduce the integrity of the election, because this changes voters' decisions based on material rewards rather than their true political preferences.

Political ambition also affects the implementation of elections in terms of administration and supervision. In an effort to win the election, some political parties or candidates may try to manipulate the election mechanism, such as by arranging voter registration, setting up polling stations, or even counting votes. These manipulative efforts are often accompanied by pressure on election institutions and responsible officials, which can reduce the quality of supervision and ensure that the election process is not completely fair and transparent.

In the context of the 2024 Election, there were cases where political pressure on election institutions resulted in changes or delays in the voting schedule, as well as obstacles in the process of verifying voter data. This situation leads to administrative chaos and uncertainty among voters, which in turn can affect the election results. Uncertainty in the election process can also lead to decreased voter turnout and decreased public trust in the election results.

The impact of political ambition on the final outcome of an election is significant. When political ambition leads to violations of the law or unethical practices, the election results achieved may not reflect the true will of the people. Inequities in the implementation of elections, such as fraud or manipulation, can result in candidates who should not be elected gaining seats, while more deserving candidates lose due to dirty campaign strategies.

For example, if bribery or bribery practices affect the election results, then the seats won by candidates or political parties may not have been obtained through legitimate popular support. This can affect the quality of governance and policies taken by elected officials, as they may be more concerned with the interests of those who funded their campaigns than with the needs of the people.

The implications of the impact of political ambition on the integrity and implementation of elections are far-reaching. To ensure that elections truly reflect the will of the people, it is important for electoral institutions to strengthen their oversight and law enforcement mechanisms. Transparency in the election process and the need for reforms in election regulations to prevent unethical practices should be a priority.

Recommendations for improvement include improving political education for voters to recognize and reject misleading information, and strengthening the capacity of electoral institutions to identify and address violations. In addition, there needs to be a more effective mechanism for reporting and handling fraud to ensure that all candidates and political parties comply with applicable regulations.

Political ambition has a significant impact on the integrity and implementation of elections, as well as the final results of elections. By understanding how political ambition affects the electoral process, we can take steps to improve the electoral system and ensure that elections are fair, transparent, and in accordance with democratic principles. A thorough evaluation of the impact of political ambition will help in designing the necessary reforms to improve the quality of democracy and public trust in the electoral process.

**Legal Defeat in the 2024 Election** The implementation of the 2024 Election in Indonesia witnessed various legal defeats that disrupted the integrity of the election process and affected public confidence in the democratic system. These legal defeats included various violations and problems related to the enforcement of election rules, ranging from non-compliance with regulations to the failure of law enforcement agencies to address violations. Analysis of these legal defeats is important to understand their impact on public trust and efforts to improve the democratic system in Indonesia.

Legal defeats in the implementation of the 2024 Election included several aspects, including violations of campaign rules, election fraud, and the inability of law enforcement to address these problems effectively.

1. **Violation of Campaign Rules:** One of the main problems faced was violations of campaign rules, such as the use of campaign funds that did not comply with the provisions, the dissemination of misleading information, and violations of campaign deadlines. Examples of cases include candidates who use state resources for personal campaign interests or political parties that ignore the limits set on campaign spending. These violations are often not prosecuted, and despite the existence of regulations, these violations continue to occur without adequate preventive measures or sanctions.
2. **Election Fraud:** Election fraud, such as voter data manipulation, vote-fixing, and political influence on the vote-counting process, are also significant legal defeats. For example, there have been reports of fictitious voters, changes in voter data without clear reasons, and discrepancies in vote counting. This fraud leads to election results that do not reflect the true will of the people and undermines the integrity of the election process.

3. **Law Enforcement Incompetence:** Weak law enforcement in handling election violations is also a legal defeat. Law enforcement agencies, such as the Election Supervisory Agency (Bawaslu) and the General Election Commission (KPU), often face difficulties in effectively following up on cases of violations. Slow legal processes and lack of resources make enforcement less effective, and violators often do not receive adequate sanctions. This creates the impression that violations can be committed without significant consequences.

The legal defeats that occurred during the 2024 Election have a significant impact on public trust in the democratic system and law enforcement in Indonesia. These impacts include:

1. **Decreased Trust in the Election Process:** When violations of law and fraud are not properly addressed, the public becomes skeptical of the integrity of the election process. Public confidence in the fairness and transparency of elections can decline dramatically, leading to political apathy and less participation in future elections. People may feel that their votes will not matter or that the electoral system has been rigged to favor certain parties, reducing their motivation to engage in the democratic process.
2. **Damage to Government Legitimacy:** Election results that are affected by violations of law can undermine the legitimacy of an elected government. When there is a perception that the election results do not reflect the will of the people or that the electoral process was riddled with injustice, the elected government may be viewed as illegitimate by a large segment of the public. This can affect political stability and hinder the government's effectiveness in implementing important policies and programs.
3. **Erosion of Trust in Law Enforcement Institutions:** The inability of law enforcement institutions to address election violations can also lead to an erosion of public trust in these institutions. If the public perceives that institutions such as Bawaslu and KPU are incapable or not committed to enforcing the law fairly, then trust in the legal system as a whole will decline. This can affect the efficiency and effectiveness of law enforcement outside the context of elections, and create a sense of pessimism about the ability of state institutions to protect the rights of their citizens.

To overcome the legal defeats that have occurred and restore public trust, several corrective steps can be taken:

1. **Regulatory and Law Enforcement Reform:** There is a need for reform in election regulations to address loopholes that allow violations to occur. In addition, law enforcement must be strengthened by providing sufficient resources and increasing the capacity of law enforcement agencies to handle cases of violations effectively.
2. **Transparency and Accountability:** Increasing transparency in the election process and monitoring of election results can help restore public trust. Publication of clear and detailed election data and strict monitoring of the election process can reduce the possibility of violations and increase accountability.
3. **Political Education and Public Awareness:** Increasing political education for the public about voter rights and election mechanisms can help prevent fraud and increase participation. Public awareness of the importance of election integrity and their role in maintaining a democratic system can strengthen commitment to a fair election process. The legal defeat in the implementation of the 2024 Election has a profound impact on public trust in the democratic system and law enforcement in Indonesia. By understanding this legal defeat and its impact, and taking appropriate corrective steps, it is hoped that it can improve the integrity of the election and restore public trust in the democratic process. Comprehensive evaluation and reform are needed to ensure that the electoral system functions fairly and transparently, and maintain public trust in democratic institutions.

## **CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **Conclusion**

The 2024 election in Indonesia shows the complexity of the interaction between political ambition and legal defeat, which significantly affects the integrity and implementation of the election. High political ambition often drives candidates and political parties to use various strategies that can undermine the fairness of the election process, such as the spread of misleading information and bribery practices. The legal defeats that occurred, including violations of campaign rules and election fraud, show that law enforcement is still weak and often ineffective. The impact of these legal defeats includes a decrease in public trust in the democratic system and law enforcement institutions, which ultimately affects the legitimacy of the election results and the country's political stability. To improve this situation, comprehensive reforms are needed in election regulations, law enforcement, and transparency of the election process.

### **Recommendations**

- a. **Election Regulation Reform:** It is necessary to revise and update election regulations to close loopholes that allow violations to occur. Regulations must be clear and firm, especially in terms of campaign fund expenditures, campaign time limits, and transparent reporting.
- b. **Improving Law Enforcement:** Strengthening the capacity of law enforcement institutions, such as the Election Supervisory Agency (Bawaslu) and the General Election Commission (KPU), with adequate resources and the necessary training. Law enforcement must be more prompt and effective in dealing with violations to restore public trust.
- c. **Transparency and Accountability:** Increase transparency in the election process, including the publication of clear data on election results and oversight mechanisms. This also includes ensuring that all stages of the election, from voter registration to vote counting, are conducted with transparency.
- d. **Political Education and Public Awareness:** Increase political education for the public about their rights as voters and the importance of election integrity. Awareness campaigns on how to recognize and counter misleading information and election violations can help increase active participation and commitment to the democratic process.

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