



## Role of Election Trace's Critical Analysis in Creating Political Balance

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### **Abstract**

The Indonesian elections are not just a formal process, but the foundation that establishes democracy as a fundamental principle of state. Through active citizen participation, elections contribute significantly to a healthy and sustainable political balance, keeping the essence of democracy as a government system representing the will of the people. However, neither can the challenges and critics of elections be ignored. Some issues such as money politics, identity politics, and inequality access to elections are put in the spotlight in maintaining integrity and election justice. The author is therefore interested in writing with the title critical analysis of the role the trail of elections in creating a political balance. The discussion discussed in this study how elections play a role in creating a political balance in Indonesia, what effect does the election's track have on political representation and the distribution of power and whether there is a challenge or an imbalance that arises asa result of the process of elections and how elections give legitimacy to governments and ensure that political representatives reflect the aspirations of society.

**Keywords:** *Election Trail Role; Political Balance*

### **Introduction**

Elections hold crucial prance in the democratic system, not only as a formal process of determining political representatives but also as one of the main pillars reflecting the political dynamics of the country. In Indonesia, elections have become a crucial and defining moment in the course of democracy, creating the foundation for a healthy and sustainable political balance.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Sofyan Alhadar, Yayan Sahi, Putri Patrisia Katili, "Penguatan Demokrasi Dan Pemilu Bagi Pemilih Pemula Menjelang Pemilihan Umum Tahun 2024: (Studi Pengabdian Pada Mahasiswa Universitas Nahdlatul Ulama Gorontalo)" *Urnal Pengabdian Masyarakat*, 5(1)

Democracy comes from the word "demos" that means people, and "cratein" that means government. Democracy is thus a form of government in which the supreme power rests in the hands of the people, whether directly or indirectly through the vicarious system.<sup>2</sup> Democracy literally means "government by the people" or "government by the people"<sup>3</sup>. The concept of democracy refers to systems of government across the country. The term democracy is often accompanied by various labels, such as people's democracy, leadership democracy, liberal democracy, proletariat democracy, pancasila democracy, and so on. Though labeled differently, the very nature and mechanism of the implementation of democracy can vary depending on the context and underlying principles<sup>4</sup>

Sebagai negara demokrasi terbesar di dunia, Indonesia telah menggelar beberapa pemilu sejak awal kemerdekaannya pada tahun 1945.<sup>5</sup> Dengan melibatkan jutaan pemilih dari berbagai lapisan masyarakat, pemilu menjadi suatu peristiwa nasional yang mengakomodasi berbagai pandangan politik dan kepentingan. Pemilu pertama kali diadakan pada tahun 1955 setelah Indonesia merdeka, dan sejak saat itu, pemilu menjadi tradisi yang terus berlanjut dengan berbagai perkembangan dan inovasi.

The Indonesian elections include various levels, ranging from presidential elections, legislative, provincial elections, to district/city. The process involved not only political parties but also independent candidates representing the people's votes without joining certain parties. This reflects the spirit of inclusion in Indonesian democracy, where every citizen has the right and responsibility to participate in determining the country's political direction.

In analyzing the electoral trail in Indonesia, it is important to understand its effect on creating a political balance. Elections not only create political relief but also confirm government legitimacy and ensure that political representatives reflect the aspirations and aspirations of the people. Election results create the basis for a judicious government and represent community diversity.

However, neither can the challenges and critics of elections be ignored. Some issues such as money politics, identity politics, and inequality access to elections are put in the spotlight in maintaining integrity and election justice.<sup>6</sup> Critical analysis of the electoral trail, therefore, highlights not only its success but also identifies aspects that need to be corrected in order to improve democracy's overall system.

Thus, elections in Indonesia are not just formal proceedings, but the very foundation that establishes democracy as a fundamental principle of the state. Through active citizen participation, elections contribute significantly to a healthy and sustainable political balance, keeping the essence of democracy as a government system representing the will of the people.

### ***Formulation of The Problem***

- 1) How is election role in shaping the political balance in Indonesia?
- 2) What effect does the election trail have on political representation and power distribution?
- 3) Are there any challenges or imbalances that arise as a result of the election process?
- 4) How does elections give legitimacy to governments and ensure that political representatives reflect the aspirations and aspirations of people?

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<sup>2</sup> Abdul Bari Azed, *Sistem-Sistem Pemilihan Umum*, Depok: Badan Penerbit Fakultas Hukum Universitas Indonesia, 2000, Hal 3.

<sup>3</sup> Miriam Budiharjo, *Dasar-Dasar Ilmu Politik*, Jakarta: Gramedia Pustaka Utama, 2008, Hal 105.

<sup>4</sup> Mukhtie Fadjar, *Pemilu Dan Demorasi*, Malang: Setara Press, 2013, Hal 25.

<sup>5</sup> Y Widianingsih, "Demokrasi Dan Pemilu Di Indonesia: Suatu Tinjauan Dari Aspek Sejarah Dan Sosiologi Politik", *Journal Signal*, 2017

## ***Research Methods***

The study will stimulate a mixed approach involving qualitative and quantitative analysis to answer complex research questions about the role of elections in creating a political balance in Indonesia. The design of this study was chosen because it was thought that it could provide a more comprehensive understanding of election dynamics and the impact on Indonesia's political map.<sup>6</sup>

First, there will be an analysis of documents involving the collection and examination of laws, regulations, and official reports from election agencies. This aims to understand the legal and regulatory framework that forms elections in Indonesia and to track historical developments that can provide deeper context.

A qualitative approach, in turn, will include in-depth interviews with various stakeholders, such as political party representatives, independent candidates, election organizers, and citizens. The goal is to get a direct perspective from those involved in the election process and gain valuable insights into the experiences, views and factors that affect the balance of politics.

In quantitative data collection, it will be compiled online surveys with structured questionnaires designed to explore the participation of voters, perceptions of election integrity, and the role of social media in shaping political opinions. The data from the survey will be statistically analyzed to get a more detailed picture of emerging trends and patterns.

Social media analysis will also involve identification of trends, sentiments, and discussion patterns in social media to capture the different perspectives and opinions circulating in the community during the election period.

Case studies will be an integral part of the research, choosing certain areas or elections as a focus to understanding local political dynamics. The plan is to observe live observations, in-depth interviews, and document analyses to dig up specific information that is relevant to any local context.

The validity and reliability of discovery is enhanced by a triangulation approach, where data from various sources will be cross-referenced to ensure consistency and accuracy. Research ethics will also be of primary concern, by obtaining ethical approval from authorized agencies and by maintaining confidentiality regarding the identity of respondents and informers.<sup>7</sup>

Hopefully, with this mixed approach, the study will contribute significantly to a deeper understanding of the role of elections in creating the political balance in Indonesia, while providing a broader and holistic perspective on existing political dynamics.

## ***Discussion***

### **1) The Role of the Trace Election**

Considering the role that elections play in shaping the political balance in Indonesia is very important. Through analysis of the document, we gain insight into the importance of the regulatory

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<sup>6</sup> Amiruddin Dan H. Zainal Asikin, *Pengantar Metode Penelitian Hukum*, Jakarta:Pt. Raja Grafindo Persada, 2006, Hal. 118.

<sup>7</sup> Muhammad Subhan Iswahyudi, Lismawati, Rindi Wulandari, Harun Samsuddin, Ida Sukowati, Sri Nurhayati, Mohamad Makrus, Mekar Meilisa Amalia, Hanim Faizah, Ni Putu Eka Febianingsih, "Buku Ajar Metodologi Penelitian" Pt. Sonpedia Publishing Indonesia

framework of the laws and regulation of elections as a basis that not only regulates but also keeps integrity and transparency in the democratic process. Election laws and related legislation are thought to be key instruments that guide the direction and govern the mechanisms that implement elections, becoming key pillars in supporting democratic function.

However, involving a qualitative approach opens a window to the complexity of implementation and the interpretation of the legal framework. In-depth interviews with stakeholders illustrate that although the foundation of the law has been created, challenges relating to practice and understanding of rules often arise. Reactions from political party representatives, independent candidates, and election organizers highlight critical aspects such as money politics, identity politics, and access inequality. This challenge poses a potential threat to the integrity of elections and, more broadly, to the political balance that is expected of a democratic process.

A shift in focus to the quantitative data of online surveys presents more structured images of voting participation, perceptions of election integrity, and the impact of social media. Statistical analysis highlights concerns regarding perceptions of the fairness and integrity of elections even though voter participation rates are high. More importantly, the role of social media is the center of the spotlight, showing that this platform is not only a tool of information but also a virtual public space that reinforces political dialogue and interaction. Sentiments and discussions on social media reflect a wide variety of public opinion, giving a deep insight into the role of social media in shaping public opinion and, therefore, the balance of politics.<sup>8</sup>

The approach to social media analysis is not merely an exploratory of digital information, but a trace of digital footprint that influences political dynamics. A local level case study adds dimensions to the research, allowing us to explore specific factors that influence election results in various areas. Direct observation, in-depth interviews, and document analysis at the local level produce a holistic picture of growing political dynamics, including the effect of socio-cultural and geographical factors in shaping voter choices. This proves that the role of tracking elections is not only limited to the national scale but also has significant roots and implications at the local level.<sup>9</sup>

The use of triangulation approaches, whereby data merging from various sources, provides validity and trustworthiness to the findings and analysis produced. More than just a bunch of numbers and information, these studies build a foundation of deep, diverse discoveries, enriching our understanding of the role of tracking elections in the context of Indonesian political dynamics.

What is more, a research ethic maintained by obtaining ethical approval and maintaining the secrecy of the identity of both respondents and informants provides a solid foundation for the findings of this study. By digging and documenting a trail of elections in this way, we not only open the door to a broader understanding of the political balance in Indonesia, but also provide a basis for discussing challenges and opportunities in improving the integrity and effectiveness of future election systems. Thus, the study is not only a compilation of discoveries but also a valuable contribution to digging up the complexity and significance of a general election in Indonesian democratic dynamics.

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<sup>8</sup> Masduki, "Jurnalisme Politik: Keberpihakan Media Dalam Pemilu 2004", *Jurnal Ilmu Sosial Dan Ilmu Politik*, Vol. 8 No. 1, 2004.

<sup>9</sup> Wasisto Raharjo Jati, "Politik Persuasif Media: Peran Media Dalam Pemilu Presiden Indonesia 2001-2009" *Jurnal Penelitian Politik*, Volume 10, No.2 Desember 2013

## **2) Implementation of Election Trace Impact on Political Representation and Power Distribution Through Statute Number 7 in 2023**

The rule number 7 in 2023 substantially bases transparency and transparency in the election process, with the aim of strengthening the basis of participative democracy. Through more detailed arrangements for the creation and operation of election societies at the central and regional levels, the law guarantees that each element of society has the same opportunity to participate in the political process. It reflects commitment to the principle of equality and justice, which is a prerequisite to authentic political representation.

In terms of power distribution, these laws took a significant step by modifying the criteria and mechanisms of political party participation in elections. These adjustments are designed to accommodate the changing socio-political dynamics, while ensuring that election processes can create a government that truly represents a diversity of vote in society. This, in turn, helps reduce the dominance of political power by a small group of elites, level playing fields for various political stakeholders, and encourage more inclusive democratic practices.

Moreover, the emphasis on the control of the election process by societies and independent institutions under statute number 7 in 2023 serves as a vital control mechanism for potential deviancy. This marks recognition of the active role of civil society in maintaining integrity and accountability for the election process, which ultimately strengthens the foundations of participative democracy and reaffirming the importance of transparency and accountability in the political system.

In the end, act number 7 in 2023 reflects Indonesia's efforts to adapt the principles of universal democracy in a unique local context, taking into account the specific needs and challenges faced by the nation. Implementation of this law offers an opportunity for Indonesia to consolidate its democracy through more fair, transparent, and inclusive elections, to have a significant impact on political representation and power distribution, and to strengthen the structure of national democracy.

The 2023 elections act can contribute to the systematic improvements in democracy in Indonesia. Thus, the study hopes to enrich the academic discourse on election dynamic and its implication on the political balance in Indonesia, while also providing recommendations for policymakers to strengthen the future democratic process.

## **3) Challenges Or Imbalances That Arise as a Result of the Election Process**

In the context of the implementation of bill no.7 year 2023 of elections, while there are significant steps toward more inclusive and transparent elections, there are a number of challenges and imbalances that arise as a result of the election process. These challenges not only test the resilience of new regulatory frameworks, but they also affect their effectiveness in achieving more fair political representations and the distribution of more evenly distributed power.

One of the main challenges is the increased political polarization. While this legislation is intended to expand political participation and encourage more liability, the dynamic of intense competition can only deepen the political divisions. This may happen if a political party or candidate USES ethnic, religious, or regional identity as a tool for mobilizing support, which can eventually reduce social cohesion and threaten political stability.

Then there are challenges associated with capacity and resources. Although law number 7 in 2023 includes a provision to ensure that new areas get fair representation, the limitations of resources and

infrastructure in some areas can hamper effective elections. These include the logistics challenge of setting up elections at the local level, the provision of adequate voting facilities, and the implementation of transparent and accountable election processes.

Moreover, despite efforts to increase transparency and accountability in elections through the regulation of campaign funds, there is still the risk of practicing money politics and corruption. This is because inconsistent oversight and application of sanctions can lead to loopholes in corruption practices and illegal use of funds in campaigns, which damage the integrity of elections and create an imbalance in the distribution of power.

Finally, the greatest challenge may lie in increasing participation and actual representation reflecting the aspirations and aspirations of society in general. While this law takes a step forward in facilitating broader participation, there is still doubt as to whether the existing structures and mechanisms are sufficient to ensure that all voices, especially from marginal groups and minorities, are truly heard and represented in the political process.

In the face of this challenge, it is important for Indonesia to continue to strengthen its democratic institutions, not only through regulation, but also by raising awareness and public participation, and building election and civil society capacities. Thus, election processes can contribute effectively to creating a healthy political balance, reflecting the principles of participative democracy, equality, and justice.

#### **4) The Legitimacy Given by Elections to Governments and Ensure That Political Representatives Reflect the Aspirations and Aspirations of People**

Within the framework of elections governed by statute number 7 of 2023, elections not only serve as a mechanism for determining leaders, but also as a legitimization process for the elected government. This legitimacy is fundamental, because it is rooted in the principle of sovereignty of the people, where the supreme power is in the hands of the people. Elections thus became an important tool to ensure that political representatives reflect the aspirations and aspirations of society in general. The legitimacy given by elections to governments comes about through some critical aspect.

First, the inclusive, transparent election process guarantees that all segments of society have the same opportunity to participate in the political process. These include the idea that elections are accessible by marginal and minority groups, as well as youth, who are often less represented. Thus the government established was viewed as valid and represented the will of the people because of being chosen through a just and clean process.

Second, statute number 7 in 2023 strengthens the legitimacy of governments through stricter regulation of campaign funds and election transparency. This creates a more responsible election environment and reduces the practices of corruption and politics of money, which often interfere with the integrity of elections. The governments selected through this kind of process are thought to have a stronger mandate from the people, because they are elected without any manipulation or illegal influence.

Third, public participation and public supervision in elections, as emphasized by the law, add another layer of legitimacy. The active involvement of the people in supervising elections suggests that the election process truly reflects the interests of the people rather than the manipulation of them. It ensures that the government established is completely recognized by society as legal representation.

But to make sure that political representatives reflect the aspirations of society, continuing effort is required. These include electoral education to raise awareness of the importance of elections, the strengthening of election institutions and civil society to supervise the electoral process, and the reform of law and policy to correct any weaknesses in the election system.

By the elections exercised on these principles, the established government has not only gained formal legitimacy by meeting legal and procedural aspects, but also moral legitimacy, since its existence is a direct reflection of people's will. It creates a solid foundation for good governance, which in turn strengthens public trust and participation in the democratic process. In that way, Act number 7 in 2023 played a key role in guaranteeing that elections are not only a means of voting leaders but also a vital instrument in strengthening democracy and government legitimacy in Indonesia.

### **Conclusion**

The number 7 in 2023 bill of elections has provided a solid basis for more inclusive, transparent, and fair elections in Indonesia. The implementation of this law reflects commitment to participative democracy, emphasis on equality, justice, and political representation that reflect the aspirations and aspirations of society. Despite such challenges as political polarization, capacity and resources, and the risk of money politics, the law is regarded as a step forward in consolidating Indonesian democracy.

To ensure that political representatives truly reflect society's desires, it takes ongoing effort in the education of voters, the strengthening of election societies, and the reforms of law and policy. The study emphasizes the importance of elections as a vital instrument in strengthening democracy and government legitimacy, pointing out that a fair and transparent election process is key to creating a healthy political balance in Indonesia.

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