



## The Strategy of the General Election Supervisory Agency (Bawaslu) in Effort Revive a Democratic Party with Integrity

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### ABSTRACT

The main objectives of the election monitoring body's strategy are to ensure that elections or other elections take place in a fair, free and transparent manner, ensure that all candidates have equal opportunities to compete in elections, prevent fraudulent practices such as multiple voting, fake voting, or voter intimidation, ensuring that voting and vote counting are carried out correctly and transparently. The method used in writing this article uses the library research method, the purpose of the Library Research research method is to obtain relevant and up-to-date information on the research topic being carried out. Library Research's research method is often used in social research, such as comparative studies, historical research, and qualitative research. The results of this study indicate that the strategy of the election supervisory body has a very strategic role in upholding the integrity of the democratic party. This is done so that supervision of general elections can be carried out in a more transparent and accountable manner.

**Keyword:** Democracy, Accountability, Integrity

### Introduction

The democratic party which was held simultaneously was a momentum that was eagerly awaited by all Indonesian people, where people wanted new changes both in terms of leadership and regional changes that were getting better (Sacipto, 2019). The democratic party that was held was not only welcomed by the community but also enthusiastically welcomed by the new prospective leaders who are ready to make themselves a forum for the aspirations of the people (Ardan, 2022). By providing work programs that aim to improve the welfare of its citizens, through campaign activities the public can find out the vision and mission that will be realized in the next 5 (five) years for better changes (Primadi & Purwaningsih, 2019). Therefore, the general election as a form of democratic party is a means of legitimizing power. The more developed a country, then it demands better changes in the government system or facilitating public services for the community. Direct general elections are one of the momentums to create a more democratic government. Every country has a democratic system based on the ideology adopted by the country. The Indonesian state adheres to a democratic system because it is deemed in accordance with the values of Pancasila. In addition, democracy is often seen as protecting the freedom of citizens to express their opinions and aspirations (Tantuntuan, 2022). People believe in this political system so that democracy seems synonymous with freedom, respect for human dignity, equality, justice, security, and respect for human rights. Democracy is considered as the organization of shared life that best reflects the general will because this democracy focuses on participation, representation and accountability (Setiawan, 2022).

Democracy is a political method that is used as a mechanism for selecting political leaders where citizens are given the opportunity to choose one of the political leaders who are competing for votes. Meanwhile, Abraham Lincoln emphasized that democracy is a government system of the people, by the people and for the people (Hilmy, 2015). A concrete example that the people have the highest power is in the implementation of general elections, both in the election of the President, Regional Heads and people's representatives who are in the DPR or DPRD. Democracy can be said as a pattern or system to regulate the process of selecting an ideal regional head. Talking about democracy in Indonesia, especially in the political field, the upcoming general election will be held directly. The implementation of the general election directly opens a wide space for participation for citizens, especially in the local area (Aminah, 2006). Through direct general elections, each candidate will be more oriented towards its citizens compared to elections chosen by the elite in the DPRD. The purpose of holding direct general elections is to be directly elected to

be able to know the characteristics of the area they will lead so that the work program as well as the vision and mission are adapted to the region. For the first time direct general elections have been regulated in Law Number 32 of 2004 concerning Regional Government, Regional Heads, directly elected by the people through the election of Regional Heads and Deputy Regional Heads or abbreviated Pilkada (Zaini, 2019) . The stipulation of this regulation provides an opportunity for regional head elections to be carried out democratically. One of the systems of democratic change that the people really feel is the existence of simultaneous local elections. In 2019 regional head elections were also held simultaneously for the first time. Simultaneous general elections still reap pros and cons among the public. The main objective of holding simultaneous regional elections in Indonesia is to increase efficiency and effectiveness ( Tedjo, 2019) . For example, TPS officers who work once in 2 (two) regional head elections at the same time, namely the election for the Regent or Mayor and the Election for the Governor. The simultaneous holding of Regional Head elections is able to save budget for Pilkada implementation. The simultaneous regional election budget is expected to be able to save various activities such as the manufacture and distribution of logistics, payment of honoraria for election organizers and other activities related to the implementation of simultaneous regional elections. The implementation of simultaneous local elections directly is a means of political education for the community. Political education is a process of learning and understanding the rights, obligations and responsibilities of each individual as a citizen ( Nuna & Moonti, 2019).

Simultaneous Pilkada implementation does not only require support from the public, but requires support and cooperation with various agencies so as to create a democratic climate that is safe, peaceful, and obeys rules. Communities and institutional institutions in the regions are able to work together with institutional agencies to mutually support the implementation of regional elections which are carried out directly ( Ationg et al., 2020) . The direct election system is expected to guarantee the strengthening of local people's aspirations and participation. strengthen the political legitimacy of regional leadership, encourage accountability and can prevent Corruption Collusion Nepotism in regional government. Regional head elections are a form of direct participation to get regional executive leaders who truly have strong legitimacy (Nurgiansah, 2021) . The election of regional heads must be used as a momentum to remind civil society again that the election of these leaders will bring consequences whose results will have a long-term impact. The public should know that taking part in regional elections is the right of every individual as a citizen whose freedom is protected and guaranteed by law. The importance of community participation is the key to the successful implementation of Regional Head Elections. For this reason, the public must receive clear and transparent information about the various advantages and disadvantages of each candidate's profile before they reach the final stage of the election ( Gerald, 2019) . So that a healthy general election is characterized by high public participation in exercising their voting rights. High community participation also shows the level of public trust in the general election process. Therefore, the simultaneous general election in 2024 is one of the momentum of democratic party activities which attracts the attention of the public aiming to produce a Democratic Party with Integrity with a concept that refers to free, honest, fair and open general elections (Muhtadi, 2019) . This concept aims to ensure that every voter has the same right to vote and that the election results are an accurate reflection of the will of the people. A Democratic Party with Integrity is very important in maintaining the democratic integrity of a country. This is because free and honest elections avoid vote manipulation or unhealthy political influence, and give people confidence that the elected government is the legitimate representative of the will of the people. As an effort to achieve a Democratic Party with Integrity, it includes strict supervision of elections, implementing clear and firm laws to prevent election fraud, and providing sufficient information about the candidates and political parties to be drawn. All of these elements are important to ensure that the elections held are free, honest, fair and open.

## **Research Methodology**

The research method Library Research or library research is a research method that is carried out by collecting data from various written sources such as books, journals, articles, and electronic documents found in libraries or other sources of information. The purpose of the Library Research research method is to obtain relevant and up-to-date information on the research topic being carried out. The Library Research research method is often used in social studies, such as comparative studies, historical research, and qualitative research. This method is also used as a source of reference and support in quantitative research, such as surveys or experiments. In carrying out the Library Research research method, researchers must be able to select sources that are relevant to the research topic, determine inclusion and exclusion criteria, read and examine these sources, and analyze and conclude information obtained from these sources (Searing, 2019).

## **Results and Discussion**

### **Election Supervisory Board Strategy**

Bawaslu is an abbreviation for the Election Supervisory Body, an independent body tasked with supervising general elections in Indonesia. Bawaslu was formed based on Law Number 7 of 2017 concerning General Elections,

and functions to ensure that general elections in Indonesia are held in an honest, fair and democratic manner. Bawaslu has the duty and authority to supervise all stages of the election, starting from the preparation stage, campaigning, to voting and counting the votes. Bawaslu also has the authority to deal with election violations and impose sanctions in accordance with applicable law. In addition, Bawaslu also works with other related institutions such as the General Election Commission (KPU) and the Election Organizer Ethics Council (DKPP) to improve the quality and integrity of holding general elections in Indonesia (Karim, 2021). One of the main roles of Bawaslu is to oversee all stages of the general election, starting from the stages of preparation, campaigning, to voting and counting. Bawaslu supervises all activities carried out by election administrators, election participants and the general public to ensure that all activities are carried out honestly, fairly and transparently. Bawaslu also oversees and monitors the implementation of general election activities directly through observers and witnesses stationed at each TPS (Polling Place). Bawaslu has the authority to take action against election violations, including actions committed by election administrators, election participants, or the general public. If violations are found, Bawaslu will investigate and impose sanctions in accordance with applicable law. Sanctions that can be given by Bawaslu include canceling election results, imposing administrative sanctions, and reporting violations to the police to be followed up criminally (Asmawi, 2021).

Bawaslu can provide recommendations and advice to related institutions such as the KPU (General Election Commission), DKPP (Election Organizer Honorary Council), and the police regarding matters relating to the holding of general elections. These recommendations and suggestions can be in the form of recommendations to improve the quality of holding general elections, suggestions regarding procedures for holding elections that are more effective and efficient, as well as suggestions related to improving regulations related to general elections. Bawaslu serves public complaints regarding the implementation of general elections, and will follow up on these complaints according to the applicable procedures. This is done to provide assurance that the implementation of general elections is carried out in an honest, fair and democratic manner (Sarkol, 2020). Then in carrying out its duties, Bawaslu must operate independently and not be bound by certain political interests. Therefore, Bawaslu members are selected through strict selection and must meet certain qualifications, such as having high integrity, having expertise in law, and having no political affiliation. In the concept of the General Election Supervisory Body, Bawaslu acts as a guardian of honesty, justice and democracy in the implementation of general elections (Wati, 2020). This concept is expected to provide assurance to the public that the implementation of general elections is carried out fairly and avoids fraud, so as to guarantee public trust in the democratic process in Indonesia. Then the election supervisory agency's strategy will work clearly, of course, it must pay attention to various compliance and propriety among them (Diniyanto & Sutrisno, 2022).

Several indicators of Bawaslu's success in the democratic party include: (1) Fulfillment of the requirements for general election contestants. Bawaslu must be able to ensure that candidates for general election contestants meet the specified requirements, such as nationality, age, and others. (2) General elections run smoothly and safely. Bawaslu must be able to oversee the implementation of general elections, including monitoring the use of voting rights by the public and handling violations that occur during general elections. (3) There is no fraud in the general election. Bawaslu must be able to prevent and act on fraud that occurs during general elections, such as money politics, identity politics, and others. (4) Public confidence in the general election results. Bawaslu must be able to ensure that the announced general election results are legitimate and can be trusted by the public. Of the four al, if Bawaslu can carry out its duties properly and succeed in fulfilling the success indicators above, then it can be said that Bawaslu has succeeded in the democratic party (Lailam & Darumurti, 2021). Likewise, the general election monitoring body (Bawaslu) often has challenges, this can be seen from the results of research on the effectiveness of Bawaslu in supervising general elections. Research conducted by Saufi et al., 2021 shows that Bawaslu still faces many obstacles in carrying out its duties. This is related to limited resources, lack of support from related parties, and problems in law enforcement against violations that have occurred. Furthermore, the Role of Bawaslu in Minimizing General Election Fraud Research conducted by (Aermadepa, 2019) shows that the existence of Bawaslu can help minimize fraud in general elections. However, this success depends on the ability of Bawaslu to carry out its duties properly and obtain adequate support from related parties. Furthermore, Public Perceptions of Bawaslu Several studies conducted by (Supratikno & Santoso, 2022) also explored public perceptions of Bawaslu. The results of research conducted by (Saihu, 2019) show that there are still many people who do not understand the role of Bawaslu in maintaining the continuity of democracy in Indonesia. Therefore, efforts are needed to increase public understanding of the importance of the role of Bawaslu in general elections. Furthermore, the Implementation of Technology in Supervision of General Elections, this research also explores the use of technology in supervising general elections by Bawaslu. This is related to efforts to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of Bawaslu in carrying out their duties. One example of technology implementation is the use of an information system to facilitate the reporting of violations that occur during general elections. Overall, the results of research on Bawaslu show that there are still many challenges faced by this institution in carrying out its duties. However, efforts continue to be made to increase the effectiveness of Bawaslu and minimize electoral fraud.

## Strategy to Live Democracy Party

Democratic parties can be interpreted as celebrations or important moments in the democratic process where people have the opportunity to choose their leaders. In a democracy, people have equal voting rights in determining who will represent them in government and make important decisions that will affect their lives. Democratic parties usually take place in the form of general elections, be it elections for the president, governors, regents, mayors, members of parliament, or other positions in government (Rahayu, 2020). This election allows the people to determine the direction of government and choose the leader they think is most capable of representing their interests. However, the democratic feast is not only limited to election day itself. Usually there is a previous campaign period, where the candidates carry out promotions and campaign to the people about their vision, mission and plans if elected (Ghozali, 2020). This is an important moment in the democratic party because it provides an opportunity for candidates to inform the people about what they have to offer and how they will fight for the interests of the people. After the election, the democratic party also continues in the process of counting votes and announcing the results of the election. This is an important moment for the people to ensure that their elections are fair and the results are accurate. If there is fraud or irregularities, the people have the right to file a lawsuit and fight for their voting rights (Dedi, 2021). However, democratic parties are not only about determining who is elected, but also about strengthening democratic values themselves. Democratic parties provide an opportunity for people to celebrate their voting rights and appreciate the importance of political participation (Pamungkas & Arifin, 2019). It also provides an opportunity to fight for democratic values, such as freedom of speech, equal rights and justice. The democratic party can also be interpreted as a moment to unite people around the same values. Even though in general elections there are differences in political views and preferences, all people have the same goal, which is to choose the best leader to represent them (Hawing & Hartaman, 2019). The results of Kodiyat & Lasia's research, (2022) show that voter turnout tends to be higher in presidential elections than in other general elections. Research conducted by Irayanti et al., (2022) shows that political campaigns, especially through political advertisements and candidate debates, can influence voter preferences. However, the influence of mass media on voters and election results is still a controversial and debated topic. In addition, the results of Harimurti's research, (2022) show that democratic parties can strengthen public trust in the democratic system, while others show dissatisfaction and criticism of the general election process. Research conducted (Fatiha & Santosa, 2022) also shows that a higher level of participation and active participation in the political process can strengthen the sustainability and stability of democracy. Therefore, a democratic party can be a moment of unity and oneness among the people.

According to Tjenreng, (2020) stated the objectives of a democratic party, the objectives of a democratic party are as follows:

1. Increasing political participation: Democratic parties provide an opportunity for people to be involved in the political process. This helps increase political participation and gives citizens the opportunity to influence the direction of government.
2. Choose the best leader: The democratic party allows the people to choose the leader they think is most capable of representing their interests. By electing the right leader, the people can ensure that their interests are properly represented in the government.
3. Strengthening democratic values: Democratic parties are important moments in strengthening democratic values such as freedom of expression, equal rights and justice. Democratic parties also help ensure that elections are conducted in a fair and transparent manner.
4. Maintaining political stability: By electing the best leaders, democratic parties help maintain political stability and strengthen people's trust in the government. This is important to ensure that the country runs smoothly and avoids political conflicts that harm the people.
5. Maintaining peace and security: Democratic parties also help maintain peace and security in the country by providing opportunities for the people to determine the direction of government peacefully and through legal mechanisms.

In conclusion, democratic parties have very important meanings and goals in the democratic process. The democratic party is a moment to celebrate people's voting rights, strengthen democratic values, and determine the direction of government in a fair and transparent manner. Democratic parties also help maintain political stability and peace in the country and give people the opportunity to participate actively in the political process.

The results of research conducted by Polacko, (2022) also revealed that the success of general elections as a form of democratic parties can be seen as follows:

1. Innovative and participatory political campaigns can increase voter participation: Research shows that innovative and participatory political campaigns can increase voter participation in democratic parties. Campaigns that are more open and interactive with the use of social media and digital technology can help voters feel more involved in the electoral process.

2. The involvement of civil society and non-profit organizations can increase voter participation: Research also shows that the involvement of civil society and non-profit organizations can increase voter participation in democratic parties. Organizations working in the fields of political education and election supervision can help increase voter awareness and participation in elections.
3. Providing accessible and accurate information can increase voter turnout: Research shows that providing easily accessible and accurate information about candidates and issues raised in elections can help increase voter turnout. This can be done through social media, the election's official website, and other sources of information.
4. The use of technology and innovation can simplify the electoral process: Research shows that the use of technology and innovation in elections such as electronic voting systems and online voting can simplify the electoral process and increase voter turnout. However, this must also be balanced with measures to ensure the security and reliability of the system.
5. Better political education can increase voter turnout: Research shows that better political education can increase voter turnout in democratic parties. This can be done through educational curricula that include lessons on political and electoral systems, as well as by providing information resources and training to the general public.
6. Effects of Political Campaigns: Political campaigns, particularly through political advertising and candidate debates, can influence voter preferences. However, the effect may vary between countries and elections. For example, in the 2020 US presidential election, intense campaigning and high polarization were considered as contributing factors to the increase in voter turnout.
7. Mass Media Influence: The influence of mass media on voters and election results is still a controversial and debated topic. Some studies show that the mass media can influence voter perceptions about candidates and political issues, while others show that the mass media does not have a significant influence.
8. Election Results: Election results may vary between democratic countries. For example, in the 2020 US presidential election, Joe Biden won the majority and the Electoral College, while in the 2018 Brazilian presidential election, Jair Bolsonaro won the majority. However, in many democratic countries, election results are respected and winners are widely recognized.
9. Impact on the Democratic System: Democratic parties can strengthen public confidence in the democratic system, while others express dissatisfaction and criticism of the electoral process. Active participation in the political process can strengthen the sustainability and stability of democracy.

The results of research conducted by Repucci, (2020) also reveal the failure of democratic parties in the midst of general elections:

1. Political violence: Political violence is the most obvious and destructive form of failure of the democratic party. Political violence can occur when political groups or parties use violence or intimidation to win elections or achieve their political goals. Political violence can undermine the democratic process and threaten national security.
2. Abuse of power: Abuse of power by those in power can threaten the integrity and trust of the people in the democratic party. Examples are the emphasis on individual rights, electoral corruption, or the use of military force to impose certain political will.
3. Electoral manipulation: Electoral manipulation can take many forms, such as deflating the voter rolls, multiple voting, or the influence of the more powerful party. Electoral manipulation can produce unfair results and threaten the integrity of the democratic party.
4. Limited voting rights: Limited voting rights, such as the presence of voters who are not registered or restricted by unfair election rules, can undermine the process of democratic parties. Limited voting rights can hinder people's participation and threaten their confidence in the electoral process.
5. Inequality in the counting of votes: Inequality in the counting of votes can occur when the people's votes are not counted correctly or when the election results are influenced by inequitable factors. This can undermine people's trust in the democratic process and threaten the country's political stability.

In conclusion, the failure of a democratic party can threaten political stability, national security, and the integrity of the democratic process. The failure of democratic parties can occur in various forms, such as political violence, abuse of power, election manipulation, limited voting rights, and injustice in vote counting. Therefore, it is important to strengthen the democratic system and protect the integrity of the democratic party to ensure that people's rights are respected and democratic values are maintained.

### **The Meaning of Elections with Integrity**

Elections with integrity can be defined as a general election process that is carried out in an honest, fair, transparent and accountable manner, and is free from corrupt practices, money politics, intimidation and other frauds. Elections with integrity must fulfill the principles of democracy, namely free and fair public participation, equality of voice, freedom of assembly and expression, and protection of basic individual rights ( Ristyawati, 2020) . In Elections with Integrity, all parties must respect and obey the applicable rules, be they political parties, candidates, election

supervisors, or the public. All parties must have equal opportunity in the election contest and not be given special treatment or privileges that could harm other participants. In addition, the election process must be transparent and accountable, so that any violations can be exposed and prosecuted ( Ilham, 2023) . Elections with integrity must also involve active participation from the public in every stage, from nomination to voting. The public must be given easy access to obtain information relating to the election process, and are encouraged to supervise the election process. In Elections with Integrity, the results obtained must be recognized and respected by all parties ( Ningsih et al., 2023) . Winners must celebrate their victory with sportsmanship, and participants who lose must accept the results of the election gracefully. Thus, Elections with Integrity are important for a country based on democracy, because it ensures that people's voices can be represented fairly and accountably ( Tawakkal et al ., 2021).

KPU RI (General Election Commission of the Republic of Indonesia) According to KPU RI, Elections with Integrity are general elections that are held in an honest, fair, open, transparent, accountable manner, and based on the principles of justice and equality. Larry Diamond, a democracy expert from Stanford University According to Diamond, Elections with Integrity are elections that are held with full integrity, namely free from fraud and lawlessness, and reflect the will of the people in a democratic manner. The Carter Center, a non-profit organization from the United States that focuses on democracy and human rights. According to the Carter Center, Elections with Integrity are general elections that take place in a transparent, accountable manner, and can be freely and fairly supervised by the public. In addition, the election must also comply with the principles of democracy and human rights. Transparency International, a non-profit organization that focuses on eradicating corruption According to Transparency International, Elections with Integrity are general elections that are free from corruption, money politics, and other fraudulent practices. The election must also ensure that there is transparency and accountability in the process, and that it can be freely and fairly supervised by the public. In general, the definition of Elections with Integrity according to experts refers to general elections that are held in an honest, fair, transparent, accountable manner, and are free from fraudulent practices and violations of the law. The election must also comply with the principles of democracy and human rights, and can be freely and fairly supervised by the public ( Cheng & Wang, 2021).

Based on the description above, the meaning of General Elections with Integrity is the importance of maintaining integrity or honesty in every stage and process of the general election. This is important because honest and fair general elections will guarantee public confidence in government and democracy. In addition, general elections with integrity can also minimize opportunities for fraud and manipulation in the election process. To realize elections with integrity, active participation is required from all parties involved in the election process, such as election organizers, election participants, and the public. In addition, it is necessary to apply the principles of transparency, accountability and public participation in all stages of the general election. In the Indonesian context, elections with integrity are becoming increasingly important given the several cases of fraud and manipulation in previous elections. Therefore, there needs to be a joint effort from all parties to realize honest, fair and integrity general elections so that democracy in Indonesia can develop properly and the people can feel confident and satisfied with the results of the elections that were elected.

## **Conclusion**

The strategy of the Election Supervisory Body (Bawaslu) in an effort to revive democratic parties with integrity. In general, Bawaslu has an important role in maintaining the integrity and public trust in the democratic process in Indonesia. Several strategies that can be carried out by Bawaslu include increasing supervision of the general election process, increasing socialization and education to the public about the importance of choosing honestly and fairly, and taking firm action against violations or fraud in the general election process. However, the success of this strategy also depends on the support and cooperation of various parties, including the government, political parties, the media, and society as a whole. In a democratic party, people have the right to elect their leaders, make important decisions, and express their opinions on issues that are important to society. However, democratic parties can also be a source of conflict and inequality, especially if the electoral process is not carried out fairly and transparently. Low political participation, vote manipulation and electoral fraud can reduce the credibility of democratic parties and threaten political stability. Therefore, it is important for the state and society to ensure that democratic parties are run fairly and transparently, by guaranteeing equal access for all voters, maintaining the integrity and security of the electoral process, and guaranteeing the right to express opinions freely and openly without fear of action. repressive. Thus, democratic parties can function as an important tool to strengthen people's power in a democratic system.

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