

Simultaneous elections for budget efficiency: Advancing fair and inclusive democracy

Yenita

Faculty of Economics and Business, Universitas Tarumanagara, Jakarta, Indonesia

Correspondence author email: yenita@fe.untar.ac.id

DOI: 10.22437/ppd.v12i5.36598	Received: 08.08.2024	Revised: 29.11.2024	Accepted: 16.12.2024	Published: 31.12.2024
----------------------------------	-------------------------	------------------------	-------------------------	--------------------------

Abstract

General elections in Indonesia, a cornerstone of the country's democracy, face significant challenges in the post-COVID-19 era. This research examines the efficiency, implementation, and impact of Law Number 7 of 2017 and Law Number 10 of 2016 in the context of the 2024 simultaneous elections. The study emphasizes financing efficiency, evaluates implementation outcomes, and compares simultaneous and non-simultaneous elections. The research incorporates legal principles grounded in responsive law theory and progressive law theory and employs a descriptive-analytical and qualitative approach. Findings reveal the successful implementation of Law Number 7 of 2017 during the 2019 simultaneous elections, achieving notable efficiency in cost and time savings. However, challenges such as logistical complexities and inaccuracies in voter data management require further attention. The synergy between Law Number 10 of 2016 and Law Number 7 of 2017 provides a robust legal framework, fostering more effective and participatory general elections. The study underscores the importance of the interconnection between election laws and the administration of simultaneous elections in strengthening Indonesia's democratic processes. Addressing existing challenges and ensuring consistency in regulatory frameworks will be crucial for enhancing the integrity and efficiency of future general elections.

Keywords: *Budget efficiency, Fairness democracy, Simultaneous elections*

JEL Classification: H23, D12, O33

INTRODUCTION

General elections serve as a fundamental mechanism for realizing democracy and justice in Indonesia (Mudasir & Ghazali, 2020). By facilitating the open, transparent, and fair selection of representatives and national leaders, elections uphold political rights, promote political participation, and strengthen governmental legitimacy. Elections and simultaneous selections represent critical moments in a democratic state, providing citizens the opportunity to determine representation and set the nation's political trajectory.

However, the post-COVID-19 era has introduced significant challenges due to profound shifts in social norms, health priorities, and global political dynamics (Anggraeni et al., 2022). The pandemic necessitated innovative strategies for candidates

and campaigns to connect with voters, moving away from traditional reliance on physical rallies and in-person engagements. Instead, digital-first approaches, including virtual rallies, webinars, and online advertising, became essential tools for communicating campaign messages and engaging directly with the electorate.

Campaigns prioritized public health and safety by implementing strict health protocols for physical events and integrating health-related concerns into their agendas. Social media platforms emerged as critical channels for voter engagement, information dissemination, and the promotion of creative content. Nonetheless, these advancements highlighted new challenges, such as unequal access to technology and the widespread proliferation of misinformation. Campaigns adopted hybrid strategies, combining digital and physical approaches to ensure safe and effective voter outreach, as a way to address these issues.

In 2024, Indonesia will hold simultaneous elections to select members of the People's Consultative Assembly (*Dewan Perwakilan Rakyat*, DPR) and Regional Representative Council (*Dewan Perwakilan Daerah*, DPD), as well as the President and Vice President. The DPR (legislative body) and DPD (regional representative body) are key components of Indonesia's political system. This consolidated electoral process significantly impacts democracy by fostering political participation and enhancing governmental legitimacy (Solihah, 2018). However, it also presents challenges, including high financial costs, increased administrative workloads, and risks of electoral fraud (Nurhasim, 2020). Simultaneous elections aim to improve budgetary and time efficiency while mitigating the potential for social conflict arising from political tensions.

The intensification of political polarization threatens the realization of democratic and fair elections. The COVID-19 pandemic has undermined public trust in the government due to perceptions of ineffective pandemic management, corruption, and policies viewed as contrary to public interests (Aziz & Wicaksono, 2020). This erosion of trust may adversely affect the fairness and integrity of elections, particularly in light of the pandemic's profound impact on the political landscape, including the organization of general elections and simultaneous selections (Supriyadi, 2020).

Simultaneous general elections in Indonesia are governed by a comprehensive legal framework, including Law Number 7 of 2017 concerning General Elections and Simultaneous Regional Head Elections and Law Number 10 of 2016, which amended Government Regulation in Lieu of Law Number 1 of 2014 (Karoba & Aedah, 2022). These legal provisions establish a clear foundation for the organization of simultaneous elections, ensuring their alignment with democratic principles and regulatory requirements.

The 2024 simultaneous elections present considerable challenges, particularly for the General Election Commission (*Komisi Pemilihan Umum*, KPU). These include addressing technical, logistical, and security complexities associated with the simultaneous election of the president and legislative members (Saefulloh et al., 2020). Key priorities include securing polling facilities, training election officials, leveraging technology for remote voting, and enforcing stringent health protocols. These measures are essential to uphold the integrity and democratic nature of the elections, ensuring they are conducted smoothly and transparently.

Managing the voter population in the 2024 elections necessitates scheduling measures to prevent mass gatherings. This is particularly important in a post-pandemic context where public health remains a concern. Online campaigns must offer greater flexibility compared to offline campaigns, allowing candidates to adapt their strategies

to the evolving electoral landscape. Additionally, it is imperative to establish relevant legal frameworks, enforce election laws democratically, and introduce regulations that anticipate and mitigate potential disruptions, such as natural disasters or other crises, which could impact simultaneous elections (Idhar et al., 2023).

The role of law in simultaneous elections extends beyond maintaining stability and order. As Mochtar Kusumaatmadja highlights, the law also functions as an instrument of societal change, accommodating the dynamic transformations of a developing society. Simultaneous elections have the potential to significantly enhance the efficiency of election administration, achieving budget and time savings while contributing to a more effective and responsive electoral system. These efforts align with broader objectives to meet the evolving needs of the community and ensure the continued progression of Indonesia's democratic processes.

The impact of simultaneous elections encompasses aspects of efficiency, governance systems, and varying perspectives regarding their strengths and alignment with the original objectives of the simultaneous general elections. Legal challenges, highlighted by the Election Supervisory Agency (*Badan Pengawas Pemilu*, Bawaslu), emphasize the importance of comprehending the regulatory frameworks governing the two election regimes to uphold integrity and transparency in the democratic process. The 2024 simultaneous elections mark a pivotal moment in shaping Indonesia's development trajectory, reflecting the maturity of its democracy and enhancing societal participation (Solihah, 2018). Law Number 7 of 2017 provides a comprehensive legal foundation, upholding democratic principles and establishing a robust framework to ensure integrity and transparency in electoral processes in Indonesia (Karoba & Aedah, 2022).

Several factors influence the financial efficiency of conducting simultaneous general elections in Indonesia, including legal regulations, financial management practices, and organizational capacity. Law Number 7 of 2017 articulates the objectives of elections, emphasizing effectiveness, efficiency, legal certainty, justice, and integrity (Fahmi et al., 2020). Effective financial management—encompassing budget planning and expenditure control—along with enhanced organizational capacity are critical components for ensuring integrity and fostering public trust in the election process.

Election organizing bodies and associated institutions must address these factors to achieve high financial efficiency in general elections. Simultaneous elections are expected to reduce state expenditures, enabling the allocation of saved funds to public welfare while also minimizing time wastage and societal horizontal conflicts (Subiyanto, 2020).

The importance of conducting the 2024 simultaneous regional elections lies in optimizing budget utilization by both regional governments and the central government. Law No. 10 of 2016 obligates regional governments to provide financial support and necessary facilities for general elections (Ersan et al., 2018). Accelerating budget allocations from regional governments is a strategic step to facilitate the smooth execution of simultaneous regional elections, as outlined in Law Number 7 of 2017.

Since 2019, the implementation of simultaneous regional elections has not only strengthened democratization mechanisms but also demonstrated the government's commitment to financial efficiency (Supriyadi, 2020). This approach aims to optimize the use of financial resources at both regional and central levels. At the regional government level, simultaneous elections lead to cost efficiencies, including reduced procurement frequency for goods and services and lower transportation and

accommodation expenses for relevant institutions. These efficiencies support the integrity and professionalism of regional election organizers (Hermana & Jaya, 2021)

At the central government level, simultaneous regional elections reduce supervision and socialization costs, supported by a clear legal framework under Article 166, paragraph (1) of Law No. 10 of 2016. According to this provision, funding is sourced from the Regional Revenue and Expenditure Budget (Anggaran Pendapatan dan Belanja Daerah, APBD). It may also receive support from the State Revenue and Expenditure Budget (Anggaran Pendapatan dan Belanja Negara, APBN) in accordance with prevailing regulations. This framework establishes a transparent and measurable financial system for managing election costs. The budget for simultaneous regional elections, primarily charged to the APBD, can be further strengthened by financial support from the central government, including financial assistance or the Special Allocation Fund (Aisyah, 2020).

Collaboration between regional and central governments is increasingly critical to addressing challenges during the implementation of simultaneous regional elections. This approach not only simplifies the electoral process but also serves as a step towards fostering a more efficient and inclusive democracy in Indonesia. The upcoming 2024 general elections and simultaneous selections represent a pivotal moment in Indonesia's democratic evolution, particularly in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic. Insights from this research are intended to guide policymakers, political experts, and civil society in developing evidence-based solutions to ensure a fair and sustainable democracy in the post-pandemic context.

Based on the introduction, the research questions formulated are as follows: (a) How does Law No. 7 of 2017 influence the efficiency of simultaneous election implementation? (b) What specific measures has the government undertaken to implement elections—whether simultaneous or non-simultaneous—in accordance with the provisions of Law No. 10 of 2016 and Law No. 7 of 2017?

This study employs the responsive and progressive law theories as its analytical framework. The responsive law theory emphasizes the dual role of law as a mechanism for regulation and social control while addressing the needs and aspirations of the community (Nonet & Selznick, 2019). The law must respond effectively to societal changes and emerging challenges, prioritizing justice and community welfare. In this context, Law No. 7 of 2017 underscores efficiency and effectiveness in budget management, supporting development objectives through the conduct of simultaneous general elections. These elections yield financial advantages and enable the reallocation of resources to various development sectors.

The progressive law theory, which complements this perspective, advocates for a dynamic and adaptive legal system capable of responding to societal transformations (Rifai, 2020). Simultaneous elections not only enhance operational efficiency but also promote justice within the political system. They ensure equal rights for all Indonesian citizens to participate in the concurrent selection of regional and legislative leaders while reducing the financial and temporal burden on the electorate.

The economic analysis of law offers a perspective that evaluates legal systems through economic principles and concepts (Sugianto, 2017). This approach conceptualizes law as an incentive structure that shapes individual and organizational behavior, analyzing its effects on efficiency, justice, and societal welfare. In the context of simultaneous elections, this analysis highlights reductions in logistical, socialization, and oversight costs, as all preparatory activities occur within a single electoral cycle. Consequently, election implementation becomes more resource-efficient, streamlining

logistical processes, enhancing socialization efforts, and enabling comprehensive oversight conducted in a single, unified sequence.

METHODS

This research adopts an analytical and qualitative descriptive approach to explore general elections, extract legal principles, and focus on the dynamics of simultaneous elections. A qualitative normative juridical method is employed to analyze the rights and obligations of voters based on relevant legislation, particularly the election law, regional election law, and the constitutional court's decision on the election system. This method views the interaction between theory, concepts, and information as dynamic, forming the foundation of the analysis.

The data collection process involves compiling and analyzing primary and secondary legal materials. Primary legal materials include statutory regulations and court decisions, while secondary legal materials encompass academic literature and other related documents.

The study incorporates responsive law theory and progressive law theory to address issues surrounding simultaneous elections, emphasizing the adaptation of electoral processes to social dynamics and community needs. A significant focus is placed on the impact of the pandemic on voter behavior, including the shift toward digital engagement and participation. The study also examines the transformation of political campaigns through online platforms, aiming to understand how these adaptations affect electoral processes. Ultimately, this research seeks to evaluate the effectiveness of new campaign strategies in fostering voter engagement in the post-pandemic era.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Efficiency of simultaneous election financing

The implementation of Law Number 7 of 2017 on Simultaneous General Elections was first conducted in 2019 and is scheduled to be implemented again in 2024. This legislation aims to optimize and enhance the efficiency of election processes, representing a significant shift in Indonesia's democratic framework.

Simultaneous elections offer several advantages, particularly in terms of efficiency and effectiveness. By consolidating multiple elections into a single event, significant savings can be achieved in the state budget. The costs associated with organizing separate elections for different levels of government are substantially reduced. Furthermore, simultaneous elections expedite the establishment of new governments, thereby minimizing the transition period, which often leads to political uncertainty.

From a voter perspective, simultaneous elections encourage greater participation, as citizens only need to visit polling stations (*Tempat Pemungutan Suara*, TPS) once to vote for all their preferred candidates. This streamlined process not only enhances convenience but also fosters enthusiasm among voters. Consequently, simultaneous elections contribute to increased legitimacy of electoral outcomes, as they more comprehensively and accurately reflect the will of the people (Marsallindo & Safitri, 2021; Sellers & Scharff, 2020).

When compared to the implementation of simultaneous elections in other countries such as Nigeria, Brazil, and the Philippines over the past two years, varying degrees of success were observed. In Nigeria, the simultaneous elections faced

significant challenges, including logistical complexities, widespread violence, and electoral fraud. Delays in announcing results in certain areas and the slow vote-counting process exacerbated the issues. Reports of violence, ballot box theft, and voter intimidation undermined public confidence in the integrity of the electoral process (Hassan et al., 2024).

In contrast, Brazil’s simultaneous elections were widely considered successful, characterized by high voter turnout and a smooth voting process. Although concerns were raised about potential fraud and the dissemination of misinformation, Brazil’s electronic voting system demonstrated its safety and reliability. Similarly, simultaneous elections in the Philippines recorded high voter turnout and were generally conducted smoothly. However, concerns persisted about fraud risks, particularly regarding the manipulation of voter lists and the influence of money politics (Thakur, 2015).

The varying outcomes of simultaneous elections in these three countries highlight the influence of several complex factors, including political conditions, electoral systems, and the capacity of election organizers. Evaluating the success of simultaneous elections requires an assessment of multiple indicators, such as voter participation rates, transparency of the election process, security and order during implementation, effectiveness in resolving disputes, speed and accuracy of vote counting, and the level of public trust in the results.

Overall, the implementation of Law Number 7 of 2017 in Indonesia can be regarded as a success. Several significant achievements have been observed, reinforcing the argument for the effectiveness of this initiative. One of the most notable outcomes is the improvement in electoral efficiency. Simultaneous elections have enabled broader electoral coverage while reducing costs and time. This efficiency is achieved through a single round of voter education, one cycle of election organizer training, and one round of procurement for election logistics. These streamlined processes significantly reduce administrative burdens and enhance the overall effectiveness of the elections.

Efficiency in election budget management is a crucial aspect of organizing effective and accountable elections. The 2014 General Election in Indonesia provides an overview of budget allocation and realization across various activity categories, highlighting the challenges in achieving optimal absorption levels. Table 1 presents data on budget allocation, actual expenditure, and the percentage of budget absorption by major categories during the implementation of the 2014 General Election.

Table 1. 2014 Election budget allocation and realization (in million IDR)

Category	Allocated Budget	Actual Expenditure	% Budget Absorption
Financial Accountability	67,366	56,501	83.87
Management of Pre-Election	3,474,839	1,949,277	56.10
Planning and Data Management	804,720	479,568	59.59
Human Resources Development	136,895	84,868	61.99
KPU Operational Activities	104,371	74,251	71.14
Drafting Regulations	245,421	204,482	83.32
Socialization of Election	8,043,822	7,299,404	90.75
Total	12,877,434	10,148,353	78.81

Source: General Election Commission (KPU) 2014 Election Budget

Based on Table 1, the total budget allocation for the simultaneous conduct of the 2014 elections amounted to Rp 12,877,434,291,000, with the realized absorption reaching Rp 10,148,353,335,461, equivalent to 78.81% of the total allocation. However,

suboptimal budget absorption is evident in certain categories, particularly in pre-election activities such as data inventory and planning management, which recorded an absorption rate below 60%.

These findings align with the framework proposed by Machkour et al. (2023), who offer an innovative approach to optimizing resource allocation in elections. The authors introduce an elastic net optimization technique, which groups variables to allocate resources more effectively. This method can be adapted to the electoral context, ensuring that critical regions—such as those with high voter density or significant logistical challenges—receive adequate funding. By minimizing redundant expenditures, the approach prioritizes resource distribution where it is most needed, promoting both fairness and efficiency in the electoral process.

When compared to the budget realization of the previous election period in 2014, which reached 78.81%, the difference is striking when observing the 2019 election budget performance, as shown in Table 2. In 2019, the allocated budget for the elections amounted to Rp 18,579,230,309,000, with budget realization reaching Rp 17,209,744,147,344, equivalent to 92.63%.

Table 2. 2019 Election budget allocation and realization (in million IDR)

Category	Allocated Budget	Actual Expenditure	% Budget Absorption
Financial Accountability	97,193	95,816.1	98.58
Management of Pre-Election	5,013,408	4,338,201.0	86.53
Planning and Data Management	1,161,030	985,357.2	84.87
Human Resources Development	197,509	143,920.9	72.87
KPU Operational Activities	150,584	125,916.8	83.62
Drafting Regulations	354,086	346,764.4	97.93
Socialization of Election	11,605,419	11,173,767.8	96.28
Total	18,579,230	17,209,744.1	92.63

Source: General Election Commission (KPU) 2019 Election Budget

It is important to note that 2019 marked a year of simultaneous elections, distinguishing it from previous election cycles that lacked this characteristic. The significantly higher absorption rate in 2019 demonstrates the exceptional effectiveness and efficiency achieved in budget utilization during the simultaneous elections. This performance highlights improvements in election management processes, allowing for more streamlined resource allocation and higher accountability compared to previous years.

The high level of budget absorption in organizing elections, while seemingly positive, can lead to negative consequences if not managed effectively. One potential risk is budget waste, where allocated funds, such as those designated for training election officials, may not be utilized efficiently. For instance, expenditures focused on ceremonial activities may fail to contribute meaningfully to improving the competence of election officials. Furthermore, uneven budget allocation can create disparities, disadvantaging certain regions or communities. Remote areas, for example, may receive insufficient funding for the development of election infrastructure, thereby limiting voter access and participation (Brinkerhoff & Goldsmith, 2002).

Delays in budget absorption also pose risks, potentially disrupting the smooth implementation of elections. Such delays may create uncertainty and erode public trust in the democratic process. In addition, inadequate monitoring of the budget absorption process increases the risk of corruption, where funds intended for public benefit are

misappropriated for personal or group interests. Mitigating these risks requires ensuring that election budgets are managed responsibly, transparently, and accountably, which in turn enhances the quality and integrity of electoral processes and strengthens public confidence in democracy (Ferraz & Finan, 2011).

An analysis of budget allocation and absorption rates for the simultaneous elections in 2014 and 2019 provides valuable insights into their financial implications for voters and election officials. In 2014, with a total budget allocation of Rp 12.877 trillion and an absorption rate of 78.81%, a significant portion of the budget remained unutilized. This was particularly evident in pre-election activities, such as data inventory and planning management, which recorded absorption rates below 60%. In contrast, the 2019 simultaneous elections demonstrated higher efficiency, with a budget absorption rate of 92.63%, indicating substantial improvements in resource utilization and election management.

This suboptimal absorption in 2014 likely contributed to inefficiencies, potentially increasing costs for voters and election officials. Unutilized funds could have been redirected to initiatives aimed at enhancing voter engagement or improving electoral processes. By contrast, the 2019 elections, with a higher budget allocation of Rp 18.579 trillion and an absorption rate of 92.63%, reflect significantly improved budget utilization. This higher absorption rate suggests more effective resource allocation, potentially leading to enhanced voter services, such as improved access to information and better voting infrastructure.

For individual voters, efficient budget management could mean reduced logistical challenges and greater accessibility to the electoral process. For election officials, the effective use of resources may translate to lower operational costs, enabling investments in training and technology to foster a more streamlined and efficient electoral system. The stark disparity in budget absorption between the two election years highlights the importance of sound financial management in achieving cost savings and enhancing the electoral experience for both voters and officials.

A closer examination of the 2019 simultaneous elections reveals the financial implications of conducting such a large-scale event. The simultaneous nature of the elections necessitated the expansion of polling stations, increased transportation and security expenditures, and extensive voter education campaigns. The introduction of electronic voting machines (EVMs) required significant investments in procurement, maintenance, and training. Additionally, maintaining a comprehensive voter registration database for multiple elections at once placed considerable strain on the budget.

The simultaneous elections also demanded a larger workforce to manage polling stations, count votes, and oversee security, further driving up personnel costs. These concentrated expenditures created significant financial pressure on the General Election Commission's budget, potentially leading to compromises in certain areas or necessitating additional funding. These challenges underscore the critical need for long-term planning, investments in election infrastructure, and the adoption of innovative technologies to mitigate budget constraints and ensure effective elections in the future.

While the scale of the event required substantial financial resources, strategic planning, and resource allocation could have optimized fund utilization. Developing a comprehensive plan well in advance could have ensured that core functions—such as voter education, polling station setup, and security—were adequately funded. Investments in an improved voter registration system, potentially incorporating online registration and digital database management, could have reduced reliance on manual processes and outdated infrastructure.

The implementation of e-voting, while requiring meticulous attention to security concerns, could be tested through pilot programs in select regions. Such trials would provide a cost-effective means to evaluate and refine the technology for broader future adoption. Moreover, collaboration and resource sharing with government agencies and local communities could enhance efficiency. Engaging community groups and volunteers for voter outreach and election monitoring could reduce the financial burden on public funds, allowing reallocation to other critical areas.

Finally, conducting a comprehensive audit of the electoral process, including its financial management, could identify inefficiencies and potential cost savings for future elections. Effective utilization of public funds in simultaneous elections requires a combination of strategic planning, innovation, collaboration, and continuous improvement. By adhering to these principles, Indonesia can ensure its elections are conducted efficiently and fairly, maximizing the impact of public funds and fostering public trust in the electoral process.

Dynamics of simultaneous elections implementation

The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly reshaped electoral processes globally, including in Indonesia, underscoring the importance of evaluating the financial efficiency of simultaneous versus non-simultaneous elections. With pandemic-specific adjustments such as health protocols and the integration of digital systems, a comparative analysis of election types reveals notable differences in terms of cost efficiency.

Firstly, simultaneous elections provide significant cost efficiencies compared to non-simultaneous elections. This is evident in areas such as logistical and administrative costs, health protocol expenses, campaign budgets, and technology investments.

1. Logistical costs

Simultaneous elections allow resources to be shared across multiple election levels, resulting in reduced overall logistical expenses. The consolidation of activities, such as the setup and teardown of polling stations, further minimizes costs. In contrast, non-simultaneous elections incur higher cumulative costs due to the repetitive nature of logistical tasks for each election cycle. The repeated mobilization of resources, including transportation of materials and equipment, imposes a significant financial burden, rendering this approach less cost-efficient.

2. Administrative costs

Consolidated schedules in simultaneous elections reduce the administrative burden by streamlining staff hiring, training, and operational management. Pooling resources across election levels leads to cost savings. Non-simultaneous elections, however, necessitate separate timelines and administrative processes for each event, requiring the repeated hiring and training of personnel. This duplication of efforts increases operational expenses, making non-simultaneous elections more expensive in comparison.

3. Health protocol costs (pandemic-specific)

Simultaneous elections reduce pandemic-related expenditures by implementing health protocols—such as providing personal protective equipment (PPE) and sanitizers—once for the entire election period. In contrast, non-simultaneous elections demand multiple rounds of safety measures for each cycle, significantly raising overall costs. The repeated implementation of health protocols for separate elections highlights the inefficiency of the non-simultaneous model in pandemic contexts.

4. Campaign costs

Simultaneous elections enable candidates and political parties to consolidate their campaigns for multiple election levels, resulting in more efficient use of resources. Shared advertising, outreach, and event organization efforts optimize campaign expenditures. By contrast, non-simultaneous elections require distinct campaigns for each election cycle, leading to higher costs for advertisements, logistics, and other promotional activities. This repetition increases overall campaign expenses, making simultaneous elections more cost-effective.

5. Technology investments

Simultaneous elections benefit from one-time investments in systems such as electronic voting (e-voting) and digital voter registration tools, which can be utilized across multiple election levels. The costs of these technologies are spread across the electoral events, enhancing cost efficiency. Non-simultaneous elections, however, require repeated investments in technology for each cycle, leading to increased short-term expenditures. While digital innovations offer long-term advantages, the need for multiple implementations in non-simultaneous elections creates a higher financial burden in the short term.

In 2019, Indonesia's simultaneous elections encountered notable challenges in implementation, with logistical issues being a primary concern. Nationally, 10,520 TPS faced significant shortages of election equipment. A surge in demand for voting machines, ballot boxes, and counting equipment strained resource-limited jurisdictions, particularly in the face of national or regional shortages. The scale of simultaneous elections exacerbated logistical complexities, as coordinating the delivery, setup, and storage of equipment across numerous polling locations proved to be both time-intensive and intricate. Delays in these processes disrupted election-day operations, potentially impacting voter turnout and compromising electoral integrity.

Addressing such challenges requires proactive planning and preparation. Election officials must conduct comprehensive assessments well in advance to analyze voter turnout projections, polling station requirements, and areas prone to shortages. Developing contingency plans to address scenarios such as equipment failures or delivery delays is essential to ensure smooth electoral operations, even amid unforeseen circumstances. Additionally, securing equipment early through procurement, leasing, or partnerships and implementing robust inventory systems can greatly enhance resource management.

Resource optimization and collaboration are also pivotal in overcoming equipment shortages. Sharing resources among jurisdictions or regions can alleviate pressure during national shortages. Innovative solutions can help manage voter flow and reduce the overall demand for physical equipment, such as adopting alternative voting technologies or optimizing polling station locations and operating hours. Moreover, investing in long-term infrastructure improvements, supporting research and development of advanced voting technologies, and establishing national standards for election equipment are necessary steps to build a more resilient electoral system.

Building public confidence is equally crucial for the success of any election. Transparent communication about the challenges faced and the measures taken to address equipment shortages fosters trust in the electoral process. Engaging independent observers or monitors to oversee election implementation enhances accountability and transparency, reinforcing public faith in the integrity of the system.

By embracing a comprehensive approach that combines careful planning, resource optimization, collaboration, and long-term investments, election authorities can

effectively navigate the complexities of simultaneous elections. Such measures ensure a fair and efficient voting experience for all while safeguarding the integrity and credibility of the electoral process.

Attention was also drawn to incidents where ballot boxes obtained by the Polling Station Organizer Groups (*Kelompok Penyelenggara Pemungutan Suara, KPPS*) lacked seals, reported at 6,474 TPS. The absence of seals on ballot boxes is a significant concern, as it undermines the integrity of the voting process. Simultaneous elections require a large number of ballot boxes, and if an adequate supply of seals is unavailable, they may be overlooked or reused from previous elections. Such shortages often stem from inadequate planning and logistical coordination, where election officials fail to estimate the number of seals required accurately, or from budget constraints that limit the procurement of sufficient seals.

Another contributing factor is insufficient training for election workers. Without proper instruction on the critical role of ballot box seals and their correct application, unintentional errors may occur. These errors include forgetting to seal ballot boxes entirely or using seals improperly, leaving the boxes vulnerable to tampering. In rare cases, the absence of seals may result from deliberate oversight or intentional tampering, especially in contexts where suspicions of fraud or manipulation exist. Although such incidents are less common, they cannot be disregarded.

Additionally, there were cases of ballot exchanges between electoral districts or polling stations, as documented by the Bawaslu, impacting 3,411 TPS (Ardipandanto, 2019). Such occurrences highlight the need for robust safeguards to maintain the integrity of the electoral process.

To prevent future shortages of ballot box seals, election committees must accurately estimate the number of seals required for all ballot boxes used in simultaneous elections. This demands careful planning and inventory management, ensuring that a sufficient supply of seals is procured and securely stored for distribution to polling stations. Additionally, securing adequate funding to purchase high-quality seals is crucial, supported by a transparent and accountable procurement process to guarantee the seals meet the highest security standards.

Election workers must also receive comprehensive training on the importance of ballot box seals. This training should include hands-on practice sessions to ensure workers understand and can correctly implement the necessary procedures. Furthermore, security measures should be introduced to monitor seal usage and maintain oversight, including regular audits of inventory and records. Such measures can identify discrepancies early and prevent potential issues.

By implementing these strategies, all ballot boxes will be properly sealed, reinforcing public confidence in the integrity and transparency of the electoral process during simultaneous elections. Ensuring meticulous planning, adequate resources, and well-trained personnel is critical to maintaining trust and upholding the democratic process.

Secondly, issues related to the handling of voter information emerged as a significant challenge. The update of the permanent voter list during correction phase 3 by the KPU was completed only on April 8, 2019, just nine days before voting commenced (Ardipandanto, 2019). This marked a delay of 21 days from the scheduled completion date of March 19, 2019. According to relevant parties, the primary issue was the difficulty faced by the KPU in compiling comprehensive voter identities. Ideally, this process should have involved close collaboration with the Ministry of Home Affairs to access accurate voter identity data. The delays and inaccuracies resulted in challenges

such as data duplication, records of deceased voters, and the failure to update information for voters who had changed residences. Furthermore, the Bawaslu identified frequent errors in the KPU's information system, particularly in the voter identity database, which disrupted the data upload-download process and further hindered the preparation of accurate voter lists.

The third significant issue pertained to the challenges faced by the KPPS. According to data from the Ministry of Health, as of May 16, 2019, 527 KPPS members passed away, and 11,239 experienced illnesses during the implementation of the 2019 Simultaneous Elections (Ardipandanto, 2019). These figures highlight the immense workload pressures placed on KPPS members during the election. High-stress levels, extended working hours, and inadequate logistical support contributed to these adverse outcomes.

In addition, there were lapses in the reassembly of vote tallies during the 2019 Simultaneous Elections. Organizational documents recorded 708 recapitulation incidents, primarily involving the exchange of C1 forms and errors in inputting C1 data into the KPU's calculation system. These issues reflect the need for improvements in data handling procedures and the development of more robust systems to ensure accuracy in vote tallies.

The interconnection of Law Number 10 of 2016 and Law Number 7 of 2017 in funding sources

The importance of legal regulations in governing Indonesia's democratic system is evident in the interconnection between Law Number 10 of 2016 on the Election of Governors, Regents, and Mayors (Regional Elections) and Law Number 7 of 2017 on Simultaneous General Elections. These laws provide a robust legal framework that complements and supports one another, forming the basis for more effective and participatory elections in the country (Rahayu et al., 2020).

Both laws stipulate similar sources for campaign funding, derived from the personal wealth of candidate pairs and legitimate contributions from political parties, individuals, groups, companies, or non-governmental organizations. However, while their provisions align in terms of funding sources, they diverge in areas such as prohibitions, sanctions, and expenditure regulations, reflecting nuanced approaches to electoral governance.

Under Article 280, paragraph (1) of Law Number 7 of 2017, election organizers, participants, and campaign teams are prohibited from engaging in activities that violate laws and regulations, including actions that create public insecurity, damage campaign equipment, insult individuals or groups, or misuse public facilities for campaign purposes. Additionally, this law prohibits threats of violence, the use of unauthorized symbols or attributes, and the offering of material rewards to campaign participants. In contrast, Law Number 10 of 2016 focuses on prohibitions related specifically to voter inducements. Article 73 of this law explicitly forbids candidates or campaign teams from providing rewards to voters during the election period, with violations resulting in legal sanctions aimed at maintaining fairness in the electoral process.

The approach to sanctions also differs between the two laws. Law Number 7 of 2017 imposes legal consequences on election organizers and campaign teams who violate Article 339, paragraph (2) by restricting their ability to receive material assistance and requiring them to report violations to the General Election Commission (KPU). On the other hand, Law Number 10 of 2016 applies sanctions to any party involved in the unlawful receipt or distribution of campaign funds, including candidates,

campaign teams, political parties, and other entities, as outlined in Article 76, paragraph (1).

In terms of campaign expenditures, Law Number 7 of 2017 mandates that goods and services must be procured at fair market value but does not impose spending limits. In contrast, Law Number 10 of 2016 establishes spending limits based on various factors, including campaign methods, the number of activities, estimated participants, regional costs, campaign material needs, geographic coverage, logistics, and administrative requirements. These restrictions aim to prevent the excessive accumulation of campaign funds and ensure the efficient and effective use of resources during the election process.

The interconnection between these laws extends to provisions for regional government officials. Minister of Home Affairs Regulation Number 35 of 2013 defines regional government officials as individuals appointed to fill vacancies in the positions of regional government heads and deputies following the completion of their terms. According to Article 201, paragraph (9) of Law Number 10 of 2016, if the terms of regional government heads and deputies end in 2022 or 2023, these vacancies are to be filled by acting regional government heads until the new leaders are elected through the simultaneous elections scheduled for 2024.

Further provisions under Article 7, paragraph (2) of the same law stipulate that acting regional government heads are prohibited from running as candidates in the subsequent election while serving in their acting capacity. Exceptions to this rule are permitted if the acting official resigns in accordance with existing regulations before declaring their candidacy. This measure is designed to safeguard the integrity and neutrality of regional government administration and to uphold the fairness and transparency of the electoral process.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusion

This research demonstrates the success of the implementation of Law Number 7 of 2017 on Simultaneous General Elections in 2019, which aimed to enhance the efficiency of Indonesia's electoral processes. The simultaneous elections achieved significant positive outcomes, particularly in improving efficiency through cost and time savings. With only one round of socialization, training, and logistical procurement, the electoral coverage was expanded without imposing substantial administrative burdens. The budget absorption rate for the 2019 Simultaneous Elections reached 92.63% of the total allocation, reflecting a notable improvement in the effectiveness of fund utilization compared to the previous period.

Despite these achievements, the dynamics of the 2019 Simultaneous Elections revealed several key challenges. Issues such as election logistics, voter data updates, the workload of the KPPS, and errors in vote tally recapitulations were identified as critical areas requiring attention. These challenges included shortages of election equipment, inaccuracies in voter data, excessive work pressure on KPPS members, and procedural errors in the recapitulation process. Addressing these issues is essential further to improve the implementation of simultaneous elections in the future.

This study also underscores the interconnection between Law Number 10 of 2016 on the Election of Governors, Regents, and Mayors (Regional Elections) and Law Number 7 of 2017 on Simultaneous General Elections. Together, these laws provide a robust legal framework that complements and supports each other, forming the

foundation for more effective and participatory general elections in Indonesia.

The research highlights key aspects of funding sources, prohibitions, sanctions, and campaign expenditure, which play a crucial role in ensuring the integrity of electoral processes. While campaign funds originate from the personal wealth of candidates and legitimate contributions, differences between the two laws are evident in the areas of prohibitions and sanctions. Notably, Law Number 10 of 2016 imposes spending limits to prevent the accumulation of excessive campaign funds, promoting transparency and equity in campaign financing.

In conclusion, although the 2019 Simultaneous Elections demonstrated progress in improving efficiency and electoral financing, further attention is required to address the challenges identified and to enhance consistency between related regulations. By prioritizing these improvements, Indonesia can ensure a more effective, transparent, and equitable electoral process in future elections.

Recommendations

Optimizing budget efficiency and improving the overall effectiveness of future elections in Indonesia will require regulatory enhancements in several key areas. Regulatory authorities should streamline the budget allocation process, ensuring the timely disbursement of funds to electoral bodies. A proactive approach to budget management will mitigate delays and minimize last-minute expenditures, thereby enhancing financial oversight and electoral efficiency.

Substantial investment in the training and support of KPPS is critical. Comprehensive training in logistics management, vote tallying, and the effective use of technology will help minimize errors and maximize efficiency, leading to cost savings. Additionally, enhancing voter data management systems through advanced, technology-driven solutions is crucial. Real-time updates and verification of voter data will streamline the electoral process, address issues with incomplete or inaccurate voter information, and reduce associated costs.

Regular audits and evaluations of electoral processes and budget expenditures should be instituted to identify inefficiencies and areas for improvement. Establishing public-private partnerships for procuring election materials and services can foster competitive pricing and resource optimization, ultimately benefiting the electoral process. Moreover, harmonizing guidelines on campaign expenditures between Law Number 10 of 2016 and Law Number 7 of 2017 will provide a unified framework for campaign financing, promoting a fairer and more transparent electoral environment.

In the context of a post-pandemic era, the government must prioritize public safety, inclusivity, and efficiency in election results. Updating health protocols with scalable measures and hybrid campaign models can address these priorities effectively. Integrating digital systems, such as e-voting and online voter registration, will minimize physical contact while maintaining electoral integrity. Accessibility for vulnerable groups can be improved through mechanisms like postal voting or mobile voting stations. Continuous monitoring, supported by real-time health data and feedback mechanisms, ensures adaptability to changing circumstances, while legal amendments and emergency provisions establish a robust regulatory framework.

Feedback mechanisms that gather input from electoral stakeholders will provide valuable insights for informed adjustments to budget allocations and operational strategies. Investing in technology for election management, such as electronic voting systems, digital platforms for campaigns, and online voter registration systems, will empower election officials with the knowledge and tools needed to allocate resources

effectively. Technology-based training initiatives can help election officials reduce logistical burdens, foster transparency, and contribute to more cost-effective elections in the future.

Addressing challenges related to managing election results, logistics, and the workload of election officials requires strategic actions. Establishing an integrated results management system will streamline vote counting and reporting processes, enhancing accuracy and transparency. Targeted training programs for election officials, focusing on data management, logistics, and resource allocation, should be prioritized. Strengthening capacity-building initiatives in areas such as data-driven efficiency, transportation management, inventory control, and technology integration will ensure that election officials are well-equipped to meet the demands of modern elections.

By implementing these recommendations, Indonesia can advance towards a more efficient, transparent, and inclusive electoral system, ensuring the integrity and sustainability of its democratic processes.

REFERENCES

- Aisyah, S. N. (2020). Efektifitas Penerapan Aturan Pilkada Serentak 2020 Dalam Kondisi Darurat Penanganan Pencegahan Penyebaran Corona Virus Disease 19 (COVID-19). *Khazanah Multidisiplin*, 1(1), 1–20.
- Anggraeni, A., Sagala, S. S., Padanga, E. U. T., Andinata, Y., & Amaliah, A. (2022). *Menuju Tatanan Dunia Baru: Kehidupan Setelah Covid-19*. Jejak Publisher.
- Ardipandanto, A. (2019). Permasalahan Penyelenggaraan Pemilu Serentak Tahun 2019. *SDIP Pusat Penelitian*, 11(11), 25–30.
- Aziz, M. S., & Wicaksono, M. A. (2020). Komunikasi Krisis Pemerintah Indonesia dalam Penanganan Covid-19. *Masyarakat Indonesia*, 46(2), 194–207. <https://doi.org/10.14203/jmi.v46i2.898>
- Brinkerhoff, D. W., & Goldsmith, A. A. (2002). Clientelism, patrimonialism and democratic governance: An overview and framework for assessment and programming. US Agency for International Development Office of Democracy and Governance, 1, 49.
- Ersan, P., Erliyana, A., Dahlan, J. K. H. A., Banten, T., Margonda, J., & Depok Jabar, R. (2018). Kualifikasi Hukum Pidana Khusus Terhadap Tindak Pidana Pemilu/Pilkada (Tinjauan Hukum Administrasi Negara). *Pakuan Law Review*, IV (1).
- Fahmi, K., Amsari, F., Azheri, B., & Kabullah, M. I. (2020). Sistem Keadilan Pemilu dalam Penanganan Pelanggaran dan Sengketa Proses Pemilu Serentak 2019 di Sumatera Barat. *Jurnal Konstitusi*, 17(1), 001. <https://doi.org/10.31078/jk1711>
- Ferraz, C., & Finan, F. (2011). Electoral accountability and corruption: Evidence from the audits of local governments. *American Economic Review*, 101(4), 1274-1311.
- Hassan, A. O., Ishola, A. A., & Lamidi, K. O. (2024). Transforming Election Management through Information and Communication Technology: The Nigerian Experience. *African Renaissance*, 2024(si1), 135.
- Hermana, M. A., & Jaya, D. P. (2021). Efektivitas badan pengawas pemilihan umum dalam penanganan pelanggaran pada pemilihan umum tahun 2019. *Al Imarah: Jurnal Pemerintahan Dan Politik Islam*, 6(2), 248–266.
- Idhar, I., Hasanah, S., & Jiwantara, F.A (2023). Kewenangan Bawaslu Kabupaten/Kota dalam Proses Penanganan Pelanggaran Kode Etik Pengawasan Pemilihan Umum Ad Hoc. *Indonesia Berdaya*, 4(2), 645–652.
- Karoba, A., & Aedah, N. (2022). Implementasi Uu Nomor 7 Tahun 2017 Tentang

- Pemilihan Umum Dewan Perwakilan Rakyat Daerah (DPRD) Di Kabupaten Mamberamo Tengah Tahun 2019. *Jurnal Kebijakan Publik*, 5(2), 77–84.
- Kusumaatmadja, M. (2013). *Konsep-Konsep Hukum Dalam Pembangunan: Kumpulan Karya Tulis*. Penerbit Alumni.
- Machkour, J., Muma, M., & Palomar, D. P. (2023, December). The Informed Elastic Net for Fast Grouped Variable Selection and FDR Control in Genomics Research. In 2023 IEEE 9th International Workshop on Computational Advances in Multi-Sensor Adaptive Processing (CAMSAP) (pp. 466-470). IEEE.
- Marsallindo, A., & Safitri, C. (2021). Public Legitimacy of Government and People's Political Participation: The Case of the 2020 West Sumatra Regional Election, Indonesia. *Journal of Asian Social Science Research*, 3(1), 93-102.
- Mudasir, & Ghozali. (2020). *Pemilihan Umum Serentak untuk Memperkuat Sistem Pemerintahan Presidensial*. Penerbit NEM.
- Nonet, P., & Selznick, P. (2019). *Hukum Responsif*. Nusamedia.
- Nurhasim, Moch. (2020). *Distorsi dan Problematik Pemilu Serentak 2019*. Airlangga University Press.
- Rahayu, M. M., Indarja, & Wisnaeni, F. (2020). Undang-Undang Nomor 7 Tahun 2017 Tentang Pemilihan Umum dan Undang-Undang Nomor 10 Tahun 2016 Tentang Pemilihan Kepala Daerah. *Diponegoro Law Journal*, 9(2), 373–383.
- Rifai, A. (2020). *Menggapai Keadilan dengan Hukum Progresif: Sebuah Upaya Menyempurnakan Putusan Hakim pada Keadilan*. Nas Media Pustaka.
- Saefulloh, S., Abdoellah, O. S., & R, M. (2020). Integritas Komisi Pemilihan Umum Kota Bandung Dalam Pelaksanaan Pemilihan Presiden Tahun 2019. *Jurnal Civic Hukum*, 5(1), 97. <https://doi.org/10.22219/jch.v5i1.10999>
- Sellers, J. S., & Scharff, E. A. (2020). Preempting politics: State power and local democracy. *Stan. L. Rev.*, 72, 1361.
- Solihah, R. (2018). Peluang dan Tantangan Pemilu Serentak 2019 Dalam Perspektif Politik. *Jurnal Ilmiah Ilmu Pemerintahan*, 3(1), 73. <https://doi.org/10.14710/jiip.v3i1.3234>
- Subiyanto, A. E. (2020). Pemilihan Umum Serentak yang Berintegritas sebagai Pembaruan Demokrasi Indonesia. *Jurnal Konstitusi*, 17(2), 355. <https://doi.org/10.31078/jk1726>
- Sugianto, F. (2017). *Economic Analysis of Law*. Prenada Media.
- Supriyadi, S. (2020). Menakar Nilai Keadilan Penyelenggaraan Pilkada 2020 di Tengah Pandemi Covid-19. *Kanun Jurnal Ilmu Hukum*, 22(3), 493–514. <https://doi.org/10.24815/kanun.v22i3.1746>
- Thakur, S. (2015). E-voting: India and the Philippines—a comparative analysis for possible adaptation in Africa. In *Emerging Issues and Prospects in African E-Government* (pp. 28-55). IGI Global.

