



General Elections and Technology: Realising Transparency and Integrity in Elections

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Abstract

This project aims to enhance the utilisation of technology, particularly digital technology, in the execution of elections in a democratic nation such as Indonesia. The 2024 General Election is expected to encounter numerous problems, necessitating the digitalization of democracy to streamline the implementation of future General Elections. The usage of digital technology, particularly social media, is essential for the execution of future General Elections to streamline the electoral process and serve as a conduit for communication and information to the public or voters. This study employs normative legal research methodologies, analysing library materials that include primary legal sources such as Law Number 7 of 2017 regarding General Elections, Law Number 1 of 2024 about the Second Amendment of Law Number 11 of 2008 on Electronic Information and Transactions, and General Election Commission Regulation Number 15 of 2023 concerning General Election Campaigns, as well as secondary legal sources comprising books, journals, and other literature. The research indicates that the implementation of digital technology is anticipated to enhance voter participation and the quality of democracy in Indonesia, mitigate fraud, foster more transparent, accountable, and sustainable elections, and alleviate issues that arise during General Elections. Conversely, enhancing the competencies of election organisers is essential to elevate professionalism and mitigate errors.

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1. Introduction

Social media has become an integral part of people's daily lives, including in the political context. Globalisation has brought about the society of the modern era, The globalised world today drops human life amidst the rapid flow of technology that evolves into legal, political, economic, scientific, technical, cultural, educational and social aspects.¹ The impact of globalisation has promoted all aspects of human life as the creation of a sophisticated, more successful, faster, quicker, global, transparent, unlimited and interconnected dependent environment. Digitalisation plays an important role in enhancing public participation,

¹ Julie Cupples and Irving Larios, 'Gender, Elections, Terrorism: The Geopolitical Enframing of the 2001 Nicaraguan Elections', *Political Geography*, 24.3 (2005), pp. 317-39, doi:<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.polgeo.2004.10.002>.

increasing transparency and strengthening government responsibility.²

The development of digital communication technologies such as social media, online platforms and collaboration tools allows individuals to express their opinions more easily and incorporate them into the political sphere.³ The current situation shows that digital transformation has promoted democracy, expanded the commitment of urban people to rural areas, enabled active participation and contribution to political efforts, but the participation of the political community in the process is limited to the digital age and passive.⁴

Examining the 2024 General Election reveals that specific issues have given rise to a range of new challenges in its execution. Social media, along with certain forms of digital media, has emerged as a significant arena for social engagement. The quantity of active users facilitates the daily exchange of social media interactions among millions of individuals across diverse audiences.⁵ The emergence of novel communication methods and media technologies in the contemporary global landscape has significantly influenced the political landscape of Indonesia. The emphasis lies in the delivery of media resources. Ultimately, it becomes evident that agency serves as a fundamental element in the efficacy of communication strategies, forming the foundation for the evolution of political discourse.⁶

This consistently aligns with the principles of participatory democracy, particularly in fostering an environment conducive to diverse opinions. The potential of technology to connect and enhance access to information for individuals, regardless of time or location. Ultimately, it fosters the ability to acquire information effectively within the digital political landscape of platforms.⁷ Enhancing the digitalisation component is essential to navigate the challenges anticipated in the forthcoming elections, particularly in light of the constraints present in the 2024 elections. In contemporary discourse, the ethical considerations surrounding election administrators have emerged as a significant concern, intricately

² S I Keethaponcalan, *Electoral Politics in Sri Lanka: Presidential Elections, Manipulation and Democracy*, in *Electoral Politics in Sri Lanka: Presidential Elections, Manipulation and Democracy* (2022), doi:10.4324/9781003304685.

³ Chris Marsden, Trisha Meyer, and Ian Brown, 'Platform Values and Democratic Elections: How Can the Law Regulate Digital Disinformation?', *Computer Law and Security Review*, 36 (2020), p. 105373, doi:10.1016/j.clsr.2019.105373.

⁴ Luthfi Dwi Yoga, 'How to Handle the Administrative Violations in the Election? A Discourse of Characteristic of Bawaslu Verdict', *Journal of Law and Legal Reform*, 3.3 (2022), pp. 349–78, doi:10.15294/jllr.v3i3.55058.

⁵ Titon Slamet Kurnia, 'Mahkamah Konstitusi Sebagai Election Court: Refleksi Teoretis', *Refleksi Hukum: Jurnal Ilmu Hukum*, 3.1 (2019), pp. 33–48, doi:10.24246/jrh.2018.v3.i1.p33-48.

⁶ Nicolae Stef, Sami Ben Jabeur, and Robert F. Scherer, 'Time to Resolve Insolvency and Political Elections', *International Review of Law and Economics*, 72.September (2022), p. 106104, doi:10.1016/j.irle.2022.106104.

⁷ Nyarwi Ahmad, 'SOCALLY MEDIATED POPULIST COMMUNICATION IN INDONESIA'S 2018 GUBERNATORIAL ELECTIONS', *International Journal of Asia-Pacific Studies*, 20.2 (2024), pp. 149 – 187, doi:10.21315/ijaps2024.20.2.6.

linked to the complex interplay of authority among these officials in addressing instances of electoral misconduct.⁸

An examination of digitalisation is imperative for the 2024 elections to uphold the integrity of the electoral process in Indonesia. Moreover, enhancing the competencies and capabilities of election administrators is crucial for elevating professionalism, reducing errors, fostering increased public engagement, promoting transparency, and reinforcing governmental accountability in the electoral process in Indonesia. Considering the aforementioned background description, this study aims to investigate the impact of digital technology on general elections, with a focus on promoting integrity within the electoral process.

2. Research Method

This research method employs normative legal research, utilising legal studies to scrutinise written references in order to uncover legal rules, principles, or doctrines that address the pertinent legal issues.⁹ This study is fundamentally doctrinal, wherein the concept of law is frequently perceived as encapsulated within statutes and regulations, or as a norm or rule that serves as a standard for human conduct deemed acceptable. This study employs a normative legal research methodology, concentrating on the examination of regulatory documents and library resources.¹⁰ The normative legal research method is used to identify specific laws that address particular legal issues. The objective is to preserve legal resources to facilitate the understanding, comprehension, and analysis of the role of digital technology in electoral processes. This methodology employs both a statutory framework and a conceptual framework.¹¹ The statutory approach entails a comprehensive examination of all laws and regulations relevant to the specific legal matters at hand. The current facts are intrinsically linked to the laws and regulations that oversee them, and they remain pertinent. The theoretical framework diverges from the perspectives and principles that have emerged within the realm of legal scholarship.¹² To address a problem formulation effectively, it is essential to consult relevant research sources. The classification of these sources can be delineated into two categories: primary legal materials, which encompass laws and regulations, and secondary legal materials, including books, journals, and expert

⁸ Dian Agung Wicaksono and Ola Anisa Ayutama, 'Initiation of Special Court on the Local Election for Regional Leaders to Face the Simultaneously Election of Governor, Regent, and Mayor in Indonesia', *Jurnal Rechts Vinding*, 4.1 (2015), pp. 157–79, doi:10.33331/rechtsvinding.v4i1.53.

⁹ Hartiwiningsih, Hartiwiningsih, Lego Karjoko, and Soehartono Soehartono, *Metode Penelitian Hukum*, ed. by Universitas Terbuka, Pertama (Universitas Terbuka, 2019), i.

¹⁰ Bachtiar Bachtiar, *Metode Penelitian Hukum*, in *Hukum*, ed. by Oksildefa Yanto, no. 1, 1st ed. (UNPAM Press, 2018).

¹¹ Amiruddin & Zainal Asikin, *Pengantar Metode Penelitian Hukum* (Rajawali Press, 2018).

¹² Ani Purwati, *Metode Penelitian Hukum Teori Dan Praktek*, ed. by Lestari Tika, Pertama (CV. Jakad Media Publishing, 2020).

opinions.

3. Results and Discussion

General Elections and Technology: Realising Transparency and Integrity in Elections

Freedom of expression is one of the human rights guaranteed in Article 28 of the 1945 Constitution, which reads, 'Freedom of association and assembly, expression of thoughts orally and in writing and so forth shall be determined by law'. In accordance with these provisions, people have the right to find, possess, store, process and communicate the information they need without exception.¹³ The right to express freedom and opinion and to communicate information is a human right regulated by law or regulation, especially in the 1945 Constitution, Law Number 7 of 2017 on General Elections, Law Number 1 of 2024 on the Second Amendment to Law Number 11 of 2008 on Electronic Information and Transactions, General Election Commission Regulation Number 15 of 2023 on General Election Campaigns, Law No. 19 of 2016 on Amendments to Law Number 11 of 2008 on Electronic Information and Transactions (ITE), and Government Regulation Number 71 of 2019 on the Implementation of Electronic systems and Transactions and Law Number 27 of 2022 on Personal Data Protection. At the same time, democracy and freedom have, in essence, increased in Indonesia due to the the rise of social media.¹⁴

The availability of these regulations is certainly expected to be implemented optimally so that violations that occur in digital transformation can be enforced optimally so as to provide certainty, expediency and justice. The organisation of general elections in Indonesia is regulated in Article 22E paragraph (5) of the 1945 Constitution which states that 'General elections shall be held directly, publicly, freely, secretly, honestly and fairly.' This is closely related to the function of the General Election Commission in carrying out these elections. In today's digital age, social media has become a crucial component in people's lives, including in the political sphere. Digital technology acts as a force that changes the way we interact and access information.¹⁵

With the ability to store, process and distribute information quickly and efficiently, these technologies have transformed data into digital formats.¹⁶ Society undergoes changes in various aspects of social life, including in the fields of technology, politics, and law. With the

¹³ Janna Miletzki, *Development as Freedom* (Macat Library, 2017), doi:10.4324/9781912281275.

¹⁴ Tatiana-Eleni Synodinou, 'The Media Coverage of Court Proceedings in Europe: Striking a Balance between Freedom of Expression and Fair Process', *Computer Law & Security Review*, 28.2 (2012), pp. 208–19, doi:<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.clsr.2012.01.013>.

¹⁵ Muwaffiq Jufri, 'The Urgency of The Fifth Amendment of The 1945 Constitution of The Republic Of Indonesia Related To Religious Freedom and Rights', *Jurnal HAM*, 12.1 (2021), pp. 123–40.

¹⁶ Amartya Sen, *Development as Freedom* (Oxford University Press, 1999).

rapid advancement of information technology, the law must adapt to changes in society. Often, the law does not quickly accommodate advances in information technology; legal issues often arise before regulations are made. Although information technology offers many advantages in daily life, without strict legal regulations, misuse of information technology can disrupt the order in society.¹⁷

The use of information technology, which increasingly facilitates personal and group life, can be utilised as a medium for conducting elections and elections, with the aim of making the procedures more efficient and transparent, thereby increasing public trust in election organisers.¹⁸ Using digital standard protocols and standardised formats allows you to reproduce and distribute information without loss of quality or accuracy. Digital technology also enables wider and cheaper access to information. Traps or adverts. Digital technology offers several important benefits, such as: First, digital technologies offer options to automate, collect and process data quickly, and speed up and improve the accuracy of decision-making. This can improve efficiency and productivity in many areas, including elections held. Second, digital technologies make it easier to access election information and services that are widely and easily accessible to the public. This will encourage increased voter turnout and participation in the democratic process.¹⁹

Third, digital technologies can allow you to transparently record election data and processes, track and share them. This will strengthen openness and accountability when organising elections.²⁰ Fourth, digital technologies can generate ideas and innovations, such as e-voting methods and e-voting, and the use of social media for campaigns. This flexibility can be more responsive to changes and community needs. Five, with digital technologies, election information and campaigns can lead to technologies that can reach more voters at an achievable cost and in a usable way.²¹

The theory used is democratic theory which explains to the authors how technology can be adopted to improve operational efficiency and overcome various barriers to the electoral process. The use of social media and social media technologies as communication and

¹⁷ Prince Chacko Johnson and others, 'Digital Innovation and the Effects of Artificial Intelligence on Firms' Research and Development – Automation or Augmentation, Exploration or Exploitation?', *Technological Forecasting and Social Change*, 179.March (2022), p. 1, doi:10.1016/j.techfore.2022.121636.

¹⁸ Gulam Mustafa and others, *The Role of Information Technology in Aviation Security and Customer Safety*, 10.5 (2022), pp. 2609–29.

¹⁹ Peter A. Winn, 'Online Court Records: Balancing Judicial Accountability and Privacy in an Age of Electronic Information', *Washington Law Review*, 79.1 (2004), pp. 307–29.

²⁰ Edoardo Celeste, 'Digital Constitutionalism: A New Systematic Theorisation', *International Review of Law, Computers and Technology*, 33.1 (2019), pp. 76–99, doi:10.1080/13600869.2019.1562604.

²¹ Leopoldina Fortunati, *1 Convergence and Digital Media*, no. Doctorow 2019 (2021).

information media is also described as part of this process and focuses on sustainability.²² The theory of democracy in elections can be thought of as ideas and principles about freedom that can be applied to the technology of conducting elections. In this sense, democracy is often thought of as an institution of freedom, i.e. the human rights and equality before the law that every member of a society must possess to be properly called a democracy. The entire electoral process should be based on the theory of democracy because power is vested in the people; in this case, 'demos' means people and 'cratos' means government, so democracy means government by the people.²³

Digital-based Elections in the Philippines: Lessons for Indonesia

In the context of digital technology, it has influenced general elections in Indonesia. In practice, candidate campaigns can be conducted through social media platforms that are largely accessible to the public. With good cooperation, technical, security, and social challenges in e-voting planning can be overcome more efficiently in its implementation. The author mentions several countries in the world that have implemented e-voting, such as the Philippines. One of the countries in Southeast Asia that conducts electronic voting is the Philippines. This system is believed to be successful by Filipinos and the public to overcome voting fraud and dishonesty.²⁴

The technology used by the islands is called the Automated Election System (AES). The machine works with optical scan tuning. This tuning allows you to count votes faster by scanning the votes. At the beginning of the introduction, Filipinos welcomed the e-voting system. This is shown by the increased voter turnout during elections. In 2016 the general election achieved more than 80% of the Philippine population participation. The Philippines' success in developing an electronic voting system also attracted global attention.²⁵

The comparison between the Philippines and Indonesia in organising General Elections is still different in implementing e-voting. In Indonesia, the General Election Commission as the organiser of the General Election in Indonesia uses several applications such as the SIDALIH (Sistem Informasi Data Pemilihan), SILON (Sistem Informasi Pencalonan), SIREKAP (Sistem Informasi Rekapitulasi), SIDAPIL (Sistem Informasi Daerah Pemilihan), SILOG (Sistem Informasi Logistik), SIDA KAM (Sistem Informasi Dana Kampanye). SIAKBA (Sistem

²² Giovanni De Gregorio and Roxana Radu, 'Digital Constitutionalism in the New Era of Internet Governance', *International Journal of Law and Information Technology*, 30.1 (2022), pp. 68–87, doi:10.1093/ijlit/eaac004.

²³ Suzy E Park, *Technological Convergence: Regulatory, Digital Privacy, and Data Security Issues*, 2019.

²⁴ Francis Levi Abdala Durano and others, 'A Review of the Impacts of Laws and Policies on the Nexus of the Fisheries Sector and Gender in the Philippines', *Marine Policy*, 180 (2025), p. 106810, doi:https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpol.2025.106810.

²⁵ Justin See and others, 'Uncovering the Drivers of Climate Gentrification in the Global South: Case Study of Tacloban City, Philippines', *Political Geography*, 117 (2025), p. 103275, doi:https://doi.org/10.1016/j.polgeo.2025.103275.

Informasi Anggota Komisi Pemilihan Umum dan Badan Adhoc). Some of the software used by the General Election Commission has not yet implemented an E-voting system in the conduct of General Elections in Indonesia.²⁶

From the number of applications used by the Election Commission in organising General Elections in Indonesia, there is potential to implement e-voting in the country. This requires careful planning and preparation, such as the provision of adequate technology infrastructure, which includes fast and stable internet access in various parts of Indonesia, reliable networks, and hardware and software that are suitable for e-voting. Investment in infrastructure development that can ensure the accessibility and reliability of e-voting systems is necessary. Alongside technological infrastructure, training and public awareness are also important components in preparing for e-voting implementation. Training should be provided to election officials, election organisers, and technicians involved in the operation of e-voting systems.²⁷

The public needs to gain an in-depth understanding of e-voting, including its benefits, usage procedures, and security measures to be followed. A quick response from technical support is essential to ensure smooth implementation of e-voting and reduce the possibility of system disruption or failure. In this regard, Indonesia's desire to realise e-voting should be reviewed in more depth, as various opportunities and challenges will arise when dealing with a new system in a society that is still not fully ready to accept technology. This situation is the basis for the author to conduct further research on the electoral principles that need to be fulfilled in the context of e-voting as well as analysing the needs and readiness of the public in adopting e-voting as a key issue.²⁸

The use of digital technology by the General Election Commission as an election organiser is a form of transparency and accuracy of election data, so that election results are more legitimate. Article 12 letter D of Law Number 17/2017 on General Elections states that the General Election Commission's task is to 'coordinate, organise, control and monitor all stages of the election', and refers to Article 13 letters B and C of Law Number 17/2017 on General Elections that the General Election Commission has the authority to 'stipulate General Election Commission Regulations for each stage of the election' and 'determine election participants' The differences in interpretation that occur can make it difficult for the General

²⁶ Salvador Santino Regilme and Kevin Parthenay, 'COVID-19 Pandemic and Competitive Authoritarian Regimes: Human Rights and Democracy in the Philippines and Nicaragua', *Political Geography*, 115 (2024), p. 103212, doi:<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.polgeo.2024.103212>.

²⁷ Reina Mae B Chong and others, 'Evolving Disaster Resilience in the Philippines: Insights from the 2021 and 2023 World Risk Poll on Socio-Economic, Regional, and Systemic Factors', *International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction*, 121 (2025), p. 105415, doi:<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijdrr.2025.105415>.

²⁸ R J May, 'Elections in the Philippines, May 2001', *Electoral Studies*, 21.4 (2002), pp. 673–80, doi:[https://doi.org/10.1016/S0261-3794\(02\)00002-1](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0261-3794(02)00002-1).

Election Commission to carry out its duties as an election organiser, the General Election Commission as an election organising body has a big responsibility to overcome these various legal issues while maintaining its independence and professionalism.²⁹

The requirements of those who want a transparent, accurate and reliable election process. Debunk and avoid all forms of doubt with respect to fraud in election campaigns. On the other hand, the use of various social media platforms can effectively increase public participation, and can be a vehicle for political education will result in greater public participation.³⁰ The intensity of political preparation, as reflected in increased campaign activities, may correlate with a stronger influence on people's group identity norms. The rationale behind this hypothesis is rooted in the observation that regions that are inundated with politics, especially those that are crucial in presidential elections, can exert greater influence over the country.³¹

This section begins by comparing campaign advertising patterns across different states and then explores the different levels of the of the election cycle in different states . Past elections, such as the 2024 General Election in Indonesia, have shown that the implementation of digitisation policies in the political sphere is a key element to understanding how the dynamics of digitisation can be aligned with political campaigns and platforms. In this phase, the researchers examined strategic recommendations that can be strengthened to improve sustainability and accountability in technology-enabled elections during Indonesia's democratic process.³²

This research not only aims to identify effective and efficient policies, but also create a new paradigm in election campaigns that emphasise the importance of environmental conservation as a key component of regional development and community welfare. The functioning of digital technology has demonstrated its significant importance in maintaining

²⁹ Allan B I Bernardo and Peejay D Bengwasan, 'Event-Related Psychological Distress in Young Filipinos after the 2022 Philippine Presidential Elections', *The Lancet Psychiatry*, 9.9 (2022), pp. e42–43, doi:[https://doi.org/10.1016/S2215-0366\(22\)00231-0](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2215-0366(22)00231-0); 'Philippines Election Data Breach Sees 15.8m People's Fingerprint Data Posted to the Web', *Biometric Technology Today*, 2016.5 (2016), p. 1, doi:[https://doi.org/10.1016/S0969-4765\(16\)30073-X](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0969-4765(16)30073-X).

³⁰ Svitlana Chernykh, *The Dilemma of Compliance: Political Parties and Post-Election Disputes*, in *The Dilemma of Compliance: Political Parties and Post-Election Disputes* (2024), doi:10.3998/mpub.11976215.

³¹ Jean Aristide Aquino, Di Jie Liew, and Yung-Chun Chang, 'Graph-Aware Pre-Trained Language Model for Political Sentiment Analysis in Filipino Social Media', *Engineering Applications of Artificial Intelligence*, 146 (2025), p. 110317, doi:<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.engappai.2025.110317>.

³² Patricia D Simon, 'Calling Attention to Mental Health Issues in a Developing Country: Views and Recommendations from the Philippines Post-Elections', *Asian Journal of Psychiatry*, 74 (2022), p. 103198, doi:<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ajp.2022.103198>.

the integrity and transparency of the electoral process.³³ Various digital platforms, such as the official website of the organiser, mobile apps and social media, have served as effective communication and information channels for voters. Through this technology, voters can access voter data, quick count results, and real-time monitoring of the voting and counting process based on Law Number 1 of 2024 concerning the Second Amendment to Law Number 11 of 2008 concerning Electronic Information and Transactions.³⁴

In addition, digital technology also facilitates virtual campaigns and public debates as regulated in General Election Commission Regulation Number 15 of 2023 concerning General Election Campaigns, and can also increase community participation and involvement. Various issues are inseparable from politics as they relate to policy formulation and implementation. The implementation of General Elections also affects environmental damage caused by the General Election campaign. Digitalisation can be utilised as a tool to reduce pollution and environmental damage that occurs due to the implementation of General Elections. The importance of wider access to political information and the use of social media as an effective political communication tool. Thus, digital technology is expected to increase voter participation and the quality of democracy in Indonesia, reduce fraud, create more transparent, accountable and sustainable elections.

4. Conclusion

Changes in society are something that cannot be rejected in aspects of social life in the fields of technology, politics and law. Rapidly developing information technology has an impact on very significant changes in society that make the law must adapt to changes in society itself. The utilisation of digital technology in the 2024 General Election clearly plays an important role as a place for accurate information as well as a place to access political information, especially about the 2024 General Election. In this case, digital technology means that the e-voting system must be designed with a high level of security to protect voters' votes and prevent manipulation or data leakage. The government and related institutions need to conduct extensive socialisation campaigns to provide a good understanding to the public. Although challenges such as digital disinformation still exist, the development of digital competence among the public has enabled them to assess the credibility of information sources more carefully. Digitalisation of a democratic, accountable, and responsive to the will of the people 2024 General Election, digital technology is expected to increase voter participation and the quality of

³³ Risa J. Toha, Dimitar D. Gueorguiev, and Aim Sinpeng, 'The Normalization of Intolerance: The 2019 Presidential Election in Indonesia', *Electoral Studies*, 74.July (2021), p. 102391, doi:10.1016/j.electstud.2021.102391.

³⁴ Julia Partheymüller and others, 'Participation in the Administration of Elections and Perceptions of Electoral Integrity', *Electoral Studies*, 77.October 2021 (2022), p. 102474, doi:10.1016/j.electstud.2022.102474.

democracy in Indonesia, reduce fraud, create more transparent, accountable, and sustainable elections

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