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## Legal protection of citizens' constitutional rights in the 2024 simultaneous elections

Didik Suhariyanto<sup>\*)</sup>

Universitas Bung Karno, Jakarta, Indonesia

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### ABSTRACT

The 2024 Simultaneous Elections are a significant moment in Indonesia's democracy, focusing on citizens' constitutional rights, especially the right to vote and be elected. However, challenges such as issues with the accuracy of the Permanent Voter List (DPT), accessibility for vulnerable groups, and law enforcement against violations of voting rights remain critical. This study aims to analyze the legal protection of citizens' constitutional rights in the 2024 Simultaneous Elections, identify challenges in protecting these rights, and evaluate the role of election bodies like the General Elections Commission (KPU), the Election Supervisory Board (Bawaslu), and the Constitutional Court (MK). Using a qualitative approach and library research, this study reviews relevant literature, legislation, and reports from related institutions. The findings reveal that despite a clear legal framework, challenges persist, particularly concerning the DPT's accuracy, accessibility for vulnerable groups, and law enforcement. The role of election bodies like KPU, Bawaslu, and MK has not been fully effective in addressing these issues. The research concludes that further efforts are needed to improve the DPT system, enhance access for vulnerable groups, and strengthen law enforcement. The study emphasizes the importance of strengthening oversight, improving voter education, and optimizing technology to protect constitutional rights and ensure election integrity.



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### Corresponding Author:

Didik Suhariyanto,

Universitas Bung Karno

Email: [suhariyanto.didik@yahoo.co.id](mailto:suhariyanto.didik@yahoo.co.id)

## Introduction

Elections are the primary mechanism in a democratic system that guarantees citizens' constitutional rights, as stipulated in Article 27 and Article 28D paragraph (3) of the 1945 Constitution (Butt, 2015; Jamaluddin, 2021). The right to vote and be elected is the foundation of equal and inclusive political participation, providing each individual the opportunity to engage in national decision-making processes (Kontu et al., 2024; Ulfiyyati et al., 2023). Elections are not only a means of legitimizing power but also an instrument to ensure public representation in government (Sucipto et al., 2024; Syawawi, 2020). Therefore, the implementation of transparent, fair, and pressure-free elections is essential to uphold the principles of democracy, including in the 2024 simultaneous elections (Wulandari, 2024; Yasin, 2022).

The 2024 simultaneous elections are a significant event in Indonesia's political history, as they involve both legislative and executive elections simultaneously, with a large-scale and high level of complexity. With more than 200 million voters spread across various regions, technical and legal challenges are a major concern

(Yuniarto, 2024). Potential issues such as discrimination against certain groups, vote manipulation, and logistical constraints risk undermining the integrity of the elections. Therefore, legal protection of constitutional rights in the electoral process must be a priority to ensure that every citizen can participate fairly and equally without obstacles (Dasraf, 2024).

Issues related to the right to vote in elections often arise, especially concerning the accuracy of the Permanent Voter List (DPT), which still faces problems such as duplicate data, unregistered voters, or outdated data (Cahyaningsih et al., 2019). Accessibility barriers for vulnerable groups, such as persons with disabilities, minorities, or people in remote areas, are also issues that have not been fully addressed, limiting their participation in the democratic process (Tajudin, 2024). Furthermore, the dynamics of rights violations in previous elections add to the complexity of this issue. This situation highlights the need for greater attention in ensuring the protection of constitutional rights and the integrity of the electoral process as a whole.

The legal foundation protecting citizens' rights in elections is firmly rooted in the 1945 Constitution of Indonesia. Article 27 guarantees every citizen the right to equal treatment under the law and government, while Article 28D paragraph (3) explicitly mentions the right to equal opportunities in governance, including the right to vote and be elected. This protection is further strengthened by Law No. 7 of 2017 on Elections, which comprehensively regulates the electoral process to uphold the principles of democracy, justice, and equality. Additionally, related regulations, such as those issued by the General Election Commission (KPU) and other technical provisions, ensure accountable and inclusive electoral implementation, particularly for vulnerable groups (Adhyaksa, 2023; Jatmiko, 2018; Sarbaini, 2020).

The implementation and supervision of the protection of these rights is the responsibility of a number of state institutions. The General Election Commission (KPU) is tasked with ensuring that all stages of the election run in accordance with the laws and regulations (Nugroho & Sukmariningsih, 2020; Santoso, 2019), while the Election Supervisory Body (Bawaslu) has the authority to monitor, handle violations and resolve disputes over the electoral process (Fadhilah, 2024; Hasanah & Rejeki, 2021). At a higher level, the Constitutional Court (MK) acts as the guardian of the constitution, including handling disputes over election results that potentially violate citizens' constitutional rights (Anggraini, 2022; Faiz, 2017). Collaboration between these institutions is key to ensuring that every citizen can participate freely, fairly and equally in the democratic process.

Previous research by Endang (2020) on the implementation of Law No. 7/2017 on Elections shows that although the regulation has provided a comprehensive legal framework, technical issues such as discrepancies in the permanent voters list (DPT) and weak supervision of implementation remain significant obstacles. Another study by Purba & Sinaga (2024) also highlights the role of EMBs, such as the General Election Commission (KPU) and the Election Supervisory Agency (Bawaslu), in ensuring the right to vote and be elected, but tends to lack depth in exploring the effectiveness of dispute resolution mechanisms and protection for vulnerable groups.

Research on the legal protection of citizens' constitutional rights in the 2024 Simultaneous Elections reveals a significant gap in addressing the challenges posed by the complexity of the simultaneous election process. Existing studies often focus on individual aspects, such as preventing electoral fraud or voter education, but rarely provide a comprehensive analysis of mechanisms that ensure constitutional rights, including equal access to voting, protection against disenfranchisement, and resolution of electoral disputes. This gap underscores the need for a holistic approach to evaluate the legal framework and institutional coordination to effectively safeguard citizens' constitutional rights during the implementation of large-scale elections.

In the context of the 2024 simultaneous elections, which involve a large scale and high level of complexity, research on the legal protection of constitutional rights is crucial to prevent conflict and improve the quality of democracy. Violations of constitutional rights, such as restrictions on the right to vote or discrepancies in the permanent voter list, can trigger public discontent and undermine the legitimacy of election results. This article is expected to make a significant contribution by offering recommendations to improve the existing legal system and oversight mechanisms, so as to ensure the protection of citizens' rights during the electoral process. As such, this research is not only academically relevant, but also provides practical impact in strengthening Indonesian democracy.

This research aims to analyse the legal protection of citizens' constitutional rights in the 2024 simultaneous elections, by reviewing existing regulations and implementation. It also aims to identify the main challenges in guaranteeing the right to vote and be elected fairly, including technical barriers, discrimination and potential manipulation. In addition, this research aims to evaluate the role of EMBs, such as the KPU, Bawaslu and the Constitutional Court, in protecting citizens' constitutional rights through oversight, law enforcement and electoral dispute resolution mechanisms. The results of this research are expected to provide recommendations to strengthen legal protection and improve the quality of democracy in Indonesia.

## Method

This research uses the normative juridical method to analyse the legal protection of citizens' constitutional rights. This method focuses on the review of relevant laws, legal documents and norms, including the 1945 Constitution, Law No. 7 of 2022 on Elections, as well as technical regulations issued by the General Elections Commission (KPU). Through this approach, the research explored the existing legal basis for ensuring transparent, fair and inclusive elections. It also examines the principles of democracy and justice as reflected in the regulations governing elections.

This method uses a conceptual approach to understand how the existing legal framework is applied in the field. Conceptual studies are conducted by analysing the definition, principles and objectives of constitutional rights protection in the context of elections. The data used includes primary legal materials, such as laws and court decisions, as well as secondary legal materials, such as journals, books and official reports from relevant institutions. This analysis aims to find gaps between normative rules and implementation in the field.

The results of this normative juridical method provide a comprehensive understanding of the challenges and opportunities in protecting citizens' constitutional rights. This research also offers law-based recommendations to address various problems found, such as the accuracy of the permanent voters list (DPT), accessibility for vulnerable groups, and law enforcement against voting rights violations. As such, this research is expected to make practical and theoretical contributions to the strengthening of the electoral system and the protection of constitutional rights in Indonesia.

## Results and Discussions

### Constitutional Foundations of Citizens' Rights in Elections

The right to vote and be elected is at the core of the implementation of democracy in Indonesia, as guaranteed in the country's constitution, the 1945 Constitution. This right provides an opportunity for every citizen to actively participate in the political and governmental process. Article 27 paragraph (1) of the 1945 Constitution states that 'all citizens shall be equal before the law and government and shall uphold the law and government with no exceptions.' This article is the main basis for citizens' constitutional rights, including the right to vote and be elected in elections. Meanwhile, Article 28D paragraph (3) affirms that every citizen has the right to equal opportunity in government, which implicitly includes the right to participate in elections as a voter or candidate. With the combination of these two articles, the right to vote and be elected is not only a basic right of citizens but also a manifestation of active participation in a democratic system.

Elections in Indonesia are run based on the principles of direct, general, free, secret, honest and fair (*luber jurdil*) as stated in Law No. 7 Year 2022 on Elections. This principle refers to the essence of democracy that respects the sovereignty of the people. The direct principle gives voters the right to make their choices without intermediaries, while the general principle ensures that all citizens have equal rights without discrimination. The free principle guarantees citizens' freedom of choice without coercion, and the secret principle protects the privacy of each individual's choice. Honesty and fairness in the conduct of elections reflect the integrity of the electoral system, which aims to involve all elements of society equally and fairly (Boediningsih & Cahyono, 2022; Lubis et al., 2022).

Law No. 7 Year 2022 on Elections is the main legal foundation governing the organisation of elections in Indonesia. This law includes provisions regarding the procedures for conducting elections, the preparation of the permanent voters list (DPT), and the protection of citizens' constitutional rights. One of the main focuses in this law is to ensure the involvement of every citizen in the electoral process through an inclusive and transparent mechanism. Regulations related to DPT aim to minimise the potential for voter data manipulation, such as double data or unregistered voters. The law also provides strict sanctions against violations of voting rights and protects vulnerable groups to participate equally.

When it comes to norms, this is reflected in several documents that try to ensure the global implementation of human rights. The first is found in the Declaration of Human Rights, a document approved and published by the General Assembly of the United Nations (UN) on 10 December 1948. Section 21 of this document states that: (1) Everyone has the right to participate in the government system, either directly or through freely chosen representatives; (2) Everyone has the right to the same opportunity to be appointed in the government of his country. And the will of the people must be the basis of government power. This must be disclosed in regular and clean elections with normal and equal suffrage, accompanied by other procedures that guarantee freedom of choice.

Paragraph (1) guarantees voting rights and paragraph (2) guarantees democratic votes, thereby reflecting the will of the people and is the basis of government power.

According to the provisions of Article 23(1) of Law no. 39 of 1999 states that "everyone is free to choose and has 37 political beliefs". Furthermore, according to the provisions of Law no. 43 Paragraph 1 of Law Number 39 of 1999, stipulates that: Voting is open, free, confidential, and honest, conducted fairly in accordance with the provisions of the Act. The two articles above clearly show that legal guarantees exist for all Indonesian citizens, even in exercising their right to vote.

The General Elections Commission (KPU) and the Election Supervisory Agency (Bawaslu) have a strategic role in ensuring the implementation of the 2024 simultaneous elections. KPU regulations establish technical procedures, including DPT preparation, nomination procedures, and vote counting (Gunawan & Mujahidah, 2024). Bawaslu, through its regulation and supervision, focuses on the prevention and prosecution of electoral offences (Yuhandra et al., 2023). For example, KPU Regulation No. 3 of 2022 on Election Stages and Schedules and Bawaslu Regulations on election supervision aim to create a transparent and accountable electoral process (Sahran, 2024). These technical regulations are designed to ensure electoral integrity amidst logistical challenges and political complexity.

The protection of constitutional rights in elections is also supported by Law No. 39/1999 on Human Rights (Pakaya & Hadi, 2023). This law affirms that the right to vote and be elected is part of human rights that must be respected, protected and fulfilled by the state. In addition, this law provides a foundation to ensure that vulnerable groups such as persons with disabilities, minorities and remote communities can actively participate in the democratic process. In elections, the Human Rights Law provides strengthening to the legal framework to ensure accessibility and non-discrimination in all stages of the election.

Citizens' rights in elections are an implementation of the democratic principles contained in the Indonesian constitution. Through the right to elect and be elected, every citizen is given the opportunity to contribute to determining state policies and electing leaders who they consider capable of representing the aspirations of the people. Therefore, the holding of free, honest and fair elections is very important to ensure the implementation of this constitutional right, as well as strengthening the legitimacy of the government formed, in order to achieve the goals of a just and prosperous country.

### **The Role of Election Organising and Supervisory Institutions**

The implementation of the 2024 Simultaneous Elections involves several key institutions that have a crucial role in ensuring the continuity of democratic, transparent and accountable elections. These three institutions include the General Election Commission (KPU), the Election Supervisory Agency (Bawaslu), and the Constitutional Court (MK), which are tasked with maintaining the implementation of elections in accordance with constitutional principles.

#### ***General Election Commission (KPU)***

The General Election Commission (KPU) is an independent institution mandated to organise elections in Indonesia (Simanjuntak, 2016). As the main pillar of the democratic system, the KPU is responsible for ensuring that elections run according to constitutional principles, namely direct, general, free, secret, honest and fair (*luber jujur*). KPU's role is not only limited to the technical implementation of elections, but also includes broader responsibilities in ensuring the constitutional rights of citizens to vote and be elected (Dewi et al., 2022).

One of the main tasks of the KPU is voter data management. In this regard, the KPU is responsible for compiling an accurate and inclusive permanent voters list (DPT). This process involves verification and validation of voter data to ensure that all eligible citizens can exercise their voting rights. Accurate DPT management not only prevents potential manipulation or misuse of data, but also avoids preventing citizens from participating in elections.

In addition, the implementation of transparent and accountable elections is the KPU's top priority. Every stage of the election from candidate registration, campaign period, voting day, to vote counting is managed openly by involving supervision from various parties, including the community and election supervisory institutions. This transparency aims to increase public trust in the electoral process and results, while minimising fraud and violations.

KPU also plays an important role in voter education. One focus is to increase public awareness of the importance of exercising their voting rights wisely. KPU organises voter education programmes that target various layers of society, including vulnerable groups such as people with disabilities, indigenous peoples, and novice voters. By providing equal access to information, the KPU seeks to ensure the active participation of all citizens in the democratic process.

KPU's performance determines the success of the election. Professional, transparent, and inclusive management not only impacts the level of voter participation, but also the public's trust in the integrity of the election. In a broader context, KPU's success becomes the foundation for political stability and legitimacy of the government formed through the democratic process.

#### ***Election Supervisory Agency (Bawaslu)***

The Election Supervisory Agency (Bawaslu) is an independent institution that plays an important role in maintaining the integrity and fairness of the electoral process in Indonesia (Farhati et al., 2024). As the main supervisor, Bawaslu is responsible for ensuring that each stage of the election is carried out in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. Bawaslu's role is crucial in preventing violations that can harm citizens' constitutional rights, as well as maintaining public trust in the democratic system (Yamani, 2024).

One of Bawaslu's main tasks is to oversee each stage of the election, starting from the preparation of the permanent voters list (DPT), campaigning, voting, to vote counting. In this case, Bawaslu monitors potential violations such as DPT manipulation, intimidation of voters, or violations of campaign regulations. By closely monitoring this process, Bawaslu aims to prevent actions that could harm voters' rights or reduce electoral fairness.

In addition to supervision, Bawaslu also has the authority to take action against violations that occur during elections. These violations can range from administrative violations, such as violations of campaign rules, to potentially criminal violations, such as money politics or intimidation. In taking action against violations, Bawaslu is not only tasked with recording and reporting, but also providing recommendations to law enforcement officials to ensure that violations are handled fairly and transparently.

Another function of Bawaslu is the facilitation of dispute resolution during the electoral process. As a mediator, Bawaslu plays a role in helping to resolve conflicts or differences of opinion that arise between election participants, organizers, or voters. This mediation process aims to maintain stability and public trust in elections as a fair and inclusive democratic mechanism.

As the front guard in maintaining the principles of electoral justice, Bawaslu's role is very important in ensuring that all parties involved in the electoral process comply with the established rules. The existence of Bawaslu not only provides protection for the constitutional rights of citizens, but also becomes the main pillar in maintaining the integrity of the electoral system in Indonesia.

#### ***Constitutional Court (MK)***

The Constitutional Court (MK) is a state institution that acts as the guardian of the constitution as well as the protector of citizens' constitutional rights in elections (Hufron, 2019). In Indonesia's democratic system, the Constitutional Court has a very strategic responsibility in ensuring that the electoral process runs in accordance with constitutional principles. The role of the Constitutional Court does not only focus on the final outcome of the election, but also includes the protection of individual rights that may have been violated during the process.

One of the main roles of the Constitutional Court is to resolve disputes over election results, both legislative and presidential elections. In this case, the Court becomes the authorised body to decide whether there was fraud or significant violations that affected the outcome of the election. The dispute resolution process is conducted transparently and based on evidence submitted by the parties to the dispute. By ensuring that election results reflect the true voice of the people, the Constitutional Court contributes to maintaining the legitimacy of the government that is formed.

In addition to handling disputes over election results, the Constitutional Court also has an important function in protecting the constitutional rights of citizens. If a violation occurs that unlawfully prevents a person or group from exercising their right to vote, the Court can provide a ruling that ensures the right is restored. For example, in cases where there are allegations of discrimination or manipulation that have led to some citizens being unable to participate in elections, the Court can act as an enforcer of justice to ensure their rights are not denied.

The Court's role also involves constitutional interpretation, particularly in relation to legal norms governing elections. In carrying out this task, the Court can provide interpretations of existing provisions, so that the rules applied are in line with democratic principles. This interpretation is important to provide legal certainty and prevent irregularities in the implementation of elections. Thus, the Constitutional Court functions as a balance between electoral regulations and the implementation of a fair and inclusive democracy.

As the last bastion in maintaining the credibility of election results, the Constitutional Court plays an indispensable role in Indonesia's democratic system. Not only does it ensure that election results are free from manipulation, it also provides a guarantee that citizens' rights are protected throughout the democratic process.

Through this role, the Constitutional Court helps strengthen public confidence in the electoral system and creates solid political stability.

The author argues that the roles of the KPU, Bawaslu and the Constitutional Court are crucial to the success of elections in maintaining the fairness, integrity and legitimacy of democracy in Indonesia. KPU needs to continue to improve voter data management to ensure that all citizens can exercise their right to vote without obstacles. Bawaslu is expected to strengthen early detection mechanisms for violations and increase capacity in resolving election disputes. Meanwhile, the Constitutional Court, as the last bastion of democracy, must ensure that decisions made in disputes over election results reflect substantive justice and protect the voice of the people. The author also underlines the importance of synergistic coordination between these three institutions as well as the involvement of the community as an element of participatory supervision to create elections with integrity and in accordance with democratic principles.

### **Legal Protection of Voter Rights**

The legal protection of voters' rights in Indonesian elections is guaranteed by various regulations designed to ensure that every citizen can exercise their constitutional rights freely, fairly and without discrimination. One of the key regulations is Law No. 7/2017 on Elections, which regulates in detail the rights of citizens to vote and be elected in legislative elections, presidential elections, and regional head elections. This law affirms the principle of universality of elections, where every citizen who has met the requirements, such as a minimum age of 17 years or being married, has the right to participate in elections. It also establishes mechanisms to maintain transparency, accountability and integrity of the electoral process, including oversight of the permanent voters list (DPT) and protection against intimidation or manipulation practices.

Another important regulation is Law No. 12/2003 on Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections, which laid the groundwork for direct elections to elect the head of state. This law ensures that voters have full freedom to make their choice without coercion or unlawful influence. Both laws are accompanied by technical regulations and guidelines issued by the General Election Commission (KPU), the Election Supervisory Body (Bawaslu) and the Constitutional Court, which serve as legal protection mechanisms against violations of voters' rights. These regulations are designed to ensure that every stage of an election, from voter registration to vote counting, is conducted by upholding the principles of fairness and human rights.

Previous research on Law No. 7/2017 on Elections plays an important role in ensuring that citizens' constitutional rights are fulfilled. For example, a study by Kolang et al., (2022) shows that this regulation is quite effective in guaranteeing the right to vote and be elected, but its implementation is often plagued by technical obstacles, such as the inaccuracy of the permanent voters list (DPT) or the lack of supervision of voter rights violations in the field. Another study Pamungkas et al., (2023) also highlights cases of voter rights violations, such as the restriction of access for indigenous groups in elections due to not having an ID card, which reflects gaps in the implementation of the regulation

Legal protection for voters' rights is a crucial aspect of ensuring fairness and integrity in the democratic process. Voters' rights include the right to vote freely, confidentially, and without intimidation, as mandated by the constitution and relevant legislation. The state is obligated to protect these rights from various violations, such as vote-buying, voter data manipulation, and voter intimidation, which can undermine democracy.

In this context, institutions like Bawaslu (Election Supervisory Body) play a vital role in monitoring the election process, receiving reports of violations, and taking legal action against offenders. Furthermore, legal protection also encompasses voters' rights to access accurate and transparent information about candidates, parties, and the electoral process, enabling them to make informed and conscious decisions. With a robust legal protection system in place, public trust in the electoral process can be maintained, thereby strengthening the legitimacy of election results.

### **Legal Protection for Voter Rights: Law Enforcement Against Violations**

Law enforcement in elections plays a crucial role in protecting citizens' constitutional rights, particularly the right to vote and be elected. Violations of these rights can undermine the legitimacy of elections and the principles of democracy.

#### ***Sanctions in the Election Law***

Law No. 7 of 2017 on Elections stipulates sanctions to ensure that every electoral violation is addressed firmly, aiming to protect voters' constitutional rights and uphold electoral integrity. These sanctions are divided into three main categories: administrative, criminal, and civil, each with distinct characteristics and purposes.

Administrative sanctions are imposed on election participants, organizers, or other parties who violate established administrative rules. Examples of administrative violations include campaign violations, such as placing campaign materials in prohibited zones, failure to report campaign funds, or manipulation of the

permanent voter list (DPT). Administrative sanctions may include written warnings, administrative fines, or even disqualification from the election. These sanctions are designed to encourage compliance with electoral procedures without requiring lengthy legal processes.

Criminal sanctions target actions that directly harm voters' rights or the electoral process, such as voter intimidation, vote-buying, or forgery of election documents. Articles 488–498 of the Election Law detail criminal penalties, including fines and imprisonment, depending on the severity of the violation. For instance, vote-buying aimed at influencing voter decisions can result in imprisonment of up to 3 years and/or substantial fines. Criminal sanctions are intended to deter violations while protecting citizens' constitutional rights.

Civil sanctions typically involve compensation claims from parties harmed by violations of voting rights. These claims can be filed by individuals or groups directly affected, such as those unable to exercise their voting rights due to voter list manipulation. Civil sanctions provide victims with the opportunity to seek restitution for their losses, emphasizing the importance of legal accountability in the electoral process.

### ***Electoral Dispute Resolution Procedures***

Electoral dispute resolution procedures in Indonesia are designed to ensure fairness and legal certainty in the election process. Disputes may involve administrative, criminal, or constitutional aspects, each with distinct mechanisms for resolution. The following explains the three main categories of electoral disputes:

#### ***Administrative Electoral Disputes***

Administrative electoral disputes pertain to violations or disagreements regarding administrative processes or procedures regulated under electoral laws. Examples include disputes related to the determination of the final candidate list (DCT) or breaches of technical campaign rules. These disputes are resolved by the Election Supervisory Body (Bawaslu) through a process that is swift, straightforward, and transparent.

The resolution process for administrative disputes typically begins with the submission of an objection by the aggrieved party. Bawaslu then conducts mediation as an initial step to seek a mutually agreed resolution between the parties involved. If mediation fails, the process moves to adjudication, where Bawaslu issues a decision based on the evidence and facts presented. Bawaslu's recommendations for administrative disputes may include procedural corrections, the annulment of certain decisions, or administrative sanctions against the violators.

#### ***Criminal Electoral Disputes***

Criminal electoral disputes involve violations of law with criminal elements, such as vote-buying, voter intimidation, or election document forgery. These disputes are handled by the Integrated Law Enforcement Center (Sentra Gakkumdu), a collaboration between the Election Supervisory Body (Bawaslu), the police, and the prosecutor's office.

The resolution process begins with a report filed by individuals aware of the violations. Sentra Gakkumdu then conducts investigations to gather sufficient evidence. If enough evidence is found, the case is forwarded to the courts for further proceedings. The aim of addressing criminal disputes is to deter violations and safeguard voters' rights.

#### ***Constitutional Disputes***

Constitutional disputes in elections typically relate to disagreements over election results. These disputes are resolved by the Constitutional Court (MK), the authority empowered to decide on disputes concerning legislative and presidential election results.

The process involves filing a lawsuit by the aggrieved party, accompanied by evidence of alleged violations significantly impacting the election results. The Constitutional Court holds hearings to hear statements from the parties, examine the evidence, and decide whether the violations are severe enough to affect the election outcome. The Court's decisions are final and binding, serving as the definitive reference for determining the legitimate election results.

The electoral dispute resolution mechanism plays a crucial role in maintaining the integrity of the democratic process. With clear and fair procedures, violations of voters' rights can be resolved promptly, thereby preserving public trust in elections. The combination of administrative oversight, criminal law enforcement, and the handling of constitutional disputes by authorized institutions demonstrates Indonesia's commitment to protecting democracy and ensuring elections are conducted honestly, fairly, and transparently.

Previous research on legal protection for voters' rights and law enforcement against violations highlights the importance of a robust legal framework in safeguarding the integrity of the electoral process. For instance, research by Hanafi (2024) revealed that violations of voter rights, such as vote-buying and manipulation of the permanent voter list, often occur due to weak oversight and law enforcement by related institutions. This study also emphasized the role of institutions like the Election Supervisory Body (Bawaslu) and the Integrated Law

Enforcement Center (Gakkumdu) in addressing electoral violations, despite challenges such as resource limitations and political interference. Another study by Hidayat et al., (2024) stressed that public awareness of their rights as voters is a critical factor in minimizing violations. The study recommended strengthening regulations and increasing transparency at every stage of the electoral process to effectively protect voters' rights and enhance public trust in democracy.

The effectiveness of law enforcement in elections heavily relies on strong coordination among various related institutions, such as the General Election Commission (KPU), Election Supervisory Body (Bawaslu), Integrated Law Enforcement Center (Gakkumdu), and the Constitutional Court (MK). Each institution has specific and complementary roles in upholding electoral integrity, from administrative oversight and handling criminal violations to resolving constitutional disputes. However, weak coordination can create barriers to law enforcement, such as overlapping authorities, inefficient case handling, or delays in dispute resolution. Therefore, synergy between institutions is key to ensuring fair elections in compliance with regulations.

Although the Election Law specifies clear sanctions for various violations, implementation often faces challenges in practice. These challenges include inadequate human and financial resources, weak oversight at the local level, and low public awareness of their electoral rights. Additionally, resolving disputes often takes considerable time, leading to frustration among voters and election participants. To address these issues, institutional strengthening, increased transparency in law enforcement processes, and intensive public education are necessary. These efforts aim not only to reduce violations but also to build public trust in the electoral system as a foundation of a healthy democracy.

### **Limitation and Future Research**

The limitations of this study lie in several aspects, one of which is the scope that is limited to analyzing the legal protection of citizens' constitutional rights in the 2024 Simultaneous Elections. This study focuses more on legal and policy aspects related to voting rights, the accuracy of the Permanent Voter List (DPT), voter accessibility, and the role of election organizers. As a result, this study does not include a deeper analysis of socio-political factors that might influence the election process, such as local political influences, campaigns, or broader societal participation. Furthermore, this study uses a qualitative approach based on library research, thus not involving empirical data directly from the field, which could provide a more comprehensive picture of the implementation on the ground.

Future research could expand the scope by including empirical elements, such as surveys or direct interviews with voters, election organizers, and other related parties. Further research could also explore in more detail the social impact of inaccuracies in the DPT, as well as efforts to improve accessibility for vulnerable groups, especially in remote areas. Additionally, future research could delve deeper into the effectiveness of oversight by election institutions such as the General Election Commission (KPU), the Election Supervisory Board (Bawaslu), and the Constitutional Court (MK), as well as the challenges faced in enforcing laws against violations of constitutional rights in elections.

### **Conclusions**

Research on the legal protection of citizens' constitutional rights in the 2024 Simultaneous Elections shows the importance of an integrated system oriented towards legal certainty in every stage of the election. The constitutional right of citizens to elect and be elected is the core of the implementation of democracy that must be guaranteed by the state. In the context of the 2024 Simultaneous Elections, the existence of organising institutions such as the General Elections Commission (KPU), the Election Supervisory Body (Bawaslu) and the Constitutional Court (MK) have a strategic role in ensuring that the electoral process runs in accordance with the principles of *luber jurdil* (direct, general, free, secret, honest and fair).

However, the research also revealed challenges in the protection of citizens' constitutional rights, such as limited resources, weak oversight at the local level, and a lack of public education about their rights in elections. The often lengthy resolution of electoral disputes is an additional challenge that has the potential to undermine public confidence in the electoral process. Therefore, there is a need for strengthened law enforcement mechanisms, increased transparency and more inclusive public education. By doing so, violations of voters' rights can be minimised, electoral integrity can be maintained, and public confidence in Indonesia's democratic system can be enhanced.

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