

## **Potential for the 2024 Election and Consolidation of Indonesian Democracy**

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### **Abstract**

The 2024 Indonesian elections hold great potential for the consolidation of the country's democracy. Indonesia has made significant strides towards becoming a democratic country since its transition from authoritarian rule in 1998. However, challenges such as corruption, political polarization, and the role of the military in politics still exist. The upcoming elections provide an opportunity for Indonesian citizens to exercise their democratic right to choose their leaders and hold them accountable. To consolidate democracy, the Indonesian government needs to ensure a fair and transparent electoral process. Furthermore, political leaders need to work towards bridging the gap between different segments of society and addressing the root causes of political polarization. The government must also make efforts to reduce corruption, strengthen the rule of law, and promote transparency in government operations. Overall, the 2024 elections provide an opportunity for Indonesia to further consolidate its democracy and build a more prosperous and inclusive society. It will require the collective efforts of political leaders, civil society, and citizens to make this a reality.

**Keywords:** Indonesian Election, Democracy, Political Party, Voter Polarization

### **Introduction**

The idea of directly electing the President and Vice President was born and implemented in the Indonesian political system against the backdrop of a blurry portrait of the tyranny of power in the Old Order and New Order regimes. During the old order during President Soekarno's leadership, a violation of the constitution occurred when Soekarno accepted his appointment as President for life following the issuance of the TAP MPRS which stipulated that: 'Dr. Ir Soekarno, the Great Leader of the Indonesian Revolution, who is now the President of the Republic of Indonesia, with the grace of God Almighty hereby becomes the President of Indonesia for life' (Aspinall, 2010). This is also the case with state administration during the New Order era under President Suharto's regime which strictly implemented a one-party system, even though formally there were three parties, namely Golkar, PPP and PDI (Tomsa, 2008). In order to tighten control over existing parties, Article 14 (1) of Law Number 1 of 1985 concerning Political Parties authorizes the President to dissolve parties that are not in accordance with the goals of the state.

It can be said that the practice of democracy in the New Order era did not create substantial institutionalization of democracy. This condition occurs considering that the process of institutionalizing democracy is basically determined by the institutionalization of political party organizations as an inseparable part of the democratic system itself (Mietzner, 2009).

### **Because that's according to Yves Meny and Andrew**

Knapp stated that, "A democratic system without political parties or with a single party is impossible or at any rate hard to imagine" (Meny & Knapp, 1998). It is hard to imagine a political system with only 1 (one) political party to be called democratic, especially if there are no political parties at all. Indonesia is one of the world's largest democracies with a population

of over 267 million people, and a rich history of political participation and diversity. The country has witnessed several democratic elections over the past few decades, and the upcoming 2024 election will be one of the most significant political events in the country's recent history (Aspinall, 2010). In this essay, we will explore the nature of democracy in Indonesia, the role of political will in shaping elections, the main political parties involved, and the potential outcome of elections.

A democratic country is a country that upholds democratic principles. Democracy is a system of government that emphasizes citizen participation in decision-making, equality before the law, and protection of human rights and individual freedoms (Dahl, 1998). A democracy is a country that ensures that power is held by elected officials who are accountable to the people. In a democracy, the government is elected by the people through a free and fair electoral process.

Laurence Whitehead summarizes the transitional shift towards the consolidation of a democratic system that is integrated with one another which is considered as a way to increase the commitment of all levels of society to the rules of the game of democracy (Whitehead, 2002). The consolidation of democracy is not only a political process that occurs at the procedural level of political institutions but also at the community level. Democracy will be consolidated if political, economic, state, and civil society actors promote democratic action as the main alternative to gain power.

At the conceptual level, democracy prioritizes the existence and importance of pluralism in society (Dahl, 1989). On the other hand, democracy is impossible to materialize if it is accompanied by absolutism and an attitude of self-righteousness. Democracy requires mutual trust and mutual respect between members of society under the larger goal, namely the common good. The process of compromise based on mutual trust and mutual respect in the social contract determines the national ideals and principles of national life and the administration of an independent and sovereign state.

In this case, it should be understood together that a consensus that guarantees the upholding of constitutionalism in modern times is generally understood based on three elements of agreement (consensus), namely: First, the agreement on common goals or ideals (the general goals of society or general acceptance of the same philosophy of government). Second, the agreement on the rule of law as the foundation of government or state administration (the basis of government). Third, the agreement on the form of institutions and procedures (Ackerman, 1991). The three aspects of the agreement referred to regarding shared ideals greatly determine the upholding of the constitution and constitutionalism in a country. Because it is these shared ideals that at the peak of their abstraction most likely reflect the similarities and public interests among fellow citizens who in reality must live in the midst of pluralism.

Indonesia has been a democracy since 1998 when President Suharto's authoritarian regime was overthrown (Aspinall, 2005). Since then, Indonesia has held several democratic elections, including presidential, parliamentary, and regional elections. The country's democracy is enshrined in the constitution, which guarantees freedom of speech, assembly, and association, as well as the right to vote and run for office.

The political system in Indonesia is the direct election of the President and Vice President, which is a form of people's sovereignty where the people can directly determine who is the leader of the government (King, 2003). This is actually not new for the Indonesian government system because, in every region in Indonesia, namely at the village level, the community directly elects the head of the village, only since 2004 the election of the head of government at the national level, namely the president and vice president, has only been used in Indonesia.

There are still many who believe that this election is only a five-yearly routine event that is detrimental to the people. Election results alone cannot build a just and prosperous society at the will of the country's founders.

According to Pahlevi, better political awareness and the level of public participation in the holding of elections (Pahlevi, 2021). If it is said that the people now have broad insights, but still need to be wary of anyone who gives lucrative political promises, it is considered easier to gain public sympathy. On the other hand, regarding the conception of personal election, which is based on political awareness must be instilled from the beginning of the election stage to the end of the election period. Don't just be tempted or even tolerate money politics in any form.

Despite the crisis of democratic credentials, Indonesia faces significant challenges in ensuring that its democracy is strong and resilient. The country has battled corruption, vote-buying, and intimidation that undermined the credibility of elections in the past. However, the government has taken steps to address these challenges by introducing electoral reforms, strengthening the independence of election commissions, and raising public awareness about the importance of free and fair elections (Buehler, 2013).

Political will in the 2024 Indonesian elections is a crucial factor in ensuring the 2024 Indonesian elections are free and fair. Political will refers to the commitment of political leaders to uphold democratic principles, promote transparency and accountability, and ensure that the electoral process is impartial and fair. Political will is very important because it determines the extent to which electoral institutions are independent and effective in ensuring that the will of the people is reflected in election results (Diamond, 1999).

The role of political parties in Indonesia's 2024 election Indonesia has a dynamic and diverse system of political parties, with more than a dozen parties represented in parliament. The country has three main political parties: the Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle (PDI-P), the Gerindra Party, and the Golkar Party. These parties are expected to play a significant role in the 2024 elections, both in terms of fielding candidates and mobilizing voters (Tomsa, 2012).

PDI-P is President Joko Widodo's incumbent party which is currently the party with the highest number of votes in parliament. The party's platform is based on promoting economic growth, reducing inequality, and protecting the environment. The Gerindra Party, led by former presidential candidate Prabowo Subianto, is a party that has high electability in parliament and has a platform that promotes economic nationalism, social justice, and the importance of the military in Indonesian society. The Golkar party is the third-largest party in parliament and has a long history of political power, being the ruling party during President Suharto's authoritarian regime. The party's platform is centered on promoting economic growth, improving infrastructure, and supporting small and medium enterprises (Mietzner, 2013).

### **The role of political parties in Indonesia**

In Indonesia, political parties have a long history of shaping the country's political landscape. They have played an important role in the country's democratic transition since the fall of the authoritarian regime in 1998. Political parties play an important role in mobilizing voters, shaping public opinion, and influencing policy making. They also play an important role in holding governments to account.

This understanding is in line with the upcoming 2024 Indonesian elections, political parties will again play an important role in shaping the country's political future. The stakes are high, as Indonesia faces multiple challenges, including economic inequality, social unrest and environmental degradation. Political parties are expected to put forward clear policy proposals that address these challenges and provide a vision for the country's future.

One of the most important roles of political parties in the upcoming elections is to mobilize voters. Indonesia has a large and diverse electorate, and political parties need to reach voters from a variety of backgrounds and regions. This will require political parties to build broad-based coalitions and develop strategies that resonate with different groups of voters.

Another important role for political parties is to shape public opinion. Political parties need to articulate clear policy proposals and communicate them effectively to voters. They need to engage with the media, use social media platforms and engage in public debate to promote their ideas and policies. In doing so, political parties will not only shape public opinion but also help educate voters about the issues at stake in elections.

Political parties will also play an important role in influencing policy making. If a party wins the election, it forms a government and has the power to implement its policies. However, even if a party does not win, it can still influence policymaking by acting as a watchdog and holding the government to account. Political parties can use parliamentary debates, public protests and other means to push for policy changes that are in line with their vision for the country.

### **2024 Election Potential**

The potential for the 2024 Indonesian Election is expected to be very competitive and certainly has significant implications for the future of democracy in this country. The election could result in a continuation of President Joko Widodo's policies, or it could lead to a shift towards new, more nationalist and populist policies. Candidate recommendations from the incumbent president certainly have higher moral support than other competitors, this is because the current president has good electability and is expected to still have a strong influence on democratic contestation in 2024, especially due to the implementation of popular and sustainable policies during his term of office previously.

Meanwhile, from the opposition side, the actors involved in it can win if they have a strong candidate, a well-organized campaign, and if the current government is facing significant problems or scandals. One way that can be used by the opposition party is a coalition government. If no one party wins a majority of seats in parliament, they may need to form a coalition government. This can lead to negotiations and compromises among various parties to form a stable government.

It is important to note that these are only potential results, and many factors can affect the outcome of an election. From another point of view, the Indonesian general election which will be held next year, can still change both in terms of the spectrum of political parties contesting, or changes in voter tendencies.

The 2024 Indonesian election is expected to be an important milestone for the nation's democracy. As one of the largest democracies in the world, Indonesia has a dynamic political landscape with various political parties vying for power. In this essay, we will explore what a democracy is, the role of political will in Indonesian politics, political parties in Indonesia, and sources of information about the 2024 Indonesian elections.

A democratic country is a country that implements democratic principles, such as free and fair elections, rule of law and protection of human rights. Democracy ensures that people can participate in government decisions and hold their leaders accountable. In a democracy, the government is accountable to the people and is expected to work for the common good.

Political will is an important aspect of Indonesian politics. Political will refers to the determination and commitment of political leaders to pursue their policy goals. It is very important for political leaders to have the political will to drive reform and change in the

country. Without political will, progress can be slow, and needed changes may not be implemented.

There are several political parties in Indonesia, each with its own agenda and platform. One of the major political parties in Indonesia is the Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle (PDI-P). Other major political parties include the Golkar Party, the National Awakening Party (PKB), and the Democratic Party. There are also several right-wing parties, such as the Prosperous Justice Party (PKS), the National Mandate Party (PAN), and the United Development Party (PPP). In the 2019 Indonesian elections, PDI-P won the most votes, followed by Golkar and PKB.

### **Election Results in Influencing the Consolidation of Indonesian Democracy**

First, it is important to recognize that the election results will have a significant impact on the country's political stability. If elections are free and fair and produce decisive results, they can strengthen confidence in Indonesia's democratic institutions and contribute to the consolidation of democracy. On the other hand, if elections are marred by irregularities or disputed results, this can create unrest and undermine the legitimacy of democratic institutions. Therefore, it is very important that elections are conducted in a transparent and impartial manner, with results that are acceptable to all parties.

Second, election results will affect the balance of power between political parties and their ability to govern effectively. If one party or coalition wins a significant majority, that party or coalition could have the opportunity to implement much-needed reforms, such as strengthening the rule of law, combating corruption and improving public services. Conversely, a fragmented parliament without a clear majority can lead to political deadlock and hinder progress towards consolidating democracy. Therefore, political parties must focus on policy issues and long-term interests of the state rather than short-term gains.

Third, the results of the general election will have an impact on Indonesia's foreign policy orientation and regional dynamics. A new government with a different foreign policy approach could lead to changes in Indonesia's relationship with its neighbors and global powers. A more inward-looking government could reduce Indonesia's involvement in regional affairs, while a more assertive government could increase tensions in the region. Therefore, it is very important for the new government to have a clear and coherent foreign policy that balances Indonesia's interests and its role in the international community.

Finally, the results of the general election will have implications for Indonesia's efforts to promote human rights and democracy in the region. Indonesia has long been a leader in promoting democratic values and human rights in Southeast Asia and in the eyes of the world. A new government that prioritizes these values can increase Indonesia's credibility as a democratic leader and fight for human rights. However, a government that shows little commitment to these values could damage Indonesia's international reputation and weaken its influence in the region. Therefore, it is important for the new government to continue to prioritize the promotion of human rights and democracy both domestically and internationally.

### **Conclusion**

Indonesia's 2024 elections will be an important milestone for the country's democracy. A democratic country is a country that implements democratic principles, such as free and fair elections, rule of law and protection of human rights. Political interests are one of the important things for progress and change in the Indonesian political spectrum. So it is hoped that the existence of several political parties in Indonesia, with their own agenda and platform, can bring Indonesia to realize the 5th precept, namely social justice for all Indonesian people.

The role of political parties in the upcoming 2024 Indonesian election will greatly determine the direction of the country's development, party ideology accompanied by the individual vision of the winner is a factor that determines the direction of Indonesia in the next 5 years. Political parties are expected to be able to mobilize voters, shape public opinion, and influence policy making. They need to build broad-based coalitions, develop effective communication strategies, and articulate clear policy proposals. Ultimately, the success of Indonesia's 2024 election will depend on the ability of political parties to engage voters, build consensus and provide a vision of the country's future.

In conclusion, the results of the 2024 general election will have a broad impact on efforts to consolidate Indonesian democracy. A transparent and impartial electoral process that produces decisive results and a stable government that is committed to democratic values and human rights will be critical in sustaining Indonesia's democratic progress. Conversely, disputed election results, prioritizing political agendas, or even a government that lacks commitment to democratic values can threaten the future of Indonesia's democracy and regional stability. Therefore, all political actors and stakeholders must work together to ensure free and fair elections and produce a government that prioritizes the interests of the country and its people in the long term.

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