

## Implementation of the KPU's Role in the 2024 Regional Elections in East Java

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**Abstract.** This article explores the strategic efforts of the General Elections Commission (KPU) in preparing for the 2024 Regional Elections (Pilkada), with a focus on improving procedures and preventing issues experienced in previous elections. Using a literature review method with a narrative synthesis approach, the study analyses data from credible databases such as Google Scholar, Scopus, and Science Direct. Findings highlight that political education initiatives, such as the “KPU Goes to School” and “KPU Goes to Campus” programs, play a critical role in fostering early political awareness and boosting participation among first-time voters. The KPU's supervision strategy encompasses internal monitoring and close coordination with the Election Supervisory Body (Bawaslu) to address violations and maintain electoral integrity. In East Java, particular emphasis is placed on validating voter data due to the region's size and complexity. Furthermore, participatory programs and technology-based innovations are employed to enhance transparency and uphold the credibility of the electoral process. The study concludes that the KPU's comprehensive oversight, strategic collaboration with Bawaslu, and active public engagement are fundamental in ensuring a fair, transparent, and dignified 2024 Pilkada. These efforts collectively strengthen the democratic process and contribute to more accountable local governance in Indonesia.

**Keywords:** Community participation; Election integrity; KPU; Political education; Regional elections;

### Implementasi Peran KPU dalam Pilkada 2024 di Jawa Timur

**Abstrak.** Artikel ini mengeksplorasi upaya strategis Komisi Pemilihan Umum (KPU) dalam mempersiapkan Pemilihan Umum Kepala Daerah (Pilkada) 2024, dengan fokus pada perbaikan prosedur dan pencegahan masalah yang dialami pada pilkada sebelumnya. Menggunakan metode tinjauan literatur dengan pendekatan sintesis naratif, studi ini menganalisis data dari basis data kredibel seperti Google Scholar, Scopus, dan Science Direct. Temuan menyoroti bahwa inisiatif pendidikan politik—seperti program “KPU Masuk Sekolah” dan “KPU Masuk Kampus”—memainkan peran penting dalam menumbuhkan kesadaran politik sejak dini dan meningkatkan partisipasi di kalangan pemilih pemula. Strategi pengawasan KPU mencakup pengawasan internal dan koordinasi erat dengan Badan Pengawas Pemilu (Bawaslu) untuk mengatasi pelanggaran dan menjaga integritas pemilu. Di Jawa Timur, penekanan khusus diberikan pada validasi data pemilih karena ukuran dan kompleksitas wilayahnya. Selain itu, program partisipatif dan inovasi berbasis teknologi digunakan untuk meningkatkan transparansi dan menegakkan kredibilitas proses pemilu. Penelitian ini menyimpulkan bahwa pengawasan komprehensif KPU, kolaborasi strategis dengan Bawaslu, dan pelibatan publik secara aktif sangat penting untuk memastikan Pilkada 2024 yang adil, transparan, dan bermartabat. Upaya-upaya ini secara kolektif memperkuat proses demokrasi dan berkontribusi pada tata kelola pemerintahan daerah yang lebih akuntabel di Indonesia.

**Kata Kunci:** Integritas Pemilu, KPU, Partisipasi masyarakat, Pendidikan Politik, Pilkada.

### INTRODUCTION

In the 2024 election, verification issues continued despite improvements made by the General Elections Commission (KPU) during the 2019 regional elections. Challenges faced included discrepancies such as political parties listing candidate names without their knowledge, raising concerns about data integrity. Nevertheless, the KPU continued to strengthen the verification process, implementing stricter fact-checking to maintain the confidentiality and accuracy of voter and participant data (Iswanto & Pamungkas, 2023; Kurniawan et al., 2023). As a result, nine political parties were declared to have passed and obtained seats in parliament. This process is regulated by Law



Number 7 of 2017, which has also been tested at the Constitutional Court, where several articles were considered discriminatory (Prayoga et al., 2023). Law Number 7 of 2017 concerning Elections provides the main legal framework governing the implementation of the 2024 Elections. Specifically, this law strengthens the integration between legislative elections and presidential elections at one time (simultaneous), establishes verification standards for political parties participating in the election, regulates an open proportional system for legislative elections, and clarifies the authority of election organizing institutions such as the KPU, Bawaslu, and DKPP. As a result, the 2024 Election process becomes more complex but more transparent, with a focus on accountability, efficiency of implementation, and protection of voter rights. Ahead of the 2024 regional elections, the KPU is expected to be able to apply the lessons learned from the previous regional elections and improve the verification system. With the absence of factual verification for parties that have passed the 2019 regional elections, new challenges have emerged, such as the potential for dual membership problems and inaccurate administrative data. Therefore, the KPU needs to carry out more transparent and accountable verification to ensure that each political party can meet the requirements set without discrimination (Sultan et al., 2022).

Ahead of the simultaneous regional elections planned for 2024, the government and the KPU have prepared various strategic steps to avoid problems faced in previous regional elections. The postponement of the regional elections, which should have been held in 2022 and 2023, is an important issue that needs to be anticipated, considering that there will be vacancies in many regions, which could affect the government's legitimacy (KPU Kabupaten Malang, 2021). The KPU is expected to accelerate planning and preparation to ensure that the implementation of the 2024 regional elections can run smoothly and prioritise community participation. Community involvement in the election process is crucial because it will determine the legitimacy of the elected regional leader (Syarifuddin & Hasanah, 2020). Good preparation includes socialising the election steps to the public and establishing an efficient election committee. In addition, it is essential to ensure that voter information is updated and accurate so that every citizen can participate (Pinilih, 2017; Ravanilla et al., 2022). Dedication from all parties, including local governments and monitoring organisations, is essential to creating a fair and open election environment.

The implementation of Law Number 7 of 2017 concerning General Elections in Indonesia has become the primary guideline in regulating the election process, including campaigns, to create a series of democratic, honest, and fair elections (Lutfil, 2017; Saleh, 2008). In the national context, Article 280 of this Law stipulates various prohibitions during the campaign, such as using government facilities, places of worship, and educational institutions, as well as prohibitions on inciting, inciting conflict, or making money promises to voters (Hakam Sholahuddin et al., 2019). However, even though these rules are clear, violations often occur in various regions during the election. For example, in the 2019 election campaign in Blitar Regency, many were still found, such as Campaign Equipment (APK) in prohibited places, the use of state facilities, and campaigns that did not comply with the rules (Pemerintah Kabupaten Blitar, 2024). Handling of these violations is carried out through a series of procedures, starting from giving written warnings to campaign participants to forced cleaning by Satpol PP if there is no corrective action within 1x24 hours after the warning (Hakam Sholahuddin et al., 2019). The phenomenon of campaign violations that occurred in Blitar Regency shows that there are more significant challenges in enforcing campaign regulations in Indonesia. Although Law Number 7 of 2017 has provided a comprehensive legal basis, its implementation is still hampered by several factors, such as the lack of understanding of Pilkada participants regarding existing regulations and weak supervision in the field.

One of the challenges in implementing this Law is the consistency of supervision and law enforcement. The Election Supervisory Body (Bawaslu) is critical in detecting and handling violations. Still, its supervision capacity and resources are often inadequate compared to the large-scale campaigns in Indonesia. In addition, legal awareness education among election participants and the public is still low, so campaign practices that violate the rules are often considered normal. To improve this condition, synergy is needed between the KPU, Bawaslu, law enforcement officers, and the public to improve supervision and ensure that violations are dealt with firmly (Pradayana & Rohman, 2024). Strengthening the violation reporting system using technology and actively involving independent Pilkada supervisors can also be an alternative to improving supervision. In addition, it is important to increase the operational budget and human resource capacity of Bawaslu at the regional level so that supervision can be carried out more efficiently and comprehensively (Abqa et al., 2022). This will realise the implementation of Pilkada with integrity to strengthen democracy in Indonesia (Gunawan et al., 2024).

Implementing the Pilkada includes the election of Governors, Regents, and Mayors with a 5-year term of office. The implementation of the simultaneous Pilkada in East Java in 2024 can be examined to realise simultaneous Pilkada that are democratic, constitutional, peaceful, and dignified. The role of the community is the most important part of the Pilkada implementation process to ensure that the Pilkada is implemented honestly, fairly, and democratically. Pilkada supervision should involve many parties, including the mass media, to oversee the Pilkada implementation process in all its stages. Our collective commitment is an integrative supervision system in preventing and anticipating various forms of Pilkada violations, which can prevent political conflicts from leading to violence, such as abuse of office, partisanship of Pilkada organisers, and political mobilisation through intimidation (coercion) and enticements (persuasion) such as positions, goods, and money (Mahanum, 2021). In the context of holding simultaneous regional elections in 2024, the problem of data verification is one of the serious challenges that must be anticipated. Several previous studies have shown that in the process of verifying political parties and voter lists, various problems are often found, such as dual membership, fictitious data, and discrepancies between administrative documents and facts on the ground.

The Perludem study (2019) noted that in party membership verification, many individuals were registered in more than one political party without their knowledge, indicating a weak internal party data management system. In addition, reliance on internal administrative systems that are not standardized nationally increases the potential for errors and data manipulation. Factual verification by the KPU, although tightened, is often only carried out through limited sampling methods, allowing inaccurate data to slip through. Research also shows that there is political pressure on election organizers, especially in areas with sharp political competition, which leads to bias in the verification process. On the other hand, public involvement in monitoring verification is still very low, even though public participation is needed to encourage transparency and accountability. Therefore, the implementation of the 2024 Pilkada requires more integrative and collaborative supervision, involving all parties, including the mass media, to prevent various forms of violations that can trigger political conflict and damage democratic principles.

Implementing Pilkada (Regional Head Elections) in Indonesia has undergone several stages to ensure the success and transparency of the democratic process. In 2024, the implementation of Pilkada, which includes regional head elections, will be carried out simultaneously in the same year, along with the presidential and legislative elections (Fernando et al., 2024; Lisma & A.L.W, 2017). This is expected to create efficiency in spending and increase public participation in determining leaders. The process of implementing the Pilkada begins with thorough preparation by the KPU (General Election

Commission), where various aspects such as the budget, permanent voter list, and logistics must be ensured to be in good condition (Chaniago, 2016). The General Election Commission (KPU) also verifies regional head candidates and regulates the nomination process to meet applicable legal requirements. The existence of the Election Supervisory Body (Bawaslu) is crucial in overseeing the implementation of the Pilkada to prevent violations and ensure honest and fair implementation (Kartika Nabela & Arfa'i, 2023). Transparency and accountability are the main concerns in implementing simultaneous regional head elections in 2024 to ensure the election process. The General Election Commission has implemented an integrated information technology system to accelerate vote counting and provide convenience for the public to monitor directly (Reza Yuna Dwi Rahmawati & Sulton Fikri, 2022). In addition, active participation from the public and independent supervisory institutions is essential in overseeing each phase of the Pilkada, from voter registration to determining the final results. In addition, the active participation of the community and independent supervisory institutions is very important in overseeing each stage of the Pilkada, from voter registration to the determination of the final results. Improving the transparency and integrity of the election, as well as addressing data verification issues, are crucial to ensure that the 2024 Pilkada in East Java will be conducted honestly, fairly, and democratically. Without improvements in this aspect, there is a high risk of data manipulation, administrative violations, and delegitimization of election results that can trigger public distrust and potential political conflict at the local level.

Socialisation to the community regarding the importance of their involvement in the Pilkada is also carried out to increase political awareness. This strategy includes educational activities to introduce and explain the candidates and the programs they are promoting. This article discusses the role of the General Election Commission (KPU) in increasing the integrity and transparency of the Pilkada through supervision, political education, and collaboration with Bawaslu. In its implementation, this socialisation can be carried out through various traditional and digital media to reach all levels of society. Implementing the Pilkada must also pay attention to the aspects of legitimacy and integrity, which means that every candidate and contestant must follow the rules set out in the Pilkada law to ensure healthy competition. To support this, information technology is needed to facilitate supervision and accountability. The use of interconnected information systems can also help in collecting voter data and preventing fraud. Finally, the results of the Pilkada implementation will usually be published after it has taken place. If there are parties who feel disadvantaged or there are allegations of violations, they can file an election dispute under the applicable regulations (Suwardi, 2023). Transparency in managing election conflicts is essential to maintaining public trust in this democratic system.

## RESEARCH METHODS

A literature review was chosen as the method for this research. A literature review is a framework, concept, or orientation for analysing and classifying facts collected during the research process (Putra & Sajida, 2023). In this study, inclusion and exclusion criteria were applied to ensure the quality and relevance of the sources. Inclusion criteria included peer-reviewed journal articles, academic books, and reputable publications in the last five years that discussed election governance, political education, and election monitoring in Indonesia. Sources that were outdated, non-academic, or lacked methodological rigor were excluded. Reference sources are collected from various well-known academic databases such as Google Scholar, Scopus, Sage Publications, and ScienceDirect, to ensure that the materials used meet high academic standards (Bambang Suprianto, 2023; Huda et al., 2022). Keywords such as "KPU," "Pilkada 2024," "Political Education," "Pilkada Supervision," and "KPU-Bawaslu Synergy" are used to systematically find relevant articles. The research used in writing

this article is dominated by journal articles indexed by SINTA 1–4, which discuss the “election” contestation in Indonesia, with a total of 30 articles.

The research team conducted a collaborative analysis, where each team member was given the responsibility to review a particular article independently. After that, a structured discussion session was held to evaluate and agree on the selection of articles that were most relevant to the research focus. The selected articles were then analyzed using a descriptive analysis method, which focused on exploring and summarizing important aspects such as research objectives, methodology, main findings, and identified challenges. This approach resulted in a clear mapping of the existing state of knowledge in this field. At the analysis stage, a narrative synthesis approach was used. This process involved identifying recurring themes, patterns, and gaps in the literature reviewed. Emerging themes were categorized through an iterative coding process, where initial categories were revised through several discussions until consensus was reached. With this method, the research team was able to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the existing research landscape, while also proposing a new conceptual framework related to political education and election supervision in the context of the 2024 Pilkada.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Direct Regional Head Elections (Pilkada) play a pivotal role in advancing democracy at the local level, providing a platform for regional leaders who reflect the will of the majority and ensuring government stability. As O'Neill famously said, "all politics is local," meaning that the health of democracy at the national level depends on the strength of democratic practices at the local level (Azzahro et al., 2023). Pilkada serves as both a political practice and a training ground for future political careers, while also acting as a system of checks and balances between regional leaders and the DPRD, safeguarding against the abuse of power. The active participation of citizens in Pilkada fosters greater political awareness, strengthens local democracy, and aligns with Indonesia's decentralization and regional autonomy reforms (Putra & Jeflin, 2025). In this context, the role of the General Election Commission (KPU) is crucial in ensuring that the election process is free, fair, and transparent. As the institution responsible for organizing and overseeing the Pilkada, the KPU's effectiveness directly impacts the quality of local and national democracy, particularly during the 2024 simultaneous regional elections.

As one of the provinces with the largest population and complex political dynamics, East Java has a strategic role in determining the development direction at the national and regional levels. Regional elections are not only an opportunity to elect a leader but also reflect the level of democracy in Indonesia. This democratic process involves various important aspects, including increasing public political understanding, transparent implementation, and independent supervision. In this case, the General Election Commission (KPU) ensures that every step in the Pilkada is carried out correctly, from the preparation to the implementation stage. As a responsible institution, the KPU prioritises technical matters such as arranging election logistics and participates in increasing political awareness among the general public. This includes in-depth efforts to make voters more critical, better understand democracy, and actively participate. The role of the KPU needs to be improved so that the action of abstaining from voting by the community can be avoided. Abstaining, or what is known as the white group, is a choice for voters not to vote. The term abstaining emerged when a group of students protested by not voting in the 1971 Election during the New Order regime (Dewi et al., 2022).

In East Java, this challenge requires an innovative and adaptive approach to local needs due to the characteristics of a diverse society and a large population. It is hoped that the KPU can maximise its role in maintaining the quality of democracy at the local and national levels by using an approach

that is adapted to local social and cultural dynamics (Rois'am et al., 2023). In addition, the 2024 Pilkada is an opportunity to strengthen democratic culture through public education, such as political education, by targeting various groups, from first-time voters to indigenous peoples. The KPU focuses not only on comprehensive political education but also on strict supervision and synergy with the Election Supervisory Body (Bawaslu) and other related parties to ensure that every step of the Pilkada is carried out with the principles of justice and openness. Efforts to strengthen this democratic culture must be supported by digital technology and social media, which are increasingly important in disseminating information to the public. The East Java KPU can maximise digital platforms to reach young people who are potential voters and active in cyberspace. In addition, establishing cooperation with community leaders, religious leaders, and traditional leaders is important in creating trust and community involvement at the grassroots level. This culture-based strategy must align with strengthening the supervision system that uses technology to avoid fraud and vote manipulation and ensure the openness of the election process from start to finish.

### **Political Education**

Education is a systematic process to increase human dignity or knowledge, so that the level of life can develop optimally. Politics is a science related to power and society, growing together with great civilisation. Every era certainly has a ruler, and each ruler has policies to prosper their people. It can be said that political education is a learning process to improve individual or group understanding of politics and government, which includes basic concepts and civic awareness, and encourages active participation in community life. In addition, political education can develop critical analytical skills on political and social issues. However, the implementation of political education that has been carried out has not been effective because the majority is applied to active political party members and still minimally reaches the wider community. One method that can be applied to provide the effect of public involvement and political decisions that are not yet optimal is political education through formal schools, namely educational paths at the school and college levels. (Ahmad, 2024).

According to (Sugara et al., 2024) The Kediri Regency KPU implements formal political education through the KPU to School activity as one of the education programs for new voters dominated by Generation Z by visiting secondary education levels, namely SMA, SMK, and equivalent, which are on average 17-18 years old in grades 11 and 12. In addition, the Kediri Regency KPU also carries out political education at Islamic Boarding Schools in Kediri Regency with the theme "Increasing Political Participation of Islamic Boarding School Students". The KPU also optimises the role of political education with the campus activity by becoming a resource person at several invited Universities and Colleges in Kediri Regency, where Generation Y and Z dominate. This activity is packaged as socialisation about the Smart Voting Movement with the theme "Millennial Voices Towards the 2024 Democratic Party".

According to (Sugara et al., 2024) Generation Z, individuals born between 1997 and 2012, will play a significant role in the 2024 General Election, both as first-time voters and active participants in political discourse. With the growing influence of social media and digital platforms, Generation Z is becoming increasingly aware of political issues and eager to engage in the electoral process. This generation is more likely to seek information from online sources, participate in online discussions, and advocate for political causes they believe in. Their involvement in the 2024 General Election will not only influence the outcome but also shape future political trends as they bring fresh perspectives on issues such as social justice, climate change, and digital rights. As a result, it is essential to provide political education targeted at Generation Z to ensure they are well-informed and actively participate in shaping the future of Indonesian democracy.



**Figure 1.** Socialization “KPU Goes to School” in Kediri City

*Source:* Processed from <https://suaramedianasional.co.id/kpu-kota-kediri-goes-to-school-nobar-film-tepatilah-janji/>

There is a reason why political education is very much needed, especially if the 2024 General Election were held yesterday. Usually, new voters with inadequate political literacy tend to follow trends in their neighbourhoods and are constantly targeted by political parties because new voters are volatile and easily influenced. New voters are very enthusiastic when their decision to vote is not yet final. Even their political choices are not yet influenced by specific ideological motivations and are more driven by the context of the dynamics of the local political environment, according to observation (Niode & Sandiah, 2023). This shows that new high school voters, including new voters at SMU Negeri 9 and SMU Negeri 9 Binus Manado, are ignorant about politics, including shortcomings in the General and Regional Elections.

Political education is expected to encourage people to be responsible and participate maximally in various ways and media used (see the Table 1). In the current era, political media adapts to existing technological developments. Information technology has significantly changed the political landscape by expanding access to information and facilitating interaction between government and society. This allows people to become more informed about relevant political issues and strengthen their participation in the political process (Sujastika et al., 2024) However, something needs to be underlined regarding technology development in the current era, namely, being aware of political issues that are not true or lead to bad opinions that denigrate a party. Ongoing efforts are needed to avoid these risks and ensure that information technology access and use in politics are fair, safe, and responsible.

**Table 1.** Explanatory Matrix in the Aspect of Political Education

No.	Topic	Description
1.	Education	Education is a systematic process to improve human dignity and knowledge, enhancing the quality of life.
2.	Politics	Politics is the science of power and social communities that grow together with great civilizations. Every era has rulers who make policies to ensure the welfare of their people.
3.	Political Education	Political education is a learning process to enhance understanding of politics and government, covering basic concepts, citizenship awareness, and encouraging active social participation.

4.	Challenges in Political Education	Political education is ineffective, primarily targeting political party members and not reaching the broader public. A key method to improve this is formal education in schools and universities.
5.	Role of Technology in Politics	Technology has transformed political landscapes, expanding access to information and facilitating government-messaging interactions, enabling informed political participation.
6.	Challenges of Technology	While technology enhances political engagement, it also carries risks, such as misinformation. Efforts must be made to ensure the responsible use of technology in politics.
7.	Collaboration for Ethical Use of Technology	Collaboration among the government, digital platforms, and civil society is necessary to ensure the ethical use of technology in politics. Governments must regulate, platforms verify content, and the public should improve digital literacy.

To realise the ethical use of information technology in the political sphere, active cooperation between the government, digital media platforms, and civil society is needed. The government can play a role by implementing appropriate regulations and monitoring the dissemination of information. At the same time, digital media platforms need to improve their methods of content verification and fake news detection. On the other hand, the public must also improve their digital literacy skills by honing critical thinking skills in sorting information, checking facts before disseminating content, and participating in political discussions politely and constructively. Political learning in the digital age should not only focus on understanding the political system. However, it should also include developing digital citizenship skills that enable individuals to participate effectively and responsibly in digital democracy.

Communication technologies, such as mobile applications and digital verification systems, play a critical role in ensuring clear oversight and transparency in the implementation of the 2024 elections. Mobile applications, for example, like the Pemilu 2024 Mobile App, can provide real-time access to up-to-date election information, voting procedures, and results, empowering voters with the information they need to make informed decisions. In addition, e-Voting systems could enable secure electronic voting through mobile platforms, streamlining the voting process. Digital verification systems, such as e-KTP (Electronic Identity Cards) and blockchain technology, can be used to enhance the credibility of election data by verifying voters' identities and ensuring the integrity of the vote-counting process. Blockchain can provide a secure, tamper-proof ledger of votes, making it easier to track and verify results. Furthermore, *Sistem Informasi Pengawasan Pemilu* (SIPP) and real-time data dashboards offer platforms for election monitoring, allowing citizens, election observers, and related institutions to track election progress, report issues, and identify potential problems. These technologies also include tools to combat misinformation, like social media monitoring platforms, to ensure the accuracy of information. By leveraging these tools, the KPU and other relevant authorities can increase public trust in the election process, reduce the risk of election fraud, and improve the overall fairness and accountability of the 2024 elections.

### KPU Supervision in the 2024 Regional Elections

The General Election Commission (KPU) has a strategic role in overseeing the 2024 Pilkada so that it takes place honestly, fairly, and democratically. The General Election Commission (KPU) plays a vital role in implementing regional head elections (see more in the Table 2 below). The KPU was formed to reduce government interference in implementing elections (Amelia et al., 2022). The KPU oversees the entire election process, from supervision and vote counting to determining the results (Aermadepa et al., 2024). As an election organising institution, the KPU is not only responsible for

technical stages such as candidate registration, vote counting, and determining the winner, but also ensures that each process runs according to applicable regulations. KPU supervision in the 2024 Pilkada involves various dimensions, starting from internal supervision through the formation of a work unit that is responsible for each stage, to collaboration with the Election Supervisory Body (Bawaslu) to ensure that there are no violations that can harm the democratic process.

The KPU has an important role in disseminating information and providing political education to the public to increase understanding and participation in the democratic election process. In carrying out its functions, the KPU is expected to be neutral, professional, and open to maintain the institution's credibility and public trust. In addition, the KPU needs to adapt to technological advances and face modern challenges, such as hoaxes and information manipulation, that may impact the integrity of the regional elections. Through comprehensive and technology-based supervision, the KPU seeks to reduce the possibility of fraud and ensure the protection of the voting rights of all citizens. As an election-organizing institution, the KPU is also responsible for coordinating efficiently with various stakeholders, including local governments, security forces, and civil society organisations, to create a positive election atmosphere. One important aspect of KPU supervision is the implementation of strict regulations on registering regional head candidates. This process includes verification of administrative documents, such as completeness of educational requirements, finances, and candidate track records. In the 2024 Pilkada, this supervision is intensified using a digital system to minimize the potential for document manipulation.

In addition, the KPU also strives to maintain the integrity of the registration process by prioritising transparency, such as providing public access to the list of candidates who have passed verification. In addition to supervising candidates, the KPU is also tasked with ensuring that the distribution of regional election logistics, such as ballot papers, ballot boxes, and stationery, runs on time and according to needs in each region. Regional election logistics are one of the biggest challenges, especially in remote areas that are difficult to reach. To overcome this obstacle, the KPU works with local governments and security forces to ensure that distribution runs smoothly. (Putra et al., 2024). Regional election logistics are supervised by tracking technology so that each distribution stage can be monitored in real-time. The campaign stage is the next focus of supervision. In the 2024 Regional Election, the KPU is supervising the implementation of the campaign by established regulations, such as the prohibition on the use of state facilities, money politics, and black campaigns. The use of social media platforms as a means of campaigning also attracts special attention.

The KPU, Bawaslu, and the Ministry of Communication and Information are working together to detect and take action against accounts that spread hoaxes, hate speech, or content that leads to disinformation. In addition, the KPU educates the public about the importance of voting intelligently and based on the vision and mission of the candidates, not on unrealistic political promises. On election day, KPU supervision is increasingly strict. The KPU ensures that Polling Stations (TPS) have met standards in terms of completeness of logistics and readiness of officers. Supervision is carried out to avoid violations, such as vote manipulation, voter intimidation, or illegal use of voting rights. Monitoring involves supervisory officers at each TPS and uses technology-based applications to report incidents directly. The vote-counting stage is also not free from supervision. The KPU uses an electronic counting system to speed up the process and minimize errors. However, to maintain accountability, this process is still supervised manually by witnesses from each candidate and independent supervisors. Transparency of the vote counting results is a priority for the KPU so that public trust in the democratic process is maintained.

**Table 2.** KPU’s Role and Responsibilities

No.	Aspect	Description	Analysis
1.	Role of KPU	KPU is crucial in disseminating information and providing political education to increase public understanding and participation in democratic elections.	Focus on neutrality, professionalism, and transparency to maintain institutional credibility and public trust.
2.	Adaptation to Technology	KPU must adapt to technological advancements and address challenges such as misinformation and manipulation.	Technology-based oversight is essential for reducing fraud and protecting voter rights.
3.	Coordination with Stakeholders	KPU collaborates with local governments, security forces, and civil society to ensure a positive election environment.	Efficient coordination strengthens election integrity and public engagement.
4.	Candidate Registration Oversight	KPU enforces strict regulations on candidate registration, including verifying educational, financial, and track record requirements.	Digital systems minimize document manipulation, with public transparency on verified candidates.
5.	Logistics Management	KPU ensures the timely and adequate distribution of election logistics, even in remote areas.	Real-time tracking technology improves monitoring and addresses logistical challenges effectively.
6.	Campaign Monitoring	KPU oversees compliance with campaign rules, such as prohibitions on state facility use, vote-buying, and black campaigns.	Social media platforms are monitored for misinformation and hate speech, with public education on informed voting.
7.	Voting and Counting Supervision	On voting day, KPU ensures that polling stations meet standards and monitors for violations such as vote manipulation or voter intimidation.	Electronic and manual vote-counting systems are used for accuracy and transparency.
8.	Collaboration with Bawaslu	KPU works closely with Bawaslu to ensure compliance at every election stage and respond to violations.	Public involvement in oversight enhances accountability and quick response to issues.

Collaboration between the KPU and Bawaslu is the key to the success of the 2024 Pilkada supervision. Bawaslu supervises every stage of the Pilkada, from candidate registration and campaigning to voting and vote counting. This organisation is committed to ensuring that the process follows applicable provisions. In addition, Bawaslu also enforces regulations to ensure that campaigns are free from money politics and abuse of authority and to ensure fair policies (Octavia & Anwar, 2024). Bawaslu, as an external supervisory institution, provides input and reports on findings of violations in the field. The KPU then follows up on the report with actions according to the rules. This synergy ensures that the 2024 Pilkada process runs by the corridors of law and democracy. In addition, the KPU also collaborates with civil society, the media, and non-governmental organizations to participate in supervision. This public participation is an effective form of social supervision because the public can directly report indications of violations that occur in their environment. With community involvement, the KPU can immediately take steps to correct or handle these violations.

## KPU Supervision in the 2024 East Java Regional Elections

KPU supervision in the 2024 East Java (Jatim) Pilkada requires a specific approach, considering that this region has unique characteristics. As one of Indonesia's provinces with the most significant number of voters, East Java presents its challenges in managing and supervising each stage of the Pilkada. One of the focuses of KPU supervision in East Java is updating voter data. With a large and diverse population, voter data validation is a significant challenge. The East Java KPU collaborates with local governments, the population, and civil registration offices to ensure that the voter data is the latest and most accurate. This process involves direct field verification to minimize the potential for duplicate data or voters who do not meet the requirements. The East Java Provincial Election Commission (KPU Jatim) actively monitors the 2024 regional head elections. Various strategic steps have been taken to ensure the quality and integrity of the Pilkada in this province, considering East Java is one of the regions with the most significant number of voters in Indonesia. One of the main steps taken is holding a coordination meeting to strengthen the synergy of supervision. The meeting discussed various strategic issues, such as mitigating legal problems, anticipating potential violations, and dispute-handling strategies. The Chairman of the East Java KPU, Aang Kunaifi, emphasised the importance of collaboration between the KPU and Bawaslu and involving security forces to ensure the implementation of a safe and fair regional election.

The East Java KPU also pays great attention to voter data validation. With a large population, the data updating process is carried out through factual verification involving the population and the civil registration office. This effort ensures that voter data is free from duplication or administrative errors that can harm certain parties. In addition, the East Java KPU encourages the participation of the younger generation in supervising the regional elections through a participatory supervision program. The younger generation is invited to play an active role in supervising the stages of the regional elections and becoming socialization agents in their environment. This effort aims to raise awareness of the importance of maintaining the integrity of democracy at the grassroots level. To support regional head candidates, the East Java KPU has provided a unique helpdesk service that helps them fulfil all administrative requirements. This helpdesk is an information and consultation centre, ensuring smooth registration and nomination processes. On voting day, the East Java KPU strengthens supervision by involving thousands of supervisors at each TPS and utilising technology to monitor the voting process in real-time. In addition, disability-friendly facilities are also provided at TPS to ensure inclusivity for voters with special needs. All these efforts are designed to realize fair, transparent, and democratic regional elections in East Java.

The vote-counting process in East Java (Jatim) is one of the stages that is closely monitored. The East Java General Election Commission (KPU) is committed to reporting every vote counting result from the Polling Stations (TPS) to the district/city level transparently. In this process, witnesses from each candidate and independent supervisors are involved to ensure no data manipulation. In addition, implementing an electronic-based vote-counting system can also be maximized to increase the efficiency and accuracy of the vote-counting results. Cooperation with the East Java Election Supervisory Agency (Bawaslu) is an important element in supervising this province's regional head elections (Pilkada). Bawaslu East Java actively reports its findings in the field, which the East Java KPU follows up on. The synergy between the two institutions functions as a preventive measure to prevent violations that can damage the integrity of the Pilkada. Overall, KPU supervision in the 2024 East Java Pilkada is a comprehensive effort that involves various aspects, from validating voter data and distributing logistics to supervising the implementation of the campaign and vote counting. With a systematic approach and involving various parties, the East Java KPU is optimistic that it can hold

honest, fair, and democratic regional elections, while at the same time providing public confidence in the regional election process in Indonesia.

### Synergy Between KPU and Bawaslu

The synergy between the General Election Commission (KPU) and the Election Supervisory Body (Bawaslu) is one of the keys to ensuring the implementation of honest, fair, and democratic regional elections in Indonesia. These two institutions have different but complementary functions, where the KPU manages all stages of the regional elections. In contrast, Bawaslu supervises, prevents, and handles violations. This synergy is regulated in various regulations, such as Law Number 7 of 2017, which regulates the cooperation mechanism between the two. Within this framework, the KPU and Bawaslu must coordinate, utilizing formal methods such as written reports and informal dialogues to address various problems. At the national level, this type of synergy has a clear division of tasks and responsibilities. The KPU is responsible for overseeing technical operations, including managing logistics, updating the Permanent Voters List (DPT), and holding regional elections on time. Bawaslu is tasked with monitoring violations such as money politics, black campaigns, and misinformation. Their collaboration also includes social initiatives to increase voter engagement and educate the public about the importance of fair regional elections. With the help of information technology, both institutions will work hard to increase transparency during the regional election process (Abqa et al., 2022).

In the 2024 Pilkada campaign, Bawaslu plays an important role in upholding East Java's justice principles. As a law enforcement agency, Bawaslu handles reports of election violations, including misuse of state resources and acts of intimidation. Cooperation between Bawaslu East Java and KPU is involved in various areas such as dispute resolution, joint socialization efforts, and monitoring campaigns featuring single candidates with empty boxes. Effective coordination is essential to prevent serious violations that can endanger democracy, including money politics and voter data manipulation (Maulidan, 2025). The implementation in Medan City is a real example of how the synergy between KPU and Bawaslu can be applied effectively. Planning is done by recruiting professional human resources, using social media for socialization, and taking quick action against lawsuits or results that can disrupt the election. This effort is supported by regular communication between KPU and Bawaslu, both in formal forms such as official meetings and informally through daily discussions (Islam et al., 2024) Although the cooperation between the KPU and Bawaslu has produced good results, problems such as uneven logistics distribution, high workloads, and errors in vote recapitulation remain. Therefore, to overcome these problems, improving the mitigation system, employee training, and using more efficient technology is necessary. With good cooperation, it is hoped that it can continue to improve the quality of the Pilkada in Indonesia and build a stronger and more reliable democracy.

**Table 3.** Matric of Synergy Between KPU and Bawaslu in Pilkada 2024

No.	Aspect	Description
1.	Main Function	1. KPU: Manages all stages of Pilkada, including logistics, the Permanent Voter List (DPT), and the implementation of Pilkada. 2. Bawaslu: Supervises, prevents, and handles violations during the Pilkada process, such as money politics, black campaigns, and misinformation.
2.	Legal Basis	1. Law Number 7 of 2017 regulates the mechanism of cooperation and division of tasks between KPU and Bawaslu.
3.	Synergy Method	1. Formal coordination through written reports and official meetings. 2. Informal dialogues to resolve issues quickly and effectively. 3. Utilization of information technology to enhance transparency and communication.

4.	Division of Duties	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. KPU: Manages technical operations such as logistics, DPT, and Pilkada schedules.</li> <li>2. Bawaslu: Supervises violations, including misuse of state resources, intimidation, and data manipulation.</li> </ol>
5.	Collaboration	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Joint resolution of Pilkada disputes.</li> <li>2. Joint socialization efforts to increase voter participation and public education.</li> <li>3. Campaign monitoring, including campaigns of single candidates against blank boxes.</li> </ol>
6.	Local Initiative	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Formation of joint coordination teams at the local level to address operational challenges.</li> <li>2. Example from Medan City: Recruitment of professional human resources, socialization through social media, and routine formal and informal communication between KPU and Bawaslu.</li> </ol>
7.	Technological Innovation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Use of mobile applications to report violations.</li> <li>2. Digital verification system for voter registration.</li> <li>3. Real-time monitoring during the voting process and logistics distribution.</li> </ol>
8.	Challenges	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Uneven distribution of logistics.</li> <li>2. High workload due to a large number of voters.</li> <li>3. Errors in vote recapitulation.</li> <li>4. Spread of hoaxes and negative influence on public opinion.</li> </ol>
9.	Proposed Solutions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Improving mitigation systems through human resource training.</li> <li>2. Developing technology for efficient supervision and data accuracy.</li> <li>3. Collaborative education and socialization programs to encourage public participation.</li> </ol>
10.	Expected Outcomes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Honest, fair, and transparent Pilkada.</li> <li>2. Reduction of violations and manipulation during the Pilkada stages.</li> <li>3. Increased public trust in democracy.</li> <li>4. Increased active public participation, including among the younger generation.</li> </ol>
11.	Main Function	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. KPU: Manages all stages of Pilkada, including logistics, the Permanent Voter List (DPT), and the implementation of Pilkada.</li> <li>2. Bawaslu: Supervises, prevents, and handles violations during the Pilkada process, such as money politics, black campaigns, and misinformation.</li> </ol>

Improving Human Resources (HR) capacity through training between the KPU and Bawaslu is crucial for effective election supervision. Both institutions should establish an interconnected information system for direct data exchange, speeding up the identification and handling of violations. At the local level, joint coordination teams between the KPU and Bawaslu have proven effective in addressing operational challenges. The development of technologies like mobile apps for reporting violations and digital verification systems for voter registration should be enhanced to improve data accuracy and accelerate problem-solving. Additionally, encouraging active community participation in election supervision through collaborative educational and socialization programs by the KPU and Bawaslu is essential.

## CONCLUSION

This article discusses the important role of the General Election Commission (KPU) in organizing the 2024 simultaneous Regional Head Elections (Pilkada) in East Java as part of efforts to strengthen democracy in Indonesia. Verification of political parties, voter data security, and human resource management are significant issues for the KPU. One of the most prominent issues during the

2019 Pilkada was the high death rate of Pilkada officers and inaccurate membership data. Therefore, a comprehensive evaluation is needed, including the use of information technology to ensure accuracy and transparency. At every stage of the election, from candidate registration to vote counting, the KPU carries out intense supervision. The KPU also works with Bawaslu to stop violations such as money politics and black campaigns. In contrast, Political Education focuses on increasing public awareness about the importance of wise and self-aware political participation, especially among first-time voters. Synergy between the KPU and Bawaslu ensures a democratic and fair Pilkada. Both work together to supervise, socialize, and resolve disputes.

However, problems such as uneven logistics distribution and high workloads still need to be resolved through training and technology adoption. East Java is one of the largest provinces with many problems when conducting elections. This includes logistical problems and voter data validation. To support the integrity of democracy, the East Java KPU uses a technology-based approach and participatory programs. So, this article emphasises how important it is to improve the integrity and professionalism of the KPU, work with Bawaslu, and actively involve the community to ensure that the 2024 Pilkada is honest, fair, and democratic. These efforts are expected to help strengthen Indonesian democracy.

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