



## The Role of Bawaslu Palangka Raya City in Overseeing the Abuse of Voting Rights in the 2024 Election

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**Abstract:** General elections are a manifestation of popular sovereignty as stipulated in the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia, which is carried out directly, publicly, freely, confidentially, honestly and fairly. An election process that takes place with integrity is essential to ensure the legitimacy of the outcome and to maintain public confidence in the democratic system. However, abuse of voting rights, such as voting more than once at one or more polling stations, is one form of serious violation that can undermine the integrity of elections. This study aims to explore the role of the Election Supervisory Agency (Bawaslu) of Palangka Raya City in maintaining the validity of ballots in the Presidential, Vice Presidential, and Legislative Elections, as well as examining the supervisory strategies implemented to deal with violations committed by certain individuals. By using a systematic monitoring approach, strict law enforcement, and socialization related to violations in elections, Bawaslu is expected to ensure the implementation of elections that are fair, democratic, and in accordance with applicable legal principles. This research provides an in-depth description of the efforts made by Bawaslu in strengthening the election supervision process to prevent fraudulent practices and ensure the sustainability of a healthy democracy.

**Keyword:** Bawaslu, Election 2024, Supervision, Role.

### INTRODUCTION

Article 1 point 1 of Law Number 8 of 2012 concerning General Elections states that “General Elections, hereinafter referred to as Elections, are a means of exercising the sovereignty of the people, held directly, publicly, freely, confidentially, honestly, and fairly in the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia based on Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia. The term “General Elections,” or often referred to as “Pemilu,” according to the provisions of Article 1 point 1 of Law Number 7 of 2017 concerning General Elections, is a means for the people to elect members of the People's Council, Regional Representative Council, President and Vice President, and also to elect members of the Regional Representative Council. All of this is done directly, publicly, freely, confidentially, honestly, and fairly in accordance with Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of

Indonesia. The general elections (Pemilu) to be held in 2024 are an important moment in the democratic system in Indonesia, where the election of the President and Vice President, members of the People's Representative Council of the Republic of Indonesia (DPR RI), the Regional Representative Council (DPD), as well as the Provincial Representative Council and Regency/City Representative Council will take place. General elections reflect the sovereignty of the people, which has a legal framework and involves various elements of society, by providing the widest possible opportunity for the people to participate in the formation of a government based on law (Arifani, 2022). Therefore, given that the government formed must be based on law, the conduct of general elections must strictly comply with all existing regulations.

Article 533 of Law Number 7 of 2017 on General Elections has stipulated that the effective and transparent application of the law is crucial to maintaining the integrity of the elections and ensuring that every vote is counted fairly. Thus, collaboration between the government, election organizers, and the public is essential in creating a democratic and high-quality election process. As an election violation, especially one related to violations that occur during voting, the use of another person's identity in general elections is an illegal act and constitutes a violation (Prawira, 2019). This occurs when individuals use personal information such as names, identity numbers (KTP), or other official documents for certain purposes in elections (Armaini & Khalid, 2024).

The elections themselves are conducted by the General Election Commission (KPU) and supervised by the Election Supervisory Agency (Bawaslu). This is regulated in Article 22 E Paragraph (5) of the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia, which states that "Elections shall be conducted by the KPU, which is national, permanent, and independent." Therefore, one of the institutions that plays an important role in general elections is Bawaslu, which operates at the central and provincial levels, as well as at the regency/city level.

The Election Supervisory Agency has the task of monitoring the conduct of elections throughout Indonesia. The main task of Bawaslu is to ensure that the elections are conducted fairly and democratically. In addition, Bawaslu also has the right to receive reports, investigate violations, and impose sanctions on parties who violate election regulations (Manik & Siregar, 2025). Bawaslu was established specifically to oversee every stage of the election process, receive complaints, handle cases of administrative election violations, and criminal election violations in accordance with Article 92 of Law Number 7 of 2017 on General Elections. Bawaslu plays a very important role, equivalent to that of the KPU, in organizing elections, where Bawaslu functions as an election supervisor and has the responsibility to resolve issues that arise during the implementation of elections.

The success of general elections is highly dependent on their fair and transparent implementation, as well as on the importance of enforcing the law related to violations that may occur in the voting process. The abuse of voting rights during elections is a serious violation that can undermine democracy and the integrity of the electoral process (Breedon & Bryant, 2018). The practice of voter abuse, which includes the use of invalid votes, forgery, and manipulation, is clearly an important issue that can undermine the reliability of the general election process and reduce public confidence in the results. The General Election Supervisory Agency (Bawaslu) has the primary responsibility to monitor election activities, including ensuring security so that no individual has the potential to commit voter abuse.

Based on the background of the problem described above, the focus of this research is directed toward understanding the role and challenges faced by the Election Supervisory Body (Bawaslu) of Palangka Raya City in the context of the 2024 General Election. The study seeks to examine, first, the extent to which Bawaslu has played an active and effective role in maintaining the integrity of the vote, ensuring that the electoral process runs in a fair, transparent, and democratic manner. Second, this research aims to analyze the various obstacles and challenges encountered by Bawaslu Palangka Raya City in supervising and addressing

violations of voting rights, particularly those that may undermine the credibility and legitimacy of the 2024 General Election.

## METHOD

In an effort to describe Bawaslu's role in simultaneous election supervision, this research was conducted with a type of Empirical Juridical research where researchers explored and explored information as deeply as possible so as to strengthen the research results obtained. Descriptive research is research intended to investigate circumstances, conditions or other things that have been mentioned, the results of which are presented in the form of a research report. Describing the phenomenon of Bawaslu's role in election supervision, the author uses empirical juridical research with interview data collection techniques.

Interviews are used as a data collection technique if the researcher will carry out a preliminary study to find problems that must be researched, interviews are conducted in depth with informants who are the key to obtaining information that is considered to answer the research objectives. Furthermore, observation is a data collection method used to collect research data through observation and sensing. The research aims to determine Bawaslu's role in monitoring simultaneous elections by looking at Bawaslu's duties and functions in accordance with the stipulated rules.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Civil Society Voting Rights

Article 43 Paragraphs (1 and 2) of Law No. 39/1999 on Human Rights states, "every citizen has the right to be elected and to vote in general elections based on equal rights through direct, public, free, secret, honest and fair voting in accordance with the provisions of laws and regulations". "every citizen has the right to participate in government directly or through freely chosen representatives, in the manner prescribed by law". In addition to these laws and regulations which are very clear and firm, Article 1 Paragraph (2) of the 1945 Constitution actually states that sovereignty is in the hands of the people and is exercised according to the Constitution.

Sovereignty is the concept of supreme power in a state. In any analysis of the concept of power, as said by Jack H. Nagel, there are two important things, which are related, namely the scope of power (scope of power) and the range of power (domain of power). In this regard, Nagel's approach can also be used to analyze the idea of sovereignty as a concept of supreme power (Guzzini, 2017). The scope of sovereignty concerns the matter of activities or activities covered in the function of sovereignty, while the reach of sovereignty relates to who is the object and holder of sovereignty (sovereign).

The definition that is often popularized with the concept of democracy is the principle of from the people, by the people, and for the people, and that is the essence of popular sovereignty, which is a teaching that views the supreme power in the hands of the people, originating from the people, for the benefit of the people, and held together with the people as well (Sobirovich, 2022).

People who are entitled to have the right to vote in elections must of course fulfill a number of requirements that have been determined by statutory regulations, in this case listed in PKPU No. 7 of 2022. The main requirement that must be met is that voters must be 17 years old or older on the day of voting. In addition, someone who is married or has been married is also entitled to vote even though they have not reached the age of 17, provided that the marriage is legally recorded.

Furthermore, voters must also not be disenfranchised based on a court decision that has obtained permanent legal force. This means that if someone is involved in a legal case that results in revocation of their voting rights, then they are not allowed to vote in the election. In addition, voters are also required to reside in the territory of the Unitary State of the Republic

of Indonesia (NKRI), as evidenced by an Electronic Identity Card (KTP-el). For voters living abroad, the obligation to prove domicile can be done by using KTP-el, Passport, or Travel Letter as Passport (SPLP).

If a voter does not yet have an e-KTP, for example due to certain reasons, then he/she can still use other documents recorded in the Family Card as a substitute for the e-KTP, provided that they can fulfill other applicable provisions. Finally, a person who is currently serving as a soldier of the Indonesian National Army (TNI) or a member of the Indonesian National Police (POLRI) is not allowed to exercise their voting rights in the election, given their position in the state organizational structure which requires neutrality in the implementation of elections.

With these provisions in place, it is hoped that elections will be fair and targeted, so that only those who meet the legal criteria can participate in determining the future direction of the country.

### **Supervision of Ballots by Bawaslu**

The supervision of ballots in the voting process in the 2024 General Election plays a very important role in maintaining the validity and integrity of the election itself. This is because ballot papers are a fundamental element that reflects the direct choice of the people, which is the core of the democratic process. From the beginning of the proposal stage, ballot design, printing, sorting, folding, adding, packaging, to distribution, ballot papers must be closely monitored. Every stage of the process must be carefully guarded to ensure that every vote cast truly reflects the will of the electorate and that election results can be accounted for. This close supervision is vital to prevent fraud, abuse or manipulation that could undermine the quality and integrity of the election, and to ensure that the democratic process remains fair and transparent.

Ballot control becomes increasingly crucial on polling day, especially in Palangka Raya City in the 2024 General Election. On that day, a proper and compliant ballot distribution process will determine the validity of the election, as this will affect the number of ballots received by voters in accordance with their legal voting rights. Not all Indonesian citizens are entitled to receive five ballots in an election, as the provisions regarding each individual's voting rights are highly dependent on their status in the Permanent Voters List (DPT). In order to receive a ballot paper, individuals must be registered in the DPT, carry a notification check, and present a valid identity card (KTP) as proof of identity and voter qualification.

For voters who change their voting place (Pindah Memilih), the process of ballot control is also very important. Voters who move to vote must be registered in the Additional Voters List (DPTb), which is a list of voters who were previously registered in the DPT of a polling station (TPS), but for some reason could not vote at their original polling station. In this case, they must ensure that they are properly registered at the new polling station and get the right to vote according to the applicable provisions. The existence of good supervision in this category aims to avoid multiple voters or abuse of voting rights, as well as ensuring that the process of transferring voters is carried out legally and in accordance with established procedures (Musa & Moha, 2022).

With strict and systematic supervision, it is expected that the entire voting process can run smoothly, fairly and transparently, so that the results of the elections that are created truly reflect the legitimate choice of the people, without any fraud or harmful manipulation. This will also strengthen the integrity of democracy, and give people confidence that their votes are counted fairly and legally.

One of the most common indicators of voting rights abuse in Palangka Raya City is the presence of voters who are registered more than once in the permanent voter list (DPT) or who use someone else's identity. This is often referred to as double voting, which can undermine the validity of election results. Misuse of voting rights can also occur through the practice of money politics, where voters are paid or rewarded to vote for certain candidates. All of these indications

can undermine the integrity of elections and harm a fair and transparent democratic process. This abuse of voting rights is harmful to democracy, as it reduces public confidence in election results and creates injustice. Therefore, close oversight of the electoral process and the use of technology that can accurately identify voters are necessary to keep these abuses to a minimum, if not avoided altogether.

Bawaslu (Election Supervisory Agency) has a very important role in maintaining the integrity of elections, one of which is through monitoring the abuse of voting rights (Muharram et al., 2023). To ensure clean and fair elections, Bawaslu conducts supervision at various stages of the election, from the voter registration stage to the voting and counting process. In the early stages, Bawaslu is involved in monitoring the voter data matching and research (coklit) process. This is where Bawaslu ensures that no voters are recorded more than once in the permanent voter list (DPT), and ensures that the voter data used is accurate and valid. This supervision is important to prevent multiple voters, which can occur due to errors in recording or data manipulation. Bawaslu works with officials from the General Election Commission (KPU) and the public to oversee this process, and if double voters or invalid data are found, Bawaslu can propose improvements.

In addition, Bawaslu also supervises candidate registration and political campaigns to ensure there are no violations, such as misuse of identity or money politics. In this case, Bawaslu monitors whether candidates or political parties carry out practices that can undermine the validity of the election (Arum, 2024), for example by giving money or goods to voters to vote for them. If indications of violations are found, Bawaslu has the authority to conduct investigations, collect evidence, and if necessary, submit the case to the authorities.

When voting takes place, Bawaslu conducts supervision at each polling station (TPS). This supervision is very important to ensure that the voting process runs according to the provisions and that no ballots are falsified or used by unauthorized parties. Bawaslu also ensures that voters can vote freely without pressure, and that the entire process is transparent. This supervision was carried out by election supervisors appointed by Bawaslu, as well as by witnesses from political parties and candidates.

After the voting, Bawaslu continues its supervision at the vote counting stage. At this stage, Bawaslu ensures that all votes are counted accurately and that there is no manipulation in the counting process. This includes overseeing whether valid and invalid votes are counted correctly, as well as ensuring that no votes are embezzled or unlawfully added. In addition, Bawaslu also oversees the process of submitting vote count results to higher levels, ensuring that the results are not manipulated by certain parties.

Bawaslu also has a system for receiving reports and complaints from the public regarding alleged election violations, including abuse of voting rights (Jamaluddin, 2022). Each incoming report will be followed up with an examination, and if a violation is proven, Bawaslu can impose sanctions in accordance with applicable legal provisions. In some cases, Bawaslu cooperates with law enforcement officials to follow up on findings that are criminal in nature.

In order to strengthen supervision, Bawaslu also utilizes technology, such as online reporting applications, which allow the public to report findings of election violations directly. In addition, Bawaslu also conducts election education to the community to increase public awareness about the importance of maintaining the validity of voting rights and preventing abuse.

Overall, Bawaslu carries out a comprehensive supervisory role, from prevention, direct monitoring in the field, to prosecution of violations. With strict supervision and cooperation between various parties, it is hoped that abuse of voting rights can be minimized and the 2024 elections can take place transparently, fairly, and in accordance with the principles of true democracy.

### **Misuse of Voting Rights in the 2024 General Election in Palangka Raya City**

The implementation of elections in Indonesia to date is still marked by various disputes and violations involving various parties, both election organizers and participants. General elections are the most tangible manifestation of the implementation of democracy, which should reflect the will of the people in a free, honest and fair manner. However, often both the organizers (such as the Government, KPU, and Bawaslu) and the election participants (such as candidates and voters) are involved in actions that violate the established rules. These violations can undermine the democratic process and threaten the integrity of the election itself. It is therefore imperative that all parties take responsibility for their actions, and that any electoral violations are dealt with strictly in accordance with applicable legal provisions. Deliberate actions intended to make elections undemocratic, i.e. not fair and just (Jurdil), should be avoided by strong law enforcement and strict monitoring systems. For this reason, ensuring the implementation of elections in accordance with transparent, accountable and fair democratic principles is a shared responsibility, both for election organizers and participants, in order to maintain public confidence in the democratic system in Indonesia.

Election violations in the concept of election law enforcement in Indonesia can be grouped into four main categories, namely violations of the code of ethics of organizing elections, violations of election administration, violations of election crimes, and other violations of law (Rahmat & Fathanudien, 2021). Each of these categories of violations has a different impact on the integrity and credibility of the election itself. However, in this paper, the author's main focus is on criminal election offenses, particularly those related to the abuse of voting rights or the use of another person's identity to vote.

Voting rights abuse is one of the serious violations that can undermine the principle of direct, general, free and secret elections (Geamanu, 2015). This violation occurs when a person uses voting rights that do not belong to him or her, either by manipulating voter data or using someone else's identity to vote. This not only undermines the fairness of the electoral process, but can also affect the legitimate outcome of the election. In this regard, it is crucial for law enforcement officials and election organizers to maintain the integrity and security of voter data and ensure that individuals can only vote according to their valid identity.

Reported by ANTARA, the Indonesian News Agency, that on Wednesday, February 14, 2024 Gakkumdu Palangka Raya handled allegations of election crimes committed by two suspects (now convicted). The two people have been secured at polling station 82 located on Jalan Borneo I, Palangka Village, Jekan Raya District, Palangka Raya City, because previously they had used their voting rights at one of the polling stations in the Pahandut area, Palangka Raya City. The initial suspicion began when a resident was suspicious when her husband's name was called to vote even though he was on duty outside the city. Therefore, the resident confirmed to the KPPS officer whether it was true that what they called was correct because the name was the name of her husband who could not attend TPS 82 because her husband's position was out of town (Antara, 2024).

According to the chronology of events explained by Mr. Eko, on Wednesday, February 14, 2024 around 9am the two perpetrators, one male and one female, departed from one of the polling stations in the Pahandut area, Palangka Raya City. When they arrived at TPS 82, the two perpetrators handed over the C Notice to KPPS officers and signed the attendance list. The male perpetrator was called first, but during the summoning there were residents who suspected it was because the name called was the name of the husband of the resident who was out of town at the time. To make sure, the resident and her child asked the KPPS officer if there was an error in calling the voter's name. However, the KPPS officer confirmed that they had not made a mistake in calling the name. The resident was astonished because the full name mentioned by the KPPS officer was the full name of her husband, and to be sure, the resident asked the KPPS officer to check other data such as the voter's home address and another

unexpected incident occurred. The voter's home address was right at the resident's house, which meant that the name called was her husband's name and the resident suspected fraud because the male suspect used the C Notification on behalf of her husband who was out of town. Furthermore, the TPS PAM officer assisted by local residents immediately secured the two suspects so that they did not run away and were also not judged by the residents and the PTPS officer immediately contacted Bawaslu that at the polling station there had been a violation. Incidentally, the Gakkumdu center consisting of Bawaslu, the Police, and the Prosecutor's Office was patrolling in order to maintain security in the Election process, so the Gakkumdu center went straight to the polling station where the incident occurred to follow up on the case. At that time the two suspects were immediately taken by the Gakkumdu center for further clarification. Bawaslu first needs to ascertain what violations have been committed by the perpetrators, and when further studied, it is decided in the plenary that the violations committed by those concerned are violations of election crimes. After being decided at the plenary, Bawaslu brought the two perpetrators to the Gakkumdu center for a meeting. The first level discussion meeting conducted by the Gakkumdu Center, namely the Attorney General's Office, directed the initial report from Bawaslu to determine the formal and material requirements. When the formal and material requirements are met, only then enter the level 2 discussion. In the next discussion meeting, it is known what the basis and sanctions are. After being discussed in the second discussion and indeed the elements are fulfilled, it is decided by the Gakkumdu Center that the actions taken by the person concerned have elements of an election crime. When it has been determined, an official report is made and then submitted to the police.

Mr. Eko, who serves as the Coordinator of the Legal, Prevention, Public Participation, and Public Relations Division at the Election Supervisory Body of Palangka Raya City, revealed that cases of voting rights abuse often occur every time an election is held. However, based on observations and existing data, in the 2024 Election, these cases have decreased significantly compared to the Election 5 years ago, namely in the 2019 Election. This decrease certainly shows that there are better efforts in monitoring and preventing these violations, both through increased supervision, the use of more sophisticated technology, and more intensive counseling efforts to the public regarding the importance of maintaining election integrity.

Nonetheless, the decline in these cases should not catch us off guard. The abuse of voting rights and the use of other people's identities to vote remains a problem that must continue to be watched out for, because if not dealt with firmly, it can harm the election results and undermine public confidence in the democratic system. Therefore, there needs to be closer cooperation between all parties involved, both election organizers, law enforcement officials, and the community itself, to ensure that every election can run fairly and in accordance with applicable democratic principles.

In Indonesia, choosing and being chosen is a citizen's right. Basically, every citizen has the right to choose and be chosen (the right to vote), but there are statutory restrictions that regulate that right so that it has value as intended. Meanwhile, there are also conditions for voting, such as Indonesian citizen, 17 years of age or married, and registered as a voter. The resolution of election criminal offenses is carried out through the courts within the general judicial environment. Law enforcement that plays a role in resolving election crimes is the police, prosecutors' office, and courts.

### **The Law Enforcement Process for Voting Rights Abuse**

Article 22E Paragraph (5) of the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia mandates that in organizing elections, the General Election Commission (KPU), the Election Supervisory Body (Bawaslu) and the Election Organizer Honorary Council (DKPP) have the task of organizing elections with institutions that are national, permanent, and independent.

Law enforcement against electoral crimes is a very crucial aspect in realizing clean, authoritative, and trustworthy elections (Sarkani et al., 2025). It is one of the main pillars in

creating a fair and transparent electoral system. Without strict and consistent law enforcement, the electoral process can easily be tainted by various forms of fraud that damage its integrity. Therefore, law enforcement against electoral crimes is not something that can be negotiated; its implementation is a necessity that cannot be ignored in order to achieve the goal of holding democratic and legitimate elections.

In every election, whether on a national or local scale, it is not uncommon to find various criminal acts that threaten the sustainability of the democratic process. These electoral crimes not only damage the election itself, but can also damage public confidence in the existing democratic system. The existence of fraud, such as multiple voters, money politics, or abuse of authority by election organizers, often undermines the spirit of democracy that should ensure that every vote is counted fairly and legally (Breedon & Bryant, 2018). Therefore, it is important for all parties involved in organizing elections, including law enforcement agencies, to work together with full responsibility in preventing and taking action against any violations that occur.

Election crimes in Indonesia have undergone several significant developments, along with changes and updates to existing regulations. One of the most striking developments in the Election Law is the existence of a clear minimum criminal penalty for each election crime. This aims to provide a greater deterrent effect to the perpetrators of violations (Lubis et al., 2023). In addition, the new regulation also contains provisions regarding the threat of fines that can be imposed along with prison sanctions, which shows the seriousness of the government in dealing with electoral crimes. This increase in punishment is a strategic step in creating legal certainty and giving a clear signal that violations in elections will not be tolerated.

With this development, it is expected to strengthen the electoral law enforcement system, so that the electoral process can run better and produce legitimate decisions that reflect the will of the people. This is also an indication that Indonesia is getting more serious in maintaining the quality of its democracy, by paying more attention to integrity and justice in every stage of the election. Firm and fair law enforcement will strengthen public confidence in the electoral system, and ultimately, will lead Indonesia to more democratic and quality elections.

Based on Bawaslu Regulations, the flow of prosecution of election crimes starts from receiving reports or findings of violations by Bawaslu. This report can come from election participants, success teams, election observers, or the general public. After the report is received, Bawaslu conducts an initial study to ensure the completeness and validity of the report. If the report meets the requirements, Bawaslu will conduct further examinations, including collecting evidence and witness testimony. In this process, Bawaslu coordinates with the Integrated Law Enforcement Center (Gakkumdu) which consists of elements of the police and prosecutors. If the results of the examination indicate an alleged election crime, Bawaslu will forward the report to the police for further investigation. After the investigation is complete, the police will submit the case file to the prosecutor's office for prosecution. The prosecution process is carried out in a public court, where the judge will decide the case based on the evidence and facts revealed in the trial. Throughout this process, Bawaslu continues to supervise to ensure that law enforcement runs in accordance with the applicable laws and regulations.

Juridically, Article 95 letter a of Law Number 7/2017 on General Elections clearly regulates that Bawaslu has the authority to "receive and follow up reports relating to alleged violations of the implementation of laws and regulations governing elections". This provision emphasizes the important role of Bawaslu as an institution responsible for overseeing the elections and ensuring that all stages of the elections are carried out in accordance with applicable legal provisions. With this authority, Bawaslu has the obligation to act on all forms of violations found, whether committed by election organizers, election participants, or other parties involved in the electoral process.

The Election Law explicitly authorizes Bawaslu to deal with various types of election violations, without limiting the time or a certain period related to the determination of election results. This means that Bawaslu is not only authorized to oversee the implementation of elections during the process, but also has the responsibility to follow up on any reports or allegations of violations that arise post-election, even after the election results are determined. This provides space for Bawaslu to continue to supervise and enforce the law against all forms of fraud or irregularities that can damage the integrity of the election, even though there has been a determination of the results.

This broad grant of authority aims to ensure that no electoral violation is overlooked, whether detected during the campaign or voting period, or after the election is over. Thus, Bawaslu has a great responsibility to maintain fairness and transparency in elections, while ensuring that every citizen involved in the election can enjoy an election process that is free from fraud. The authority given to Bawaslu also reflects a commitment to ensure that any election violations can be dealt with firmly, in order to maintain public confidence in the ongoing democratic process.

### **Obstacles Faced by Bawaslu of Palangka Raya City in Supervising the Abuse of Voting Rights in the 2024 General Election**

Based on the results of interviews with Mr. Eko as the Coordinator of the Legal, Prevention, Community Participation and Public Relations Division at Bawaslu Palangka Raya City, it was revealed that the implementation of supervision of voting rights abuse was faced with several obstacles.

The obstacles referred to in the context of elections include various factors that can affect the smooth implementation and active participation of the community in elections. One of them is the ignorance or lack of understanding of election organizers. When election organizers do not properly understand the processes and stages that must be carried out, this can lead to errors in the implementation or management of elections, which in turn has the potential to cause procedural discrepancies and affect the validity of the election itself (James, 2019). The electoral process is complicated and full of stages that must be followed, requiring careful management to avoid irregularities.

In addition, voters also often do not have an adequate understanding of election-related information, such as voting rights, how to vote, and the available candidates. This ignorance can lead to voters making inappropriate decisions or even being unable to exercise their voting rights to their full potential. Inadequate or even incorrect information can confuse voters, reducing the quality of their participation in elections.

In addition, the apathy shown by some people is also a serious obstacle to the electoral process. This apathy arises from a sense of indifference or disinterest in the electoral process, which leads to low levels of active participation. This can be caused by various factors, such as distrust of the political system, disappointment with the results of previous elections, or ignorance of how the electoral process works.

Finally, the existing socio-political situation and conditions also play an important role. Political instability, threats to security, or unfavorable socio-economic conditions can be significant obstacles to the smooth running of elections (Tusalem, 2015). In an unfavorable situation, elections can be hampered or even disrupted, both in terms of implementation on the ground and in ensuring that citizens' rights are optimally protected. Therefore, a successful election depends not only on technical preparations, but also on the active involvement of all parties, including organizers, voters, and supportive socio-political conditions.

### **Bawaslu's Efforts in Overcoming Obstacles**

Bawaslu plays a crucial role in handling election crimes through a series of comprehensive efforts. First, Bawaslu actively conducts prevention by providing socialization

and education to the public about the rules and sanctions related to election violations. Second, Bawaslu established a participatory supervision network involving various elements of society to monitor each stage of the election. Third, Bawaslu receives and follows up reports or findings of violations from various parties, including election participants and the general public. Fourth, Bawaslu coordinates with the Integrated Law Enforcement Center (Gakkumdu) consisting of elements of the police and the prosecutor's office to follow up on alleged election crimes. Fifth, Bawaslu utilizes information technology, such as an online reporting system, to make it easier for the public to report violations and speed up the handling process. Sixth, Bawaslu ensures that law enforcement runs in accordance with applicable laws and regulations, including supervision of the investigation, prosecution and trial processes. Through these efforts, Bawaslu seeks to maintain election integrity and ensure that any violations are dealt with firmly and fairly.

Based on the results of an interview with Mr. Eko as the Coordinator of the Legal, Prevention, Community Participation and Public Relations Division at the Election Supervisory Agency of Palangka Raya City, the way to overcome the limited personnel which is the main obstacle in election supervision, the Election Supervisory Agency of Palangka Raya City has taken a number of strategic steps to strengthen its institutional capacity. One of the steps taken is the addition of election supervisory personnel formations. With the increase in the number of personnel, it is expected that the need for supervisory personnel who have high competence and professionalism can be met, so that the election supervision process can run more effectively and thoroughly. Increasing institutional capacity is an important step so that Bawaslu can carry out its duties optimally, keeping elections fair, transparent and without fraud.

In addition, Bawaslu Palangka Raya also prioritizes the role of the community in the election monitoring process, which is one of the main keys to success in maintaining the integrity and credibility of elections. In order to expand community participation, Bawaslu of Palangka Raya City has made various efforts, including by establishing a participatory supervisory network. This network involves various elements of society, such as civil society organizations, religious leaders, community leaders, and other communities that have concerns about the elections. With this participatory watchdog network, election monitoring is expected to be carried out more thoroughly and involve all levels of society, from the most basic to the higher levels, thus creating a more transparent and accountable monitoring system.

In addition to forming a network of supervisors, Bawaslu Palangka Raya also routinely conducts socialization and education to the public about the importance of election supervision. Through this socialization, it is hoped that the community will not only understand their rights as voters, but also know their role in maintaining a clean and fair democracy. This socialization is carried out through various channels, such as social media, mass media, and direct face-to-face activities with the community. In this way, information on election monitoring procedures, violation reporting mechanisms, and complaint procedures can be conveyed more widely. This also makes it easier for the public to actively participate in maintaining election integrity.

As part of the effort to facilitate the community in reporting alleged violations, Bawaslu Palangka Raya City also provides supervision corner facilities at various points, which are equipped with information that is easily accessible to the public. This supervision corner is a strategic place for people who want to report violations, provide suggestions, or ask questions regarding the implementation of elections. This facility makes it easy for the community to be more actively involved in the monitoring process, while strengthening the sense of community ownership of the election.

In the digital era that is all connected, the use of information technology is very important to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of election supervision work. Bawaslu Palangka Raya City has integrated information technology in various aspects of election supervision, one of which is through the development of an online reporting system. With this system, the public can easily report alleged election violations through digital devices, both smartphones and

computers, without having to come directly to the Bawaslu office. In addition, this online reporting system is equipped with a report status tracking feature, so that the public can monitor the progress of handling the reports they submit. This not only speeds up the process of handling violations, but also increases transparency and accountability in election monitoring.

Through these efforts, Bawaslu Palangka Raya is committed to creating a more effective, efficient, and inclusive supervisory process, as well as maintaining election integrity in order to achieve a cleaner and more dignified democracy. Community involvement, technology utilization, and strengthening institutional capacity are the keys to realizing elections that are transparent, fair, and free from fraudulent practices

## CONCLUSION

Based on the explanation above, it can be concluded that the Election Supervisory Agency (Bawaslu) in the city of Palangka Raya has a crucial role in monitoring voting rights violations in the 2024 general election. The duties of Bawaslu in the city of Palangka Raya in taking action against voting rights violations during the election are in line with the provisions contained in Article 533 of Law Number 7 of 2017 concerning General Elections. As an institution entrusted with the responsibility of monitoring the implementation of elections, Bawaslu has shown significant dedication to ensuring that elections are conducted in a clean and fair manner. Various supervisory measures have been implemented, ranging from direct monitoring in the field during the campaign period to encouraging the public to actively participate in the process while remaining critical if suspicious activities occur during the implementation of the elections.

However, in carrying out its functions, Bawaslu faces various complex challenges. One of the main obstacles is limited human resources, particularly in terms of the number of personnel and technical skills available. This affects the scope of monitoring, especially in large and hard-to-reach areas. The misuse of voting rights by the public is one of the serious issues that Bawaslu must address. Actions by the public that abuse their voting rights can undermine the integrity of the elections and reduce public trust in the existing democratic system in Indonesia.

Despite this, Bawaslu is working hard to address these challenges. One of the steps taken is to improve the quality of the institution through ongoing training. In addition, Bawaslu also involves the community in participatory monitoring to expand the scope of monitoring. The use of information technology, such as online reporting systems and data analysis, has also been implemented to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of monitoring.

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