

International Foundation for Electoral Systems

Indonesia July 8, 2009 Elections Kit

1) Date of the election

- July 8, 2009.
- A 2nd round will be held in September if no candidate pair (president and vice-president) wins more than 50% + 1 vote including over 20% of the vote in 17 provinces. Two leading candidate pairs would move to the 2nd round election.

2) Deadlines to register (both for the candidates and the population)

Candidate pairs were required officially register with the National Election Commission by midnight of May 16, 2009 in order to appear on the ballots. Candidates were required to submit to physical and mental evaluations before official announcement of candidates on May 28.

3) What are the basic rules of the election?

- A party must receive 25% of votes or 20% of seats in the legislative elections in order to nominate a candidate for the Presidential election. Parties may form coalitions in order to nominate candidate pairings.
- If a candidate pair does not win more than 50% of the votes in the first-round, a second-round vote will be held with two leading candidate pairs
- The presidential election campaign began on June 2 and ran until July 4, followed by a three-day silent or cooling-off period
- National election results will be provisionally announced between 27 and 29 July. After any legal challenges are presented and adjudicated, the final results will be announced during the first two weeks of August
- If the election results require a second round, an additional campaign period will be held with a vote on September 8
- Winners will be sworn into office on October 20.

4) What are the main political parties?

Candidate Pair 1: Megawati Surkarnoputri (PDIP) and Prabowo (Gerindra)

Candidate Pair 2: Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono (PD) and Boediono

Candidate Pair 3: Jusuf Kalla (Golkar) and Wiranto (Hanura)

5) How much power do they hold at the moment? What is the breakdown of their strength in parliament?

- *Partai Demokrat* (Democratic Party - PD): 150 seats; 26.79%
- *Partai Golongan Karya* (Party of the Functional Groups – Golkar): 107 seats; 19.11%
- *Partai Demokrasi Indonesia Perjuangan* (Indonesian Democratic Party – Struggle - PDI–P): 95; 16.96%
- *Partai Gerakan Indonesia Raya* (Great Indonesia Movement Party - Gerindra): 26 seats; 4.64%
- *Partai Hati Nurani Rakyat* (People's Conscience Party - Hanura): 18 seats; 3.21%

6) Who are the candidates? (Applies for presidential election only) (Are tribal/ethnic/religious affiliations relevant?)

Kalla is from Sulawesi. All other candidates are Javanese. Ethnic affiliations have been alluded to in the campaign but are not a main issue. Indonesia has only had one non-Javanese President, B.J. Habibie, who was not directly elected.

7) How long are the terms?

- 5 year term of office.

8) What are the issues?

Major issues include:

- Economy (including job creation, fuel and food prices, and self sufficiency vs. openness to international trade)
- Improvement in provision of public services/poverty relief
- Human rights
- Governance and corruption

9) Who is allowed to vote? (Are women and minorities allowed?)

- All registered voters above 17 years of age.

10) Will the vote be free and fair?

- The KPU has been much maligned for its administration of the April 2009 Legislative Elections. Major concerns continue to be raised about the quality of the voters' registry. A Parliamentary inquiry recently reported that tens of millions of eligible voters had been left off of the voters' lists. The voting process is transparent and credible; however, there were substantial allegations of vote tabulation issues in the past elections.
- On Monday July 6, Indonesia's Constitutional Court (CC) ruled that due to the poor quality of the existing voters' list, it will be possible for eligible voters who are not found on the list to vote by simply providing their national ID cards (KTP). While on the surface this is a progressive ruling to ensure that no voters will be disenfranchised by faulty

voters' lists, it has significant operational implications, coming only 36 hours before the presidential election.

11) How many people are registered?

- Approximately 175 million voters.

12) A brief history of elections in the country

- 2009 marks the third national elections in the *Reformasi* or post-Suharto era. These are the second direct presidential elections.

13) An explanation of how any ethnic, tribal, social or religious divisions in the country could affect the election or how the election could create conflict for them.

- The selection of two Javanese on the candidate ticket pairing of SBY and Boediono marks the first time in Indonesia's history that there may be two Javanese elected to the two highest positions in the country. In the spirit of Pancasila or national unity a pairing of a Javanese and non-Javanese was seen to be more representative of the country. However, pre-election polling has indicated that this political pairing has high popularity nationwide.

14) Who is in charge of running the election?

- Komisi Pemilihan Umum (KPU) or National Election Commission. The KPU is led by seven commissioners and is supported by a secretariat.

15) Are there security concerns? Is there a risk for election violence?

- Security may be of concern in Papua where separatist groups may seek to use the electoral event as an opportunity to protest or violently target and disrupt the polling process.