Elections in Indonesia

2024 General Elections

Frequently Asked Questions

Asia-Pacific

International Foundation for Electoral Systems

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February 14, 2024
Frequently Asked Questions

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Election Snapshot

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<th>Election Day</th>
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<tr>
<td>Registered Voters</td>
<td>204,807,222, including 1,750,474 out-of-country voters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polling Stations</td>
<td>820,161 domestic polling stations and 3,075 overseas polling stations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seats</td>
<td>152 seats for regional representative councils (Dewan Perwakilan Daerah, DPD); 580 seats for the National House of Representatives (Dewan Perwakilan Rakyat, DPR); 2,372 seats for regional legislatures (Dewan Perwakilan Rakyat Daerah, DPRD); and 17,510 seats for regency/municipal DPRDs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Candidate Lists</td>
<td>9,917 DPR and 668 DPD candidates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Candidates</td>
<td>3 President and vice president; 9,917 DPR; 668 DPD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campaign expenditure and donation limits</td>
<td>Contributions from individuals and private organizations to presidential, DPR, and DPRD campaigns range from 2.5 billion Indonesian rupiah (IDR) (about $161,000 USD) to 25 billion IDR (about $1.6 million USD). Contributions to DPD campaigns range from 750 million IDR (about $48,000 USD) to 1.5 billion IDR (about $86,500 USD).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of election workers</td>
<td>5,741,127 domestic poll workers (Kelompok Pelaksana Pemungutan Suara, KPPS) and 21,413 overseas poll workers (Kelompok Pelaksana Pemungutan Suara Luar Negeri, KPPSLN)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Structure of ballots</td>
<td>Ballots are printed in distinct colors: Presidential – Grey; DPR – Yellow; Provincial DPRD – Blue; Municipal/city DPRD – Green; DPD - Red</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

When is Election Day?
On February 14, 2024, Indonesia will hold elections for the president, vice president, regional representative councils, and national and sub-national legislatures in 38 provinces and 514 regencies and municipalities. The 823,236 polling places will comprise 820,161 domestic and 3,075 overseas polling stations. Election Day is a national holiday in Indonesia. Polling stations will open at 7 a.m. and close at 1 p.m. local time.

Why are these elections important?
The 2024 elections will mark Indonesia’s fifth elections since the country’s democratic transition in the late 1990s. The first post-Suharto democratic election in 1999 chose legislators for the national House of Representatives (Dewan Perwakilan Rakyat, DPR) and regional legislatures (Dewan Perwakilan Rakyat Daerah, DPRD). The 2004, 2009, and 2014 elections again included national and regional legislative races; added candidates for the regional representative councils (Dewan Perwakilan Daerah, DPD); and introduced direct presidential elections. The 2024 elections will be the second simultaneous elections since 2019 and the biggest one-day elections.
Who are citizens voting for on Election Day?
On Election Day, voters will elect a president and vice president candidates, and will fill 152 seats from 38 provinces for DPD, 580 seats from 84 electoral districts for DPR, 2,372 seats from 301 electoral districts for DPRD, and 17,510 seats from 2,325 electoral districts for DPRD Kabupaten/Kota (Regency/Municipal House of Representative). There are 668 DPD candidates and 9,917 DPR candidates.¹

What is the electoral system?
The electoral system in Indonesia differs according to the election in question but relies on either a majority vote or a proportional representation system.

Presidential election
The president and vice president, as a pair, are selected directly, by majority vote. The candidate pair that wins more than half of all valid votes (that is, 50 percent plus one vote) and receives at least 20 percent of all valid votes in more than half of all Indonesia’s provinces (at least 20)² is the winner.³

If no candidate pair meets these requirements, there is a run-off election for the two pairs that received the highest number of votes. The president and vice president hold office for a term of five years and may be re-elected to the same office for one additional term.

However, on July 3, 2014, the Constitutional Court ruled that the requirement of winning at least 20 percent of valid votes in more than half of all Indonesian provinces should not apply in cases in which only two candidate pairs run, ruling that the coalition of political parties supporting the nomination of two candidate pairs is sufficiently representative of all regions of Indonesia. This ruling cleared the way for winners to emerge with an absolute majority in a single-round election in 2014 and 2019.

Legislative elections
Legislative elections for national House of Representatives (Dewan Perwakilan Rakyat, DPR) and regional legislatures (Dewan Perwakilan Rakyat Daerah, DPRD) at the province and regency/municipal level are conducted under a proportional representation system. Citizens vote for a political party, and seats at each level are allocated based on the proportion of total votes received. The seat allocation for DPR members only includes parties that have met the parliamentary threshold of 4 percent of all valid votes. The parliamentary threshold does not apply for regional legislatures.

Regional representative councils (DPD) elections are conducted under a single non-transferable vote (SNTV) system. Each voter receives one DPD ballot listing all candidates running in their province. The voter punches only one hole to mark the candidate of their choice. The four candidates with the highest vote totals in each province are elected.

Elected legislative members serve for a five-year term. Any member who resigns before the middle of their term is replaced by a candidate who participated in the legislative elections, selected through a mid-term replacement election (Pergantian Antar Waktu, PAW).

What is the legal framework for conducting the elections?
The legal basis for conducting elections in Indonesia is Law No. 7 of 2017 on General Elections. This law comprehensively regulates the conduct of elections, including preparation, implementation, counting of votes, determination of results, and election disputes. The legal basis for conducting

² Excluding Papua
³ Law No. 7/2017.
elections in Indonesia can also be found in other laws, including:

- Law No. 7 of 2023 on Determination of Government Regulations in Lieu of Law Number 1 of 2022 concerning Amendments to Law Number 7 of 2017 concerning General Elections;
- Law No. 23 of 2014 on Regional Government;
- Law No. 2 of 2011 on Political Parties; and
- Government Regulation No. 18 of 2016 on Regional Apparatus.

Who is eligible to run as a candidate?
In general, each candidate must meet the following criteria:

- Be an Indonesian citizen;
- Be considered physically and mentally healthy based on a medical examination;
- Not be currently imprisoned for a crime;

Age requirements apply for all elected positions contested in the general election:
- **President/vice president:** Be at least 40 years old. Candidates younger than 40 years old may contest if they have held or currently hold an elected position through general elections or regional heads elections, including DPR, DPD, DPRD, Governor, or Mayor/Regent.
- **Legislature:** Candidates must be at least 21 years old.

Presidential and vice-presidential candidates must be nominated by a political party or a coalition of political parties with 25 percent of votes or 20 percent of seats from the previous election (in this case, the 2019 election).

DPR and DPRD candidates must also be nominated by a political party. However, DPD candidates may run as independents.

For the 2024 national elections, 40 parties initially registered with the General Election Commission (KPU). Of those, 18 national parties and six local political parties will compete. Nine parties hold seats in the DPR, eight are new parties or contested in 2019 but failed to reach the parliamentary threshold per the KPU’s factual verification, and one failed the initial factual verification process but was given the opportunity to be re-verified after filing a complaint to the Election Supervisory Agency, Bawaslu. The 24 political parties that will contest in the 2024 election are listed below, in order of their registration number with the proportion of votes they received (if any) in the 2019 elections.

1. National Awakening Party (9.69 percent)
2. Great Indonesia Movement Party (12.57 percent)
3. Indonesia’s Democracy in Struggle Party (19.33 percent)
4. Functional Group Party (12.31 percent)
5. National Democratic Party (9.05 percent)
6. Labor Party (new party)
7. Indonesian People’s Wave Party (new party)
8. Prosperous Justice Party (8.21 percent)
9. Archipelago Awakening Party (new party)
10. People’s Conscience Party (1.54 percent)
11. Indonesian Change Movement Party (0.5 percent)
12. National Mandate Party (6.84 percent)
13. Crescent Star Party (0.79 percent)

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4 The six parties mentioned are only allowed in Aceh
5 KPU Decision No. 552 Tahun 2022.
Non-partisan candidates may only compete for the 152 DPD seats and for the roles of governors, regents, mayors, and village heads. All DPR and DPRD candidates must be nominated by political parties.6

Are there reserved seats for women? What is the gender balance within the candidate list?
There are no reserved seats for women in legislative bodies. Candidate lists for DPR and DPRD must adhere to the 30 percent quota and semi-zipper system, in which each list must include at least 30 percent women candidates and alternate men and women on published candidate lists.7

What are the campaign expenditure and donation limits?
Individual contributions for presidential and vice-presidential candidate pairs are limited to a maximum of 2.5 billion Indonesian rupiah (IDR) (about $161,000 USD), and contributions from companies and non-governmental organizations are capped at a maximum of IDR 25 billion (about $1.6 million USD). For legislative candidates, donations are limited to a maximum of IDR 2.5 billion (about $161,000 USD) and a maximum of IDR 25 billion (about $1,611,355 USD) from individuals and private organizations, respectively. Contributions for DPD candidates are limited to IDR 750 million (about $48,000 USD) from individuals or IDR 1.5 billion (about $96,500 USD) from companies and nongovernmental organizations.8

What are the election management bodies? What are their powers?
The General Election Commission (KPU) is the independent election management body responsible for the conduct of national and regional elections in Indonesia. The KPU consists of seven commissioners at the national level, including a chief election commissioner, identified through a rigid selection process, and then inaugurated by the president. The five-year term for the current KPU began on April 12, 2022. The executive arm of the KPU is its Secretariat, led by the Secretary-General. It is responsible for the administration of the organization at the national level. The KPU has permanent offices in all provinces and regencies. Depending on the size and population of the regional authority, each office is led by five or seven commissioners at the provincial level and five at the regency level who were identified through a selection process organized by the KPU at the national level.9

In addition to the KPU, the Election Supervisory Agency (Badan Pengawas Pemilihan Umum, Bawaslu) oversees the implementation of elections. At the national level, Bawaslu consists of five

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6 Law No. 7/2017.
7 Ibid.
8 KPU Regulation No. 18/2023.
9 The one exception to this is in Aceh Province, where the local Regional House of Representatives leads the selection process.
commissioners who are selected for five-year terms in the same manner as KPU commissioners. Its regional counterparts are permanent institutions consisting of five or seven commissioners in each province and three to five commissioners in each regency. Below the regency level, there are ad-hoc elections supervisors which consists of three members at the sub-district level and one field supervisor at the ward and village level. Electoral disputes are first filed with Bawaslu, where they are classified and channeled to appropriate institutions. Bawaslu has adjudicatory power to resolve disputes between the KPU and candidates and to issue rulings on administrative election violations. It also leads a task force on electoral crimes, composed of police officials and state prosecutors.

The Honorary Council of Election Management Bodies (Dewan Kehormatan Penyelenggara Pemilu, DKPP) is a national-level ethics council that reviews and makes decisions on complaints and/or reports of alleged violations of the code of ethics committed by KPU and Bawaslu members. The DKPP is established within two months after KPU and Bawaslu members begin their five-year terms. The DKPP includes a KPU commissioner, a Bawaslu commissioner and five community leaders. The DKPP ensures that the work of KPU and Bawaslu commissioners complies with the joint Code of Ethics of Election Management Bodies; it has authority to recommend commissioners’ dismissal. DKPP recommendations are final and binding; however, commissioners dismissed by a DKPP recommendation can appeal to the State Administrative Court.

How is the election management body protecting the elections and voters from COVID-19?
The General Election Commission (KPU) has prepared several precautionary measures in place if COVID-19 is a significant issue during the 2024 simultaneous elections. These include:

- Strict implementation of health protocols for all voters and poll workers, including wearing masks, social distancing, and handwashing;
- Limiting the number of voters at polling stations to 500 people per station;
- Providing health facilities at polling stations, such as handwashing stations, hand sanitizer, and thermometers; and
- Postponing the election schedule if the pandemic worsens.

The KPU has prepared a budget to address COVID-19 measures during the 2024 elections. Budgeted funds will purchase medical supplies, train election workers, and promote health protocols.

What is the election management body doing to strengthen its technology and procedures to resist vulnerabilities and counter foreign interference?
The KPU manages the election with tools such as a country-wide Intranet that connects its 535 offices. The KPU does not use electronic voting or counting technology. Votes are cast on paper ballots, counted by hand, and tabulated manually. The KPU’s Voter Data Information System (Sistem Informasi Data Pemilu, SIDALIH), the largest national computerized voter registration system in the world, includes features that standardize and regulate voter list processes. SIDALIH securely stores and maintains a single database that provides the KPU with a nationwide view of the quality of the voter list. SIDALIH also enables the KPU to cooperate effectively with the Ministry of Home Affairs to take advantage of improvements made to the citizen list through the Electronic Identity Card (KTP-El) program. The SIDALIH system is also used for the regional head elections.

The KPU also uses the electronic Vote Recapitulation System (Sistem Informasi Rekapitulasi Suara, SIREKAP) for both legislative and presidential elections. KPU staff enter results into SIREKAP and scan the result forms from each polling station for public scrutiny. The KPU uses the tabulated results

10 Law No. 15/2011.
12 Also known as a private computer network.
from all polling stations as informal preliminary results. In previous elections, preliminary election results based on data from all polling stations have been available within 48 hours or less, giving the public a tool to validate the sometimes-conflicting results of quick counts.

Since 2004, the KPU has been the target of cyberattacks that have become increasingly complex as Indonesian election management bodies have increased their use of information technology. To anticipate potential cyberattacks from domestic and foreign actors, the KPU established a task force drawn from government agencies including the National Cyber and Encryption Agency, National Police Cyber Investigation Center, State Intelligence Agency, Assessment and Application of Technology Agency, and Ministry of Communication and Information. The task force coordinates efforts to strengthen KPU cybersecurity and respond to cyber-incidents in the election administration process. The KPU has separated public-facing publication servers from sensitive production servers to protect election data if attacks occur. Auditing and penetration testing are conducted on existing and new critical applications. Administrative controls are updated to minimize cyber-threat risks to KPU officials, information systems, and information and communication technology infrastructure. The KPU has also trained its staff and election management officials in cyber-hygiene.

Who can vote in these elections?
According to Law No. 7/2017 on general elections, a person is eligible to vote if he or she is: 13

- An Indonesian citizen;
- At least 17 years old on Election Day (although residents younger than 17 may vote if they are or have been married); 14
- Enrolled in the voter registry;
- Considered of sound mind (voters with psychosocial disabilities are eligible, unless proven otherwise by a medical professional);
- Has not had their voting rights revoked through a court sentence;
- A resident of a region holding elections, verified by a national electronic identification card;
- Not an active member of the military or police.

Leading up to the election, on July 3, 2023, the Election Supervisory Agency, Bawaslu, found that 4 million registered voters in the Fixed Voter List did not yet possess electronic identity cards (e-KTP). 15 The KPU ensures that voters without an e-KTP can exercise their right to vote by presenting their family card at the polling station.

How many registered voters are there?
Indonesia, with a total population of nearly 278 million, conducts the second largest single-day election in the world. 16 On July 2, 2023, KPU established that the Fixed Voters List for the 2024 elections included 204,807,222 voters (203,056,748 in Indonesia and 1,750,474 out-of-country voters). The domestic voting population comprises 101,467,243 men and 101,589,505 women. Of those, 63,953,031 are voters aged 17 to 30, 17 and a total of 106,358,447 youth voters are aged 17 to 40. 18

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13 Law No. 7/2017 on general elections.
14 Law 1/74 states that marriage is permitted only if the husband is at least 19 years old and the wife is at least 16 years old. Marriage may take place at younger ages if the parents of the bride or groom seek dispensation from the court (Article 7, 1 and 2).
15 Mantalean, Vitorio. Kompas.com. (2023, July 3) Bawaslu: 4 Million Potential Voters are Threatened with Failure to Vote Because They Don’t Have KTPs. Kompas.com
18 Yuniarto, Tophan. KompasPedia. 2024 General Election in Numbers. (2024, January 8).
What provisions are in place that support the equal rights of women, persons with disabilities, and other marginalized groups?

According to 2024 KPU data, there are 1,101,178 voters with disabilities registered to vote. The KPU has prioritized selecting polling stations at ground level to help facilitate access. For voters with visual disabilities, a braille template is provided for the DPD, presidential and regional head election ballots. Voters with any kind of disability can be accompanied by an assistant to help cast their vote in person. In Indonesia, voters with disabilities may cast their ballots in person alongside their chosen assistants. The assistant can be a poll worker, or a person appointed by the voter, such as a family member or friend. Each assistant must sign a form if they cast a vote on behalf of a voter with a disability or if they are in the voting booth when the voter casts a ballot. The form certifies that the assistant will keep the voter’s choice confidential and vote according to the voter’s preference.

Women and minority groups play a key role in the 2024 elections. Law No. 7 of 2017 which regulates the 2024 election, like the 2019 elections, set a quota of 30 percent female representation for the nomination of candidates for the DPR, DPD, and provincial and regency/municipal DPRDs. Since first introduced in the 2004 election, the gender quota for nomination has not led to significantly more women being elected as legislators. Minority groups are actively involved in campaigns and election socialization. They often become resource persons in campaign activities and help raise public awareness of the importance of elections. Young people also play important roles in the 2024 elections. According to KPU data, the number of first-time voters in Indonesia in the 2024 elections is estimated at over 106.3 million, about 56 percent of the total number of voters in Indonesia.

Is out-of-country voting allowed?

Out-of-country voting is allowed during presidential and legislative elections, although turnout is historically low. For the 2019 election, the KPU introduced measures allowing overseas voters to take part in early voting by mail and drop box. The KPU also installed 783 polling stations for 2 million registered out-of-country voters in 130 countries. During the 2024 election, a total of 1,750,474 out-of-country voters (751,260 men and 999,214 women) are expected to vote in 128 countries. The total of 807 polling stations and 1,582 mobile ballot boxes.

For the 2024 elections, the KPU announced that the out-of-country voting period will take place from February 5 to February 14, 2024, at polling places across Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Latin America, North and South America, and Oceania. The following is a non-exhaustive list of overseas voting dates and locations:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>City</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5 February 2024</td>
<td>Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 February 2024</td>
<td>Panama City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 February 2024</td>
<td>Tehran</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 February 2024</td>
<td>Amman, Kepulauan Seychelles, Baghdad, Dhaka, Doha, Khartoum, Kuwait City, Manama, Muscat, Riyadh, Sana’a</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Who can observe during Election Day? How can they get accreditation?
International and national election observers can observe elections in Indonesia. Bawaslu will issue accreditations to observers who plan to monitor the 2024 elections. Requirements for an international monitoring mission are strict. Those missions must obtain approvals from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, disclose sources of funding, demonstrate experience in election monitoring, and obtain visas.19

National observers require approval from Bawaslu. However, any national observer group must prove that its organization is independent and nonpartisan. National observers intending to observe specific regions in Indonesia can also register through the respective Bawaslu regional offices.

Who is managing security on Election Day?
The National Police of the Republic of Indonesia (Polri) and the Indonesian National Armed Forces (TNI) are responsible for maintaining public order and security during the election. Polri and TNI will conduct patrols and security around polling stations, KPU offices, and other places related to the election.20

Where are vote counting and tabulation held?
Votes will be counted at each polling station immediately after polls close on Election Day (February 14). Ballots will be counted in daylight, in plain sight of the community. Counting may continue until noon the following day.21 After the result of the polling station is announced, a copy of the results is posted at the polling station and the village office, copies are provided to each witness and the Election Supervisory Agency field poll observers. Another copy is brought to the village level, where the first round of manual tabulation takes place. Manual tabulation continues through four more administrative levels, ending at the national level.

When will official results be announced?
Counting at polling stations will begin immediately after polling ends on February 14. The results at each polling station will be tallied and published before February 16, 2024. Digital records of election results from polling stations will then be aggregated through the Vote Recapitulation Information System (Sistem Informasi Rekapitulasi Suara, SIREKAP) and validated through a recapitulation process at the sub-district, district, and provincial levels.

The KPU will announce the official results for both legislative and presidential election by March 20, 2024,22 unless there is a run-off. In that case, the second round of the presidential election will be held on June 26, and the official presidential election results will be announced by July 20, 2024.

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19 Bawaslu Regulation No. 1/2023
20 Law No. 7/2017.
21 Constitutional Court decision No.20/PUU-XVII/2019.
22 Law No 7/2017 mandates that the official announcement is made a maximum 30 days after Election Day.
Despite the lengthy recapitulation process, in the past the KPU has provided preliminary results within 48 hours of aggregating polling station result data in its system. Registered pollsters normally publish the results of their quick counts by the end of Election Day. By trailing SIREKAP in the upcoming election, the KPU expects to reduce vote tabulation time. Since it will use digital data instead of the hard-copy results, the KPU expects that regions will eventually be able to finalize election results within five days after an election, much more quickly than the current official manual recapitulation process.

**How will election disputes be adjudicated?**
Depending on their nature, disputes are managed by the Election Supervisory Agency, Bawaslu; the police; the Attorney General, the plaintiff; the administrative courts; the Supreme Court or the Constitutional Court. Election-related cases are classified as violations, disputes, or criminal offenses.\(^{23}\) All cases must be filed with Bawaslu to be classified and then directed through the appropriate channels (except for violations of the code of ethics of election organizers and disputes over election results), as follows:

- Violations against the Code of Ethics of Election Management Bodies are routed to and settled by the Honorary Council of Election Management Bodies.
- Administrative violations are settled by the Bawaslu.
- Criminal offenses are routed to the Center for Integrated Law Enforcement (Bawaslu, police, Attorney General), including disputes on the election process, election administration, and election crime.
- Bawaslu settles electoral disputes between election contestants and the KPU. Its rulings are final and binding, except in political party and candidate registration cases, which can be appealed to administrative courts and the Supreme Court.
- The Constitutional Court settles election result disputes.

**Resources**
- General Election Commission website
- Election Supervisory Agency website
- Constitutional Court website

**About IFES in Indonesia**
Since 1998, IFES has supported Indonesia’s electoral institutions, civil society, and other stakeholders across the full range of electoral disciplines – including election system design, results mechanisms, electoral dispute resolution, voter registration, and voter education. Beyond traditional electoral disciplines, IFES has also addressed persisting and emerging challenges to democracy, such as threats to cybersecurity, political finance oversight, and disinformation and incitement to inter-group violence. Through its longstanding commitment to Indonesian experts and institutions, IFES builds broad expertise within the electoral community and has facilitated unprecedented levels of collaboration among electoral stakeholders and civil society. IFES continues to support electoral legal reform, improve election operations and cybersecurity, combat disinformation and incitement to violence, and promote the inclusion of women, youth, and persons with disabilities in the electoral process.

**Disclosure**
These FAQs reflect decisions made by the General Election Commission as of February 5, 2024, to the best of our knowledge. This document does not represent any International Foundation for Electoral Systems policy or technical recommendations.

\(^{23}\) Law No. 7/2017.