Elections in Indonesia

2024 Regional Head Elections

Frequently Asked Questions

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Election Snapshot

Election day:	November 27, 2024
Registered voters:	203,657,354
Polling stations:	435,296
Poll workers:	3,047,072
Seats (pairs):	37 for governors and vice-governors
	415 for regents and vice-regents
	93 for mayors and vice-mayors
Candidates (pairs):	103 for governor and vice-governor
	1,169 for regent and vice-regent
	285 for mayor and vice-mayor

When is Election Day?

Elections for the roles of governor and vice-governor, regent and vice-regent, and mayor and vice-mayor – commonly referred to as the regional head elections – will be held on November 27, 2024. Voting will take place at 435,296 polling stations across 37 provinces, 415 regencies, and 93 cities. Voting will commence at 07:00 and conclude at 13:00 local time, with the support of 3,047,072 polling station workers.

Why are these elections important?

The 2024 regional elections are a significant manifestation of democratic values in Indonesia, enabling citizens to directly elect their local leaders – governors and vice-governors, regents and vice-regents, and mayors and vice-mayors. This process reaffirms the principle of popular sovereignty, empowering communities to shape the future of their regions by selecting leaders with the competence, integrity, and commitment to advance local welfare. Democratic elections also ensure political accountability: Elected leaders are required to be answer to the public for their performance. Moreover, regional elections play a crucial role in strengthening national unity by encouraging citizens to manage political differences constructively, fostering trust in the electoral process, and enhancing democracy and social cohesion across the country.

Who are citizens voting for on Election Day?

The 2024 Simultaneous Regional Elections will be the fifth regional elections since Indonesia adopted the simultaneous election system in 2015. On Election Day, voters will elect 37 governors and vice-governors, 415 regents and vice-regents, and 93 mayors and vice-mayors across the country's 545 regions. A total of 1,557 candidate pairs are competing for these positions – 103 pairs in the gubernatorial elections, 1,169 pairs in the regent elections, and 285 pairs in the mayoral elections.

Indonesia has registered 203,657,354 voters (101,645,993 men and 102,011,361 women), including 951,812 voters with disabilities.

Who can vote in these elections?

According to General Election Commission (KPU) Regulation No. 7 of 2024, individuals are eligible to vote if they are:

- Indonesian citizens;
- At least 17 years old on Election Day (citizens under 17 may vote if they are or have been married);
- Registered in the voter list;
- Deemed to be of sound mental health (Voters with psychosocial disabilities retain their voting rights unless deemed otherwise by a medical professional);
- Not stripped of their voting rights by a court ruling;
- Residents of the area holding the election, as evidenced by a national electronic ID card (e-KTP); and
- Not active members of the military or police.

Voter data for the 2024 regional elections is listed in the Permanent Voter List (DPT). To ensure their voting rights, citizens can verify their names online in the DPT at cekdptonline.kpu.go.id.

Any voters who cannot vote at their original polling station on Election Day (November 27, 2024) may apply for a transfer to another polling location. For this election, voter relocation requests must be submitted by October 28, 2024 to local KPU offices, subdistrict election committees, or village election committees. Applicants must present their e-KTP, family card, and other supporting documents. Upon verification of eligibility, voters will receive a Transfer Voting Letter.

The KPU has outlined specific reasons why voters may change a polling station location. These include:

- Working at another location;
- Hospitalization (or providing care for a hospitalized family member);
- Residency in a rehabilitation center;
- Incarceration;
- Studying far from the assigned polling location;
- Moving to a new residence; or
- Displacement due to a natural disaster.

For any of these reasons, voters must provide official documentation from a relevant institution (e.g., an educational institution or local government office).

Voters may also apply for transfers due to exceptional circumstances not covered under standard categories, provided they can present documentation that complies with applicable regulations. This flexibility ensures that as many eligible voters as possible can exercise their right to vote, even if they cannot be present at their originally assigned polling stations on Election Day.

The table below lists ballots for which voters may change polling stations, with permissible reasons.

Change of Polling Station	Allowed Ballots	
	Governor/ Vice-Governor	Mayor/Vice-Mayor Regent/Vice-Regent
Within the same city or district	Permitted	Permitted
Outside the district but within the same province	Permitted	Not permitted
Outside the province	Not permitted	Not permitted
Change of residence, supported by the latest ID card in accordance with the destination polling station	Permitted	Permitted

What are the election management bodies? What is their authorization?

Indonesia's Election Law designates the institutions responsible for administering elections. The General Election Commission (KPU), Election Supervisory Agency (Bawaslu), and Honorary Council of Election Management Bodies (DKPP) function as a unified entity for election administration in Indonesia.

The KPU is an independent national, permanent, and autonomous election organizing body that is responsible for managing elections in Indonesia. Its vertical institutional structure allows for the oversight of provincial KPUs and the Independent Election Commission (KIP) in Aceh, and Regency/Municipal KPUs. The KPU is led by a chairperson and consists of seven members. Provincial KPUs and the KIP in Aceh comprise five or seven members, and the regency and municipal KPUs and KIP consist of five members. Members of these bodies are selected through an open, public process conducted by a selection committee. To support the smooth execution of their duties and authorities, secretariats are established at all KPU and KIP levels. In conducting elections, the KPU forms *ad hoc* bodies such as the Overseas Election Committee; the Overseas Voting Organizing Group for elections abroad; and district election committees, voting committees, and voting organizing groups.

The Bawaslu is an independent supervisory body responsible for overseeing elections in Indonesia. Like the KPU, it is national, permanent, and autonomous and oversees provincial and regency and municipal Bawaslu. The Bawaslu is led by a chairperson and comprises five members. Each provincial Bawaslu has five or seven members, and each regency or municipal Bawaslu comprises three or five members. As with KPUs and KIPs, Bawaslu members are selected through an open public process conducted by a selection committee. To support its duties and authorities, secretariats are established at each level. During elections, the Bawaslu forms *ad hoc* supervisory bodies such as the Overseas Election Supervisory Committee for elections abroad (which does not occur for regional elections), as well as district election supervisory committees (Panwaslu Kecamatan), village/subdistrict election supervisory committees (Panwaslu Kelurahan/Desa), and polling station supervisors.

The DKPP examines and adjudicates complaints or reports of alleged ethical violations committed by members of KPUs and Bawaslu at all levels. The DKPP is a permanent body. Unlike the KPU and Bawaslu, it does not have a vertical structure. In carrying out its duties, the DKPP may form regional examination teams in each province on an *ad hoc* basis. The DKPP consists of seven members: one ex-officio member each from the KPU and Bawaslu and five public figures. Two members from the public are nominated by the president and three by Parliament. A secretariat ensures smooth execution of the DKPP's duties and authorities.

How will voters with disabilities cast their ballots?

Indonesia's Election Law guarantees that voters with physical, intellectual, mental, sensory, speech, hearing, and visual disabilities have the right to assistance in casting their ballots and mandates that their votes remain confidential. A voter with a disability may bring a trusted individual, such as a family member or friend, to the polling station to assist in the voting process. Alternatively, a voter with a disability may request assistance from polling station officers. To ensure the confidentiality of the vote, the General Election Commission (KPU) requires the assistant to sign a form stating that he or she will maintain the confidentiality of the voter's choice. Assistants are required to maintain voter confidentiality, with breaches punishable by fines or imprisonment.

The KPU provides tactile braille ballot templates at all polling stations to assist voters who are blind or have low vision in casting their votes.

Is out-of-country voting allowed?

No. Voting from abroad is allowed only during presidential and legislative elections. Voting for gubernatorial and vice-gubernatorial, regency and vice-regency, and mayoral and vice-mayoral elections is conducted only within their designated electoral regions.

Which electoral system will be used in these elections?

In most cases, regional elections use the first-past-the-post (winner takes all) system. Therefore, the candidate who receives the most votes in the election will be declared the winner, even if he or she does not receive more than 50 percent of valid votes. However, in the Jakarta gubernatorial and vice-gubernatorial elections, and in elections with single pairs of candidates, an absolute majority system is used. In an uncontested election, if the single pair of candidates does not receive a majority of votes, the General Election Commission will organize a re-election for the positions in the next regional elections, scheduled for 2025.

Who is eligible to compete in these elections?

Candidates for the role of regional head may run independently or be nominated by a political party or a coalition of political parties. In general, all candidates must:

- Be faithful to God Almighty.
- Be loyal to *Pancasila,* the Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia of 1945, the ideals of the Proclamation of Independence of August 17, 1945, and the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia.
- Have at least a high school or equivalent education.
- Be at least 30 years old (for candidates for governor and vice-governor) or at least 25 years old (for candidates for regent, vice-regent, mayor, and vice-mayor) at the time the candidate pair is named.
- Be physically and mentally capable and free from drug abuse.
- Never have been convicted as a criminal based on a court ruling that has permanent legal force.
- Not currently have their voting rights revoked.
- Never have committed disgraceful acts.
- Submit a personal wealth accounting.
- Not have personal or corporate debts.
- Not be declared bankrupt.

- Have a taxpayer identification number and personal tax report.
- Never have served two consecutive terms as a governor, vice-governor, regent, vice-regent, mayor, or vice-mayor.
- Submit a written resignation from membership in the House of Representatives, regional Representative Council, or a regional People's Representative Council.
- Submit a written resignation from service in the Indonesian National Army or Indonesian National Police, or as a civil servant or village head (or equivalent).
- Resign from any position in a state-owned or regional-owned enterprise upon designation as a candidate.

Political parties or coalitions of parties participating in the election can nominate candidates for a regional head position if they meet a specific threshold. For the elections for governor and vice-governor, regent and vice-regent, and mayor and vice-mayor in a given region, the party or coalition must obtain 6.5 percent to 10 percent of the valid votes based on the total number of registered voters in the Permanent Voter List in the region. These requirements ensure that participating political parties have significant support before they nominate candidates.

What are single candidate elections?

The election of a single candidate pair is carried out under one of the following conditions:

1. After a delay, and by the end of the extended registration period, only one candidate pair has registered, and a check of the administrative requirements check confirms that the pair meets the criteria for candidacy.
2. More than one candidate pair registered, but an administrative requirements check reveals that only one pair meets the criteria for candidacy. By the end of the registration reopening period, no additional candidate pairs register, or registered pairs fail to meet the criteria, leaving only one candidate pair.
3. Between the designation of candidate pairs and the start of the campaign period, one pair is declared unqualified and the political party or coalition of parties does not propose a substitute pair, or a proposed substitute pair is declared unqualified, leaving only one candidate pair.
4. A candidate pair is disqualified by a sanction, leaving only one candidate pair.

In regions where only one candidate pair is running, the General Election Commission (KPU) of the province and district or city presents candidate pairs on the ballot paper as follows: A candidate pair designated as number 1 appears in the left-hand column, and a candidate pair designated number 2 appears in the right-hand column. A blank column without images is assigned a number.

In elections with only one candidate pair, the winning pair is must obtain more than 50 percent of valid votes. If the pair obtains fewer than 50 percent of votes, a re-election will be held in the following year. This rule protects the rights of voters and prevents an automatic win for a single candidate pair.

In 2020, 25 regions held elections with single candidate pairs. In the 2024 concurrent elections, 37 regions will conduct elections with single candidate pairs:

Aceh Province: Aceh Utara, Aceh Tamiang
North Sumatra Province: Asahan, Pakpak Bharat, Serdang Bedagai, North Nias, Labuhanbatu Utara
West Sumatra Province: Dharmasraya
Jambi Province: Batanghari

South Sumatra Province: Ogan Ilir, Empat Lawang
Bengkulu Province: North Bengkulu
Lampung Province: West Lampung, Tulang Bawang Barat
Bangka Belitung Islands Province: Bangka, South Bangka, Pangkal Pinang City
Riau Islands Province: Bintan
West Java Province: Ciamis
Central Java Province: Banyumas, Sukoharjo, Brebes
East Java Province: Trenggalek, Ngawi, Gresik, Pasuruan City, Surabaya City
West Kalimantan Province: Bengkayang
Central Kalimantan Province: Tanah Bumbu, Balangan
North Kalimantan Province: Malinau, Tarakan City
East Kalimantan Province: Samarinda City
South Sulawesi Province: Maros
Southeast Sulawesi Province: Muna Barat
West Sulawesi Province: Pasangkayu
West Papua Province

Because each of these areas has only one candidate pair, the election outcomes will depend on securing more than 50 percent of valid votes. Otherwise, a re-election will be scheduled.

Are there any provisions to support the participation of women and minorities?

There are no specific quotas or provisions for female candidates or minorities. Access to campaign financing remains one of the greatest obstacles for women and minority candidates. The Election Law attempts to reduce such barriers by allowing certain campaign activities to be funded directly through regional budgets. These activities include debates between candidate pairs, campaign advertising in mass media, the installation of campaign properties such as billboard and posters, and the distribution of campaign materials. Campaign spending limits which, while intended to provide more equal opportunities for female and minority candidates, are still considered relatively high.

In the 2024 regional elections, 1,557 candidate pairs (3,114 individuals) are competing – 1,404 men and 153 women. These figures reflect significant gender disparity. East Java sets a historic milestone in the 2024 regional head election as all gubernatorial candidates—Khofifah Indar Parawansa, Tri Rismaharini, and Luluk Nur Hamidah—are women.

What is the structure of the ballots?

The election ballots are printed on paper that incorporates a special security feature, such as microtext (hidden small text), as an anti-counterfeiting measure. The ballot format is either vertical or horizontal, depending on the number of candidate pairs, with color photos of the candidates. Ballots use a double-sided layout and a security design.

Each type of election is assigned its own color coding for easy identification. The General Election Commission (KPU) draws numbers that it assigns to the candidates. Each ballot includes a column for each candidate. Inside each column, the number, name, and photo of a candidate and his or her running mate appears. Voters use a pin to punch their selection in the designated column.

In elections where only one candidate pair qualifies, a blank column is provided. A voter's selection of the blank column will be considered a valid vote

What is the term of office for regional heads?

The term of office for regional leaders in Indonesia is five years. The leaders elected in the 2020 regional elections were initially intended to serve until 2024. However, based on the Constitutional Court's ruling, the term for those officials was extended until the inauguration of new regional leaders elected in 2024. This decision ensures the continuity of regional leadership while maintaining government stability and preserving the continuity of the democratic process through regular regional elections.

What technology will be used?

The General Election Commission (KPU) uses several applications to manage elections. These include a national intranet that connects 553 KPU offices (one KPU at the national level, 37 at the provincial level, and 514 at the district/city level). The KPU requires candidates to use the Candidate Registration Information System to register for the 2024 regional elections, providing all necessary information and documents into the system for verification by the KPU. Since the 2014 election cycle, the KPU has maintained the world's largest computerized voter registration system, SIDALIH – the Voter Data Information System. SIDALIH includes features that help standardize and organize the voter registration process. It generated the voter list for the 2024 regional elections, including mapping transfer voters to polling stations with vacancies in their destination villages. Voters can check their names in the voter list through the SIDALIH portal.

KPU does not use electronic voting and vote counting technology at polling station. Votes are casted by punching paper ballots using nail and then counted and tabulated manually. For the 2024 regional elections, the KPU will use an electronic recapitulation system, SIREKAP – the Electronic Vote Recapitulation System as a tool to document polling station results and assist in recapitulation. This system will publish final results from each stage of tabulation process once its finalized, following the manual tabulation process. Staff at polling stations will take photos of polling station's result forms using SIREKAP application installed on their mobile phones. The application will automatically convert the images into preliminary figures to be verified by poll worker before transmitting it to tabulation center. The election results from the polling stations in SIREKAP will be published online and could be used as comparison to any parallel tabulation initiatives. Thus, SIREKAP will improve transparency by making results from polling stations publicly accessible, enabling independent verification, and reducing errors. At the same time, the official manual counting will be conducted to obtain the final results.

What is the election management body doing to strengthen its technology and procedures to resist vulnerabilities and counter foreign interference?

To strengthen its ability to address vulnerabilities and prevent foreign interference, the General Election Commission (KPU) manages elections using tools including a national intranet that connects 553 KPU offices across the country. The KPU does not use electronic voting or counting technology; votes are cast using paper ballots that are counted and tabulated manually. The Voter Data Information (SIDALIH)

system, the world's largest computerized voter registration system, has features that standardize and organize voter registration. SIDALIH maintains and stores a secure database that provides KPU a comprehensive view of the national voter list. SIDALIH also enables KPU to cooperate with the Ministry of Home Affairs to take advantage of improvements to the citizen registry (such as improving accuracy by removing inactive records and updating voter information based on verified data through the Electronic Identity Card program). This collaboration helps keep voter data current and ensure that eligible voters are accurately represented, reducing the likelihood of errors or fraudulent entries in the voter list for regional elections.

KPU had also used the Electronic Vote Recapitulation Information System (SIREKAP) for legislative and presidential elections. KPU staff data-entered election results into SIREKAP and image of results forms from each polling station for public review. Image of results form from polling stations are published by KPU and have been utilized by the public and candidates to obtain informal preliminary results.

Since 2004, as election management bodies have expanded their use of information technology, KPU has been a target of increasingly complex cyberattacks from domestic and foreign actors. To anticipate such attacks KPU formed a task force drawn from government entities including the National Cyber and Encryption Agency, National Cyber Investigation Center of the National Police, State Intelligence Agency, Agency for the Assessment and Application of Technology, and Ministry of Communication and Information Technology. The task force coordinates efforts to strengthen KPU's cybersecurity and respond to cyber incidents related to election administration. KPU separated its public servers from sensitive production servers to protect election data in the event of an attack. It conducts audits and penetration testing on critical existing and new applications. Updated administrative controls minimize the risk of cyber threats to KPU officials, information systems, and information and communication technology infrastructure. KPU has also trained its staff and election administrators in cyber hygiene.

Where are vote counting and tabulation held?

Vote counting will be conducted at polling stations after voting ends. The results are recorded on a C.Hasil-KWK form, which is copied onto a C.Hasil Salinan-KWK form to be distributed to witnesses and election supervisors. The results are also distributed at each polling station and at the village or ward and subdistrict levels in hard copy and digital formats.

Once counting is complete, each polling station submits its results to the subdistrict Election Committee (PPK) through the village Election Committee. The PPK then recapitulates the vote counting results.

The recapitulation at the subdistrict level is documented in the D.Hasil Kecamatan-KWK form and submitted to the regency or municipal General Election Commission. The General Election Commission Kabupaten/Kota conducts the recapitulation at the regency or municipal level and determines the results of the election for the regent and vice-regent or mayor and vice-mayor.

For gubernatorial and vice-gubernatorial elections, recapitulation results at the regency and municipal levels are forwarded to the provincial General Election Commission.

Who can observe during Election Day? How can they be accredited?

International and domestic election observers can monitor the implementation of elections in Indonesia. The General Election Commission (KPU) issues accreditation to election observers who meet the requirements to monitor the 2024 Regional Election. These are nearly identical for domestic and international observers. However, international observers must obtain recommendation from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and submit certificates of experience, acquire visas for each election observer from the Indonesian representative abroad, and register with the General Election Commission. Domestic observers can register with the provincial KPU or the KPU of the specific district or city where they plan to monitor.

When will official results be announced?

Voting will start at 7 a.m. and end at 1 p.m. local time. Vote counting at each polling station will begin immediately after voting ends, and votes will be counted and announced at each polling station before sunset. Digital records of the election results in the Election Results Recapitulation Information System (SIREKAP) from various polling stations will be consolidated and used for manual recapitulation process at the upper administrative level.

Official results for each level—city, regency, and province—will be announced upon the completion of vote counting and recapitulation, scheduled between November 27 and December 16, 2024. These official results will serve as the basis for result disputes brought to the Constitutional Court. Registered survey institutions are typically allowed to release their results no earlier than two hours after voting ends in the western part of Indonesia. In the future, the use of SIREKAP is expected to reduce the time required for vote recapitulation. Since digital data will substitute for physical results, the KPU hopes that, when SIREKAP is used officially in the future, regions will be able to finalize election results within five days after an election. In contrast, the current manual recapitulation process takes seven to 10 days for regency and city elections and 14 days for gubernatorial elections.

How will election disputes be adjudicated?

Administrative disputes between the General Election Commission (KPU) and election participants are adjudicated by the Election Supervisory Agency, which issues final and binding decisions. Candidate registration disputes are exceptions; in those cases, a plaintiff can appeal the decision to the State Administrative Court. Disputes regarding election results must be submitted to the Constitutional Court; its decisions cannot be appealed. Disputes can only be filed if the vote margin between the winning candidate and second-place candidate does not exceed 0.5% to 2%, depending on the region's population. Such cases must be filed within three days after the official results are announced.

What are the campaign expenditure and donation limits?

The General Election Commission (KPU) sets campaign expenditure limits for candidates based on the areas in which they run. The KPU uses a formula that considers campaign methods, the number of campaign activities, the estimated number of campaign participants, regional cost standards, required campaign materials, coverage area, geographic conditions, logistics, and campaign management and consultants.

The law allows individuals to donate up to 75 million IDR (approximately $5,400 USD); companies or

other legal entities can donate up to 750 million IDR (approximately $54,000 USD).

Resources

- [Indonesian electoral information](#) (in Bahasa Indonesia)
- [General Election Commission](#) (in Bahasa Indonesia)
- [Election Supervisory Body](#) (in Bahasa Indonesia)
- [Constitutional Court](#) (in Bahasa Indonesia)

About IFES in Indonesia

Since 1998, the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) has provided support to Indonesia's civil society, electoral institutions, and other key election stakeholders. IFES has supported all electoral disciplines, including legal drafting, election system design, results mechanisms, seat allocation, electoral dispute resolution, voter registration, and voter education and public information.

IFES piloted initiatives to counter disinformation during Indonesia's June 2018 regional elections and currently works with civil society organizations, election management bodies, and interfaith groups to continue this critical work in the lead-up to the regional head elections. For hundreds of local elections conducted since 2015, and for the 2019 election cycle, IFES worked with civil society and academia to support electoral legal reform; improve election operations; include women, youth, and persons with disabilities in the electoral process; and maintain a comprehensive Indonesian [election information portal](#). IFES has also shared international experiences and best practices with Indonesian election management bodies as they face challenges such as cybersecurity attacks, disinformation threats, and COVID-19.

Disclosure

These FAQs reflect decisions made by the General Election Commission as of October 2024, to the best of our knowledge. This document does not represent any International Foundation for Electoral Systems policy or technical recommendations. Contribution limits are cumulative for each donor throughout the campaign period.