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## Urgency and Impact Election Simultaneously Operate\*

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**Abstract:**

*People's sovereignty in a democratic system is marked by the implementation of general elections. Elections are an embodiment of a democratic system that has received responses from various countries as an ideal means or mechanism in the framework of a peaceful and orderly power transfer process. By holding elections, it is hoped that the process of transferring power in a country will run well. Therefore, the election received serious attention from various groups, so that the idea of simultaneous elections emerged. This study uses a qualitative method with a statutory approach. The results of the study state that simultaneous national elections not only have implications for the realm of constitutional law or political administration but also have a negative impact on their implementation.*

**Keywords:** *Simultaneous Election; Idea; Population sovereignty*

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## A. INTRODUCTION

Elections are a real manifestation of procedural democracy. Although democracy is not the same as general elections, general elections are one of the most important aspects of democracy that must also be held democratically. Therefore, usually in countries that call themselves democracies, it is customary for elections to elect public officials in the legislative and executive fields, both at the central and regional levels. Democracy and democratic elections are mutually "*qonditio sine qua non*", the one can not exist without the others. In the sense that elections are interpreted as a procedure to achieve democracy or a procedure to transfer people's sovereignty to certain candidates to occupy political positions.<sup>3</sup>

Since the promulgation of the 1945 Constitution for the first time, the Indonesian state administration system has undergone many changes due to the dynamic development of the state administration itself. These changes are manifested in four amendments to the 1945 Constitution, the last time being in 2002. One of the systems that has changed is the implementation of popular sovereignty with a representative democratic system in which people's representatives sit in parliament and act on behalf of the people, and representatives of the people. They are the ones who will determine the style and way the government works, as well as what goals are to be achieved both in the long term and in the relatively short term. In order for people's representatives to truly act on behalf of the people, the people's representatives must be determined by the people themselves, namely through general elections. Therefore, for countries that call themselves democracies, general elections are an important feature that must be held periodically at certain times.<sup>4</sup>

People's sovereignty in the homeland is marked by the regulation of people's sovereignty through Article 1 paragraph (2) of the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia, (Article 1 paragraph 2 of the 1945 Constitution), then along with that, the implementation of general elections (elections) is increasingly receiving more attention from various circles. Elections are an embodiment of a democratic system that has received responses from various countries as an ideal means or mechanism in the framework of a peaceful and

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<sup>3</sup> (Junaidi, 2009), *Menata Sistem Penegakan Hukum Pemilu Demokratis Tinjauan Kewenangan MK atas Penyelesaian Perselisihan Hasil Pemilu (PHPU)*. Jurnal Konstitusi, 6.

<sup>4</sup> (Asshiddiqie, Pengantar Ilmu Tata Negara, 2009)

orderly power transfer process. By holding elections, it is hoped that the process of transferring power in a country will run well.

Facts have noted that the direct election model has brought a number of positive impacts. One of them is the birth of national leaders, both the president and a number of regional heads based on the choices of the majority of Indonesian people. So it's not like what happened in the New Order era that so many leaders were born, especially when the local democratic process was still dominated and even under legislative control, which was not in tune with the people's choices and wills.

Sejarah telah mencatat bahwa terpilihnya Presiden Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono selama dua periode merupakan wujud nyata dari sistem demokrasi secara langsung yang dijalankan di Indonesia. Apabila proses pemilihan presiden dan wakil presiden masih berada di bawah kewenangan Majelis Permusyawaratan Rakyat (MPR) sebagaimana yang pernah dijalankan pada masa-masa silam, maka kecil kemungkinan Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono dapat menjadi presiden, karena parpol yang mengusungnya ketika itu hanya mampu menempatkan beberapa orang saja perwakilannya di parlemen.<sup>5</sup>

Likewise, the presidential and vice-presidential elections are also placed and held separately in the presidential and vice-presidential election regime. The roll-out of the process of electing members of the legislature and the election of the president and vice president separately in the end has led to its own consequences so far. The consequences are more directed to things that are less supportive for the implementation of a more efficient and effective democracy. The various weaknesses of the election mechanism separately can be seen from the issue of time, the amount of costs required and also the energy that must be devoted by the election organizers in order to hold a democratic party at different times.

The large expenditure burden that must be borne by the state in order to organize direct democracy events with different schedules and times, in particular the implementation of the presidential and vice presidential elections as well as the general elections for members of the legislature, a number of parties who are members of the Civil Society Coalition for Simultaneous Elections filed a judicial review of the Law Number 42 of 2008 concerning the General Election of the President and Vice President. The implementation of the presidential and vice-presidential elections as well as the elections for members

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<sup>5</sup> (Simamora, 2012) Pasang Surut Model Demokrasi Lokal. *Jurnal Ilmu Administrasi STIA Lan Bandung*, 243-244.

of the legislature separately are seen as having generated a large portion of expenditure for state finances, so that they are very worthy of review. The 2014 election budget allocation required is Rp. 16 trillion. The amount of the budget is meant to make the government have to set aside a portion of the state budget since 2013. Through the 2013 APBN, the government has set aside Rp. 8.1 trillion as the cost of preparing for the 2014 election implementation phase, and the shortfall in the budget is included in the 2014 APBN.

The same step in 2008 was also rolled out. At that time, in 2008 the government budgeted Rp. 6.67 trillion for the preparation costs for the 2009 elections, but later realized Rp. 1.9 trillion. Then in 2009, the government again allocated a budget of Rp. 13 trillion and what was realized was Rp 8.5 trillion. The budget value of this size is then considered quite burdensome for the portion of the state budget. The Constitutional Court (MK) also seems to have the same view in interpreting the election process which has been quite a burden on the state budget.

Precisely on January 23, 2014, the Constitutional Court partially granted a judicial review of Law Number 42 of 2008 concerning the Election of the President and Vice President proposed by the Civil Society Coalition for Simultaneous Elections. The application granted by the Constitutional Court is a judicial review of Article (3) paragraph (5), Article 12 paragraph (1) and (2), Article 14 paragraph (2) of Law Number 42 of 2008. While related to judicial review of Article 9 of Law -Law Number 42 of 2008 which essentially regulates the issue of the minimum number of votes acquired by political parties to be able to nominate pairs of presidential and vice presidential candidates (presidential threshold) was not granted by the Constitutional Court. Furthermore, the Constitutional Court stated that the decision in question only applies to the implementation of the 2019 election and subsequent elections. Meanwhile, for the implementation of the 2014 election, the abrogated provision remains the guideline for its implementation.

The Constitutional Court's decision this time should be appreciated as a wise step in the context of organizing democratic events more efficiently and effectively. Because after all, the direct democracy process that has been carried out so far, especially with different timescales and implementation processes will cost such a large amount of money. The issuance of the Constitutional Court's decision Number 14/PUU-XI/2013 has its own consequences related to efforts to synchronize the implementation of legislative elections as well as presidential and vice presidential elections in the country. As it is known that the two electoral regimes referred to have been held separately (always

preceded by the implementation of legislative elections) and are under the auspices of different regulations. Therefore, the effort to synchronize the elections in question requires further steps so that the implementation of simultaneous elections starting in 2019 can run well and contribute greatly to building a better quality of democracy.

From what has been described above, the authors are interested in researching more deeply with the title Urgency of Simultaneous General Elections and the Impact of Its Implementation. Based on the background of the problem described above, the focus of research that can be discussed in this study include: How is the urgency of simultaneous general elections in Indonesia? What is the impact of holding simultaneous general elections in Indonesia?

## **B. METHODS**

This research is carried out with a literature study where this study seeks to examine the concepts in this research by accessing research materials from library materials, namely materials containing new or up-to-date scientific knowledge, or new understandings of known facts and ideas (ideas). This includes books, journals, dissertations or theses and other legal materials. Normative legal research uses primary legal materials and secondary legal materials. The primary legal material in this study consists of the Constitutional Court Decision No.28/PHP.BUP-XVI/2018 concerning the Stipulation of the Regional Head of Bogor Regency 2018.

## **C. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### **1. Election System**

In essence, according to Manuel Kaisepo, general elections are elections that have indeed become an important tradition and are almost sacred in various world political systems. General election according to Ali Murtopo is a means available for the people to run democratic institutions. It was further said that the general election was important because it served to legitimize the existing powers for the new regime, this support and legitimacy was sought. Unlike the RIS Constitution and the 1950 Constitution, the 1945 Constitution in its articles does not clearly regulate general elections. The provisions regarding the election only evolved from:

- a. Article 1 paragraph 2 of the 1945 Constitution which states "sovereignty is in the hands of the people and is carried out entirely by the MPR." The condition for people's sovereignty is a general election.
- b. Article 7 of the 1945 Constitution which states that the President and Vice President shall hold office for 5 years and thereafter may be re-elected.
- c. The explanation of Article 3 of the 1945 Constitution which states that once in five years the Assembly pays attention to everything that happens from points 2 and 3 can be developed that elections in Indonesia are held once in five years.
- d. Article 19 of the 1945 Constitution, the composition of the DPR is determined by law.

One form of democracy is the General Election. In other words, elections are an important embodiment of procedural democracy. In this regard, Samuel P. Huntington in Sahid Gatara stated that the main procedure of democracy is the competitive election of leaders by the people they will lead. In addition, elections are very much in line with the spirit of democracy in substance or substantial democracy, namely democracy in the sense of government organized from the people, by the people and for the people. That is, the people who hold the highest power.

Elections are institutions as well as political practice procedures to realize people's sovereignty that allows the formation of a representative government. In simple terms, General Election is defined as a way or means to determine the people who will represent the people in running the government. In general elections, candidates will usually campaign before voting is carried out during a predetermined time interval. In the campaign, the candidates will try to attract the public's attention in a persuasive manner.

Anywhere in the world with a tradition of democratic life, elections are a means of replacing or continuing a government. In a country that adheres to a presidential system of government, elections are meant to elect a president. Whereas in countries that follow a parliamentary system of government. Elections are intended to bring as many representatives of certain parties as possible to parliament, in order to form a government.

In general, modern countries (modern dale) that adhere to constitutional democracy (democratic rule of law) in their constitutions regulate general elections. If the country adopts a parliamentary system of government,

then the general election which is regulated in the constitution is to elect representatives of the people in the representative institutions, whereas if the country adopts a pure presidential system, generally the general election is held to elect the President (Head of the executive) and people's representatives in representative institutions.<sup>6</sup>

According to Moh. Kusnardi and Harmaily Ibrahim general election is nothing but a way to elect representatives of the people. Therefore, for a country that calls itself a democracy, the general election must be held at certain times. Or as stated by Bagir Manan that "the general election which is held in a cycle of five years is a time or momentum to show real and direct government by the people. It is at the time of the general election that all candidates who want to sit as state and government administrators depend entirely on the will of the people."<sup>7</sup>

Based on the descriptions and opinions of the experts mentioned above, it can be formulated that the general election is a democratic government that is placed in the power of the people. Based on people's power, of course, must also uphold the principles of a rule of law because the people's representatives who sit in deliberation institutions or people's representatives in administering the government are also limited by the provisions of the Constitution or the Constitution.

Similarly, the meaning contained in Article I paragraph (2) of the 1945 Constitution which reads "Sovereignty is in the hands of the people and is carried out entirely by the People's Consultative Assembly (MPR)" are:

- a. The Indonesian state is based on people's sovereignty.
- b. Indonesia adheres to a democracy with a representative system (representative democracy).
- c. People's sovereignty is fully exercised by the People's Consultative Assembly.

Because the highest power is in the hands of the people, it is the people who determine all the authority that exists in the state, which determines all the features, ways of government and the goals of the state. However, this Sovereignty is not directly exercised by the people, but is exercised by people's

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<sup>6</sup> (Mashudi, 1993) *Penertian Dasar Kedudukan Hukum Pememilhan Umum di Indonesia Metrul Undang-Undang Dasar 1945*. Bandung: Mandar Maju.

<sup>7</sup> (Mashudi, *Pengertian Dasar Kedudukan Hukum Pemilihan Umum di Indonesia Metrul Undang-Undang 1945, 1993*)

representatives who sit in people's representative institutions who inspire or convey the people's voice.

According to the 1945 Constitution, the Republic of Indonesia is a sovereign state of the people. This can be seen in Article 1 paragraph (2) of the 1945 Constitution which reads: "Sovereignty is in the hands of the people, and is carried out entirely by the People's Consultative Assembly". For this reason, through elections, it is a democratic and polite mechanism in making changes, especially the change of leaders in the 1999 elections, the government has formed three laws, namely:

1. Law Number 2 of 1999 concerning Political Parties.
2. Law Number 3 of 1999 concerning General Elections, and
3. Law Number 4 of 1999 concerning the Positional Structure of the People's Consultative Assembly, the People's Representative Council, and the Regional People's Representative Council.

Law Number 3 of 1999 concerning Elections, which distinguishes between the election of President and Vice President by electing members of the Legislature. The 1999 election only has the right to elect members of the Legislature nominated by political parties, not to elect the President and Vice President, because the President and Vice President are elected by the members of the People's Consultative Assembly (MPR). In other words, the election of the President and Vice President is not direct because the 1945 Constitution states that this is the right of the People's Consultative Assembly (MPR).

Elections need a system because without an electoral system, it is certain that a lot of fraud and manipulation will occur. How can it not be that Indonesia, which has conducted quite a number of elections in every five-year period, still has fraud and shortcomings in various sectors, especially if it does not use the system, it is certain that the general election will be destroyed and in vain.

In political science, the electoral system is defined as a collection of methods or ways in which citizens elect their representatives. For the election of members of the people's representative institutions, the electoral system that transfers the number of votes into the number of seats. In the election of the President of the governor and district head, which is the sole representation in the electoral system, the basis of the number of votes obtained determines who



wins and who loses. By looking at this, the electoral system in a democracy is very important.<sup>8</sup>

During the New Order era, people had a lot of discussions about which is better, using the proportional electoral system that the Indonesian people use or the district system in general. It is recognized that each system has advantages and disadvantages. There are some groups who argue that the professional system in the New Order did not get a chance to be implemented properly because it was hampered by the “floating masses” and the intervention of the government apparatus. It is considered that if these two symptoms were removed, plus the names of candidate members were listed under the symbol of each party, the proportional system would undergo a substantive improvement that more or less accommodated criticism from supporters of the district system.

## **2. Simultaneous Election Phenomenon in 2019**

The holding of simultaneous elections will indeed be more efficient, so that the financing of the implementation will save more state money coming from taxpayers and the results of the exploitation of natural resources and other economic resources. This will increase the state's ability to achieve state goals, as mandated in the Preamble to the 1945 Constitution which, among other things, is to promote general welfare and the greatest prosperity of the people. In addition, holding elections simultaneously will reduce the wastage of time and reduce conflicts or horizontal friction in society. Whereas in addition, the right of citizens to vote intelligently in this simultaneous general election is related to the right of citizens to build a map of checks and balances of the presidential government with their own beliefs.

Simultaneous elections are a combination of legislative and executive elections in one election day. Mark P. Jones defines that the general election is said to be simultaneous if the first round of presidential elections or the only round in the presidential election is held on the same day as the legislative elections. Simultaneous between the presidential election and the election of legislative members can be categorized into fully simultaneous (simultaneous) or partially simultaneous (partially simultaneous). It is said to be fully simultaneous if the legislative and presidential elections are always held on the

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<sup>8</sup> (Gaffar, 1999). *Politik Indonesia: Transisi Menuju Demokrasi*. Yogyakarta: Pustaka Pelajar.

same day. Meanwhile, at the same time, part of the election is the implementation of elections if some members of the legislature are elected in the middle of the president's term of office while others are elected simultaneously with the president.<sup>9</sup>

The Constitutional Court's decision Number 14/PUU-XI/2013 should be appreciated as the first step towards a more effective and efficient simultaneous election regime. Indeed, what usually happens in a presidential government system is that there are two separate elections, namely the election to elect the executive (head of government) and the legislature. However, it is precisely this difference in election time that causes conflict between these two institutions compared to a parliamentary system of government. One of the ways to resolve conflicts between these two institutions is the method of general election. The difference in the timing of this election has implications for the distribution of power in parliament and also affects the governance (effectiveness) of the government because it involves the working relationship between the two institutions.<sup>10</sup>

According to Jimly Asshiddiqie, there are many benefits that can be obtained from the simultaneous national election mechanism in strengthening the government system, including:

- a. The government system is strengthened through 'political separation' (decoupled) between the executive and legislative functions which are supposed to balance each other. The officials in these two branches of power were formed independently at the same time, so that there was no conflict of interest or potential for hostages to take place which fostered transactional politics;
- b. One of the weaknesses of this 'decoupling' system is the potential for symptoms of 'divided government' or 'split-government' as a result of the head of government not controlling the majority vote in parliament. However, this must be accepted as a reality which of course must be balanced with the application of the principle of non-discrimination between the parliament and the government;
- c. The impeachment system can only be applied with strict conditions, namely the existence of criminal reasons, not political reasons; to

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<sup>9</sup> (Arsil, 2014). *Pemilu Serentak Tetap Punya Masalah*. Jakarta.

<sup>10</sup> (Mellaz, 2013). *Keserentakkan Pemilu: Pelaksanaan Pemilukada Menuju Pemilu Nasional*. *Jurnal Pemilu dan Demokrasi*, 191.

maintain the climate and dynamics of the “public policy debate” in parliament. It must be possible for members of political parties to have different opinions with their parties in fighting for the interests of the people, and the “party recall” policy must be abolished and replaced with a “constituent recall” policy.

### 3. The Urgency of Simultaneous Elections

Reflecting on the existing experience so far, there are at least a number of sufficient reasons to say that simultaneous elections have a level of urgency to be realized immediately. This can be seen in terms of the required budget efficiency. Through the holding of simultaneous elections, it will be strongly believed that the budget needed in the context of holding elections can be saved in such a way.

Thus, the burden on the state budget will be reduced. In principle, the reduction in the budget burden will greatly assist the government in realizing and funding a number of other programs for the benefit of the people. If the implementation of democracy in a country actually runs without a balance between the "costs" that must be incurred and the benefits obtained, then this kind of situation will create a democratic deficit. The cost of democracy in a financial sense is political divestment (negative investment) funds by making political decisions that exacerbate the democratic deficit.<sup>11</sup> Political policies that are pursued often lead to efforts to smooth the interests of a number of parties who are in the vortex of power.

The urgency of simultaneous elections is also seen in terms of the effectiveness of holding elections. By holding elections simultaneously, it is certain that this will be very effective, both in terms of the implementation time and in terms of the energy needed in the context of carrying out the elections in question. So far, holding elections at different times seems to take quite a long time and requires such a large performance.

In addition, simultaneous elections can also reduce the volatility of money politics. Through the simultaneous implementation of elections, it has an impact on efforts to reduce the practices of money politics which are increasingly coloring the implementation of recent democratic events. Facts have shown that the implementation of elections at different times has not only

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<sup>11</sup> (Darwin, 2007). *Revitalisasi Nasionalisme Madani dan Penguatan Negara di Era Demokrasi*. (Pidato Pengukuhan Jabatan Guru Besar, Yogyakarta).

incurred huge costs for the state, but has also given rise to increasingly bloated political costs, both for political parties and for those participating in the "battle" in democratic events in the country.

This kind of political pattern in the end gives birth to a derivative impact that is no less bad than other problems that surround the implementation of elections in Indonesia. If then a number of parties who become contestants in the election have to bear huge political costs in order to win the election, then it is almost certain that the orientation of those who will sit in both the parliamentary and presidential seats will eventually be led to efforts to dredge financial coffers. the state in order to restore the political capital that had been previously issued.

This of course will not only have a bad impact on efforts to save state finances, but will also seriously damage political education in the country. With the enormous political costs, it is absolutely impossible if the political elites who have won the election contest do not commit deviant acts that are contrary to the rule of law in order to seek to return the political capital that has been poured during the election. It is this problem which is then very feared that it will damage the democratic system that has been built so far.

Efforts to conduct elections simultaneously, especially if later extended to the implementation of local elections, it will also be strongly believed that this kind of democracy model will be able to reduce the practices of political dynasties. Of course, it must be admitted honestly that in the perspective of election regulation, the issue of political dynasties is not an issue that can be ensnared in the legal realm. The reason is, until this moment, there is not a single regulation that regulates the issue of political dynasties. However, political dynasties can still be questioned, especially when it comes to the principle of propriety. Not all actions that are not prohibited by positive law by themselves can be interpreted as worthy to be carried out. There are certain things that must be related to the principles of propriety and appropriateness in the event that an act is not regulated by applicable law. This should be underlined in responding to political dynasties which have recently mushroomed in the country, so that a number of parties no longer try to build political dynasties, especially at the local level excessively.

The turbulent political practice in the country must be acknowledged that the success model with a low political style that is only oriented to the struggle for power, especially in local political events has proliferated and is always shown when approaching democratic events. On the one hand, he claims to be a fighter for public aspirations, but on the other hand, he

strengthens himself as a power hunter. This kind of condition is quite busy adorning the political face of this country. Power is only interpreted as the only orientation in democracy. This kind of thing ultimately causes the political system to become oligarchic, no longer democratic because democracy itself has been robbed by its elites.<sup>12</sup> In such a situation, of course democracy will be increasingly cornered into the path of destruction. Neglect of ethics in politics will lead to massive erosion that can completely erode the meaning of democracy itself.

The entire scope of power must remain based on political ethics in order to create public welfare (promoting public welfare) and the benefit of the nation. The country is too tired to fight for democracy as the most effective governance model. Therefore, the journey of democracy should be escorted to a truly fair event and demonstrate honesty in every process and stage. It is time for various forms of hypocrisy and patterns of power hunting to be completely eradicated from the realm of democracy so that in the future the identity of democracy is not contaminated from various forms of actions and behaviors that actually pollute the face of democracy itself.

Efforts to support saving democracy from various bad things that have surrounded it so far, it would be very urgent and reasonable enough to implement simultaneous elections in the country. Even though the implementation of elections is carried out in various times and versions, it does not mean that it can automatically be concluded that the implementation model of this kind of election model is bad. However, as stated by Jose Antonio Cheibub, that one of the causes of the government experiencing divisions in the presidential system of government is when the presidential election and parliamentary elections are not conducted simultaneously. Therefore, if it turns out that more real and realistic options are found and contain a number of positive things, such as the model of holding elections simultaneously, then it becomes unreasonable to question the efforts to conduct elections simultaneously.

#### **4. Impact of Simultaneous Election Pemilu**

Simultaneous national elections not only have implications for the realm of constitutional law or political administration, but have major

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<sup>12</sup> (Mahfud, 2007). *“Demokrasi dan Peradilan: Rabaan Diagnosa dan Terapi”* (makalah disampaikan dalam Dinner Lecture yang diselenggarakan oleh Komite Indonesia untuk Demokrasi (KID)). Surabaya.

implications in the study of political science. In the perspective of political science, simultaneous national elections have a number of hypothetical advantages in terms of political institutionalization and consolidation of democracy in Indonesia.

Simultaneous national elections aim to create congruent election results. Academically, the concept of simultaneous elections is only possible in a presidential government system. The essence of this concept is to combine the implementation of legislative and executive elections on the same day, so that it is possible to create a congruent government, meaning the election of executive officials (President and Vice President) who have legislative support, so that the government is stable and effective. This government congruence is assumed to be significantly correlated to the stability and effectiveness of the government. The government is expected to be effective in decision-making because the majority of parliamentary seats are held by the party that carries the elected president. This is what is often assumed that simultaneous elections have a positive correlation with the strengthening of presidentialism in Indonesia.

This concept and design is based on the experience of Latin American countries that use presidential election systems with non-simultaneous elections which result in unstable governments due to disputes between the elected president and parliament whose majority of members do not come from the president's party or the coalition party supporting the president. To overcome this problem, Brazil then held simultaneous elections starting in 1994 and within 15 years Brazil showed its stability, and even became one of the world's economic powers today. The success of the Brazilian state was then followed by many countries in the region. According to Shugart, this congruence is created because in simultaneous elections there is an effect called the coattail effect, where the election of a presidential candidate will affect the electability of legislative candidates (Matthew Soberg Shugart and Scott Mainwaring, 1997). That is, people after choosing a presidential candidate will tend to give their choice to the legislature that comes from the party that carries the president.

This simultaneous national election encourages the creation of policy-based coalitions. This simultaneous national election encourages the creation of policy-based coalitions, because elections also require strong political parties and adequate resilience in representing the interests of the community and offering policy options to demonstrate their ability towards the general good (*bonum publicum*). In addition, minimizing political pragmatism which is often a reference for political actors and parties in coalitions.

As is currently happening, serial/non-simultaneous elections are very vulnerable to political pragmatism because political parties joining a coalition tend to gain power (office-oriented approach), not because they fight for policies (policy-oriented approach). Based on the decision of the Constitutional Court above, the implementation of the election that was not carried out simultaneously made the supervision and checks and balances between the DPR and the President not run well. This is because pairs of presidential and vice presidential candidates often create temporary tactical coalitions with political parties. What happened in the two presidential elections did not create a long-term coalition that could naturally lead to the simplification of political parties. With simultaneous elections, political parties can no longer form a pragmatic coalition. Political parties will be more selective in looking for candidates, and not just rely on mathematical considerations. In the long term, this is expected to lead to a natural simplification of the party system.

Simultaneous national elections encourage the quality of political parties that are more democratic. The presence and role of political parties is currently an important prerequisite for the practice of modern democracy, even modern democracy is party democracy. The literature on democracy studies generally mentions that the existence of free, autonomous, and competitive political parties is a sine quo non condition for the practice of democracy. A democratic political system is believed to be able to facilitate the life of political parties that are free, autonomous, and competitive, so democratization of political parties requires the democratization of the political system first. Without a democratic political system, it is difficult to emerge free, autonomous, and competitive political parties. In a non-democratic political system, the life of political parties is generally not free, not autonomous, and not competitive.

Simultaneous national elections have the potential to minimize conflicts between parties or party supporters. Conflicts are no longer prolonged throughout the year, so from a conflict management perspective it is easier to handle. The energy of party supporters can be directed to other positive activities that lead to the institutionalization of political parties. Even simultaneous national elections are more efficient, time-saving and cost-effective. Efficiency in the context of simultaneous elections can be seen from several aspects, including the efficiency of election time and costs. Trillions of state money can be diverted to fulfill other constitutional rights that are no less important, because in the simultaneous/simultaneous stages of legislative and presidential elections, many things can be summarized in one work package. Moreover, about 65% of election costs are allocated for the honorarium of

election officials, so the more elections are held, the greater the costs incurred. Furthermore, in the aspect of political cost efficiency, because the campaign costs for legislative and presidential candidates are one, high-cost politics, as is the current practice, can be minimized.

Potential to reduce money politics and corruption, because the strategy of winning candidates through money politics practices creates unhealthy competition in elections by creating an unequal playing field (un equity of playing field), inequality of access to top leadership in public office, and the birth of co-opted politics, which reduces the quality of democracy and sacrifices the public interest. In addition, with the simultaneous national elections, there will be a drastic change in the presidential threshold, because all political parties that qualify as election participants will be able to nominate presidential and vice presidential candidates. In fact, it is possible that an independent presidential candidate will also enter.

According to Didik Supriyanto as quoted by Ria Casmi Arrsa that the idea of a simultaneous general election is able to overcome dynastic politics on the basis of arguments, namely; First, if the legislative and executive elections are held simultaneously, everyone including the incumbent and his relatives will have limited opportunities to run for office. They must choose one of the positions they want to achieve, namely members of the legislature or executive positions. Both those who are elected and those who are not will be in the same position in the next five years. Compare this to the current situation, during the legislative elections everyone is looking for seats in the DPR, DPD, and DPRD, but after a year or two later, those who have won parliamentary seats and those who have failed to move to the executive arena are fighting for the seat of regional head in the pilkada. For those who have failed parliamentary seats, they can return to their seats; while the successful one will leave his seat for someone else, who could be his relative.

The merging of legislative elections and executive elections forced political parties to build coalitions from an early age. They are aware that the election of candidates for executive officials that they carry will affect the electability of candidates for legislative members. This encourages parties to build large coalitions, so that post-election results in political blocking on the one hand, there is a large coalition that wins executive positions and controls parliamentary seats; on the other hand, there is a coalition that failed to win executive positions which became a parliamentary minority group so that it inevitably became the opposition. Thus, through the idea of simultaneous elections, it is hoped that it will make an effort to build the quality of a



consolidated democracy so that it will simultaneously have an impact on strengthening the presidential system in Indonesia.

Simultaneous national elections not only have implications for the realm of constitutional law or constitutional politics, but also have some negative impacts in their implementation. The following are some of the impacts of problems in the implementation of the 2019 simultaneous elections:

**First; Logistics.** Nationally, there were 10,520 polling stations that experienced a shortage of election logistics. There was also a case where the ballot boxes received by KPPS were not sealed, namely at 6,474 polling stations. In addition, there are also cases of ballots being swapped between electoral districts or between polling stations. Based on data from Bawaslu, this case occurred in 3,411 polling stations.

**Second; Voter Data.** Regarding the Handling of Voter Data. The updating of the Permanent Voters List as a result of Phase 3 Improvement (DPThp3) carried out by the KPU was only completed on April 8, 2019, which is 9 days before the D Day of voting. This means that it is 21 days behind the schedule set by the KPU, which is March 19, 2019. Several parties stated that the main obstacle to the delay was that the KPU had difficulty in sorting Voter Data comprehensively (which synergizes with Voter Data at the Ministry of Home Affairs), so that errors still occur in the form of registered voters duplicate, registered deceased, and not updating voters who have changed their domicile. Bawaslu also stated that the KPU's Voter Data Information System often had errors that interfered with the process of uploading and downloading data.<sup>13</sup>

**Third; KPPS Officer.** Regarding the workload of KPPS. Data from the Ministry of Health as of May 16, 2019 shows that 527 KPPS officers have died and 11,239 have fallen ill. The large number of KPPS officers who died and fell ill was allegedly due to the heavy workload of organizing the 2019 Simultaneous Elections (nasional.kompas.com, 2019).

**Fourth; Vote Count Recapitulation.** There were several cases in the recapitulation of vote counting for the 2019 simultaneous elections. Several organizations noted that there were 708 cases of the recapitulation, which were mainly related to C1 data being confused and C1 data input errors into the KPU Calculation System.<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> tirtto.id, 2019.

<sup>14</sup> katadata.co.id, 2019.

Apart from these problems, it can be seen that the Constitutional Court's view that Simultaneous Elections can suppress conflicts or horizontal friction in society has not yet been fully realized. Several technical problems in the implementation of the 2019 simultaneous elections that were not perfectly implemented by the KPU in the field were at least part of the question asked by the candidate for President/Vice President number 02 regarding whether the 2019 simultaneous elections had been carried out truly professionally, honestly and fairly. The lawsuit against the results of the Presidential/Vice-Presidential election from the candidate for President/Vice President serial number 02 has been submitted to the Constitutional Court with Registration Number 1/PHPU. Pres-XVII/2019. One of those being sued is the alleged structured, systematic, and massive fraud in the vote recapitulation of the 2019 Presidential/Vice Presidential election. The Dispute Hearing on this lawsuit has been held since 19 June 2019 (Kompas, 19/6/2019).

#### **D. CONCLUSIONS**

The urgency of the general election can reduce problems in the previous general election, the level of urgency is to reduce the volatility of money politics, the practices of political dynasties, and budget efficiency and time effectiveness. In holding simultaneous elections from a political science perspective, simultaneous national elections have a number of hypothetical advantages in terms of political institutionalization and consolidation of democracy in Indonesia, including simultaneous national elections aimed at creating congruent election results, these simultaneous national elections encourage the creation of policy-based coalitions. Simultaneous national elections encourage the quality of political parties that are more democratic. Simultaneous national elections have the potential to minimize conflicts between parties or party supporters, and have the potential to reduce money politics and corruption.

Simultaneous national elections not only have implications for the realm of constitutional law or constitutional politics, but also have some negative impacts in their implementation. The following are some of the impacts of problems in the implementation of the 2019 simultaneous elections, namely security, logistics, voter data, KPPS officers, recapitulation of vote counting, and general election disputes.

The author provides suggestions from the discussion above, namely; the urgency of simultaneous general elections. So the author hopes that there will be more academic works that examine the urgency of simultaneous general

elections in Indonesia in more depth. Therefore, there is still much to be researched or described in the field of the urgency of simultaneous elections in Indonesia. This research has limitations, both in terms of material and analysis, in addition to receiving suggestions and constructive criticism, the author also hopes that there will be more academic works that examine the simultaneous election and the impact of its implementation more deeply.

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