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Assessing the Effectiveness of Sukoharjo Bawaslu in Electoral Oversight Amid Institutional Constraints

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Original Article

Abstract

This study is driven by the pressing need for effective and independent election oversight to ensure the 2024 General Election is conducted in a democratic, honest, and fair manner. The primary focus is to evaluate the institutional existence and performance of the Sukoharjo Regency General Election Supervisory Body (Bawaslu) in executing its supervisory functions across all stages of the electoral process, as well as to identify the strategies employed for preventing and addressing electoral violations. Utilizing an empirical legal approach, this research employs data collection methods including interviews, document analysis, and field observations. The findings reveal that Bawaslu Sukoharjo has generally fulfilled its duties and exercised its authority in accordance with constitutional mandates and prevailing regulations. Nevertheless, the institution continues to encounter a range of structural, cultural, and technical challenges—most notably, limitations in human resources, budget constraints, and low levels of public participation. In conclusion, the effectiveness of electoral supervision is strongly influenced by the enhancement of institutional capacity and the development of synergistic collaborations with other key stakeholders within the local electoral democracy ecosystem.

Keywords: *Supervision, Election Supervisory Body, Institutions, Democracy*

Abstrak

Penelitian ini dilatarbelakangi oleh urgensi pengawasan pemilu yang efektif dan independen guna menjamin pelaksanaan Pemilu 2024 yang demokratis, jujur, dan adil. Fokus penelitian ini adalah mengevaluasi eksistensi dan kinerja kelembagaan Bawaslu Kabupaten Sukoharjo dalam menjalankan fungsi pengawasan pada seluruh tahapan pemilu, serta mengidentifikasi strategi pencegahan dan penindakan pelanggaran yang diterapkan. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan yuridis empiris dengan teknik pengumpulan data melalui wawancara, dokumentasi, dan observasi lapangan. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa Bawaslu Sukoharjo secara umum telah melaksanakan tugas dan wewenangnya sesuai dengan mandat konstitusi dan regulasi yang berlaku, meskipun masih menghadapi berbagai hambatan struktural, kultural, dan teknis, seperti keterbatasan SDM, anggaran, dan partisipasi masyarakat. Kesimpulannya, efektivitas pengawasan pemilu sangat bergantung pada penguatan kapasitas kelembagaan dan sinergi dengan aktor-aktor strategis lainnya dalam ekosistem demokrasi elektoral lokal.

Kata kunci: *Pengawasan, Bawaslu, Kelembagaan, Demokrasi*

1. INTRODUCTION

Indonesia adopts a constitutional democratic system of governance, in which sovereignty resides with the people and is exercised in accordance with the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia. Within this framework, general elections (Pemilu) serve as the primary mechanism for actualizing direct popular sovereignty, legitimizing state authority, and determining both national and regional leadership. Elections in Indonesia are not merely procedural or technical events; rather, they are indicative of the quality of substantive democracy, grounded in the principles of justice, transparency, public participation, and the rule of law.

As stipulated in Article 22E paragraph (1) of the 1945 Constitution, elections must be conducted directly, universally, freely, confidentially, honestly, and fairly. These six principles constitute the ethical and legal foundation guiding each stage of the electoral process. However, the practical implementation of elections in Indonesia continues to face a range of persistent challenges, including money politics, vote manipulation, abuse of authority, and both administrative and ethical violations committed by candidates and election organizers. Such issues raise serious concerns regarding the erosion of electoral integrity and may undermine public trust in the legitimacy of the government formed through these elections.

In this context, the role of the General Election Supervisory Agency (Bawaslu), established under Law No. 22 of 2007 and subsequently reaffirmed by Law No. 7 of 2017, becomes crucial. Bawaslu is not only mandated to supervise every stage of the electoral process but also functions as a safeguard for the values of democratic elections by preventing and responding to violations. Its authority includes receiving reports of electoral misconduct, conducting investigations, adjudicating electoral disputes, and recommending administrative sanctions to relevant parties. Bawaslu thus plays a key role in ensuring that elections are conducted in accordance with the law and democratic norms.

Nevertheless, the execution of Bawaslu's mandates is often constrained by structural and technical challenges, particularly at the district and municipal levels, which serve as the frontline for electoral supervision in local constituencies. District-level Bawaslu offices frequently contend with limited human resources, insufficient operational funding, and resistance from candidates or influential local elites. Furthermore, disparities in political literacy among citizens present additional obstacles to fostering critical and active public engagement in election monitoring.

Sukoharjo Regency in Central Java, a region characterized by dynamic local political contestation, offers a compelling case for analyzing the implementation of Bawaslu's supervisory functions in the 2024 General Election. Amid the growing complexity of simultaneous elections and intensified political competition, a thorough evaluation is needed to assess the extent to which Bawaslu in Sukoharjo has effectively

carried out its mandate. This study aims to determine whether Bawaslu's roles and authorities have been optimally exercised and to evaluate the effectiveness of its supervision in preventing electoral violations and safeguarding democratic integrity.

As a key feature of Indonesia's democratic architecture, general elections have garnered extensive scholarly attention, particularly concerning the institutional roles and challenges of electoral management and oversight bodies. Prior studies have investigated the performance and constraints faced by Bawaslu in fulfilling its supervisory responsibilities. For instance, Tajuddin et al. found that coordination between the General Elections Commission (KPU) and Bawaslu in Mamasa Regency during the 2019 Presidential Election was hindered by institutional differences in perspective. This underscores the necessity of inter-institutional synergy in ensuring the integrity and democratic quality of the electoral process.¹

Meanwhile, Asmorojati and Harianja specifically examined the role of the Klaten Regency General Election Supervisory Agency (Bawaslu) in preventing money politics during the 2020 Regional Head Election (Pilkada). Their study highlighted Bawaslu's institutional innovation through the establishment of Anti-Money Politics Villages and the use of social media-based outreach strategies. However, the study also identified significant barriers to effective supervision, particularly limited human resources and budget constraints.²

In a separate study, Puspita and Arfa'i explored the legal status of Bawaslu within Indonesia's constitutional framework, as stipulated in Law No. 7 of 2017. Using a normative legal approach, they argued that Bawaslu functions as a quasi-judicial body with the authority to adjudicate administrative electoral disputes. This perspective underscores Bawaslu's strategic role—not merely as a passive supervisor, but as an active institution committed to safeguarding the integrity of the electoral process.³

Another noteworthy contribution is presented by Mardiyati and Indrajaya, who emphasized that following the enactment of Law No. 7 of 2017, Bawaslu gained formal structural legitimacy extending to the district and municipal levels. Their study analyzed how the expansion of Bawaslu's authority has enhanced its capacity to adopt both preventive and repressive measures against electoral violations. However, the research

¹ Muhammad Syariat Tajuddin, Anace Langi Joan, and Nur Fitrah, "Eksistensi Komisi Pemilihan Umum Dan Badan Pengawas Pemilu Kabupaten Mamasa Terhadap Penyelenggaraan Pemilihan Umum Presiden Dan Wakil Presiden Tahun 2019," *Journal Penguruang: Conference Series* 2, no. 2 (2020): 355–60, <http://dx.doi.org/10.35329/jp.v2i2.1323>.

² Anom Wahyu Asmorojati and Dian Mutiara Harianja, "Eksistensi Badan Pengawas Pemilihan Umum Dalam Pencegahan Praktik Politik Uang Pada Pilkada 2020 Di Kabupaten Klaten," *Wajah Hukum* 8, no. 1 (2024): 264–72, <http://dx.doi.org/10.33087/wjh.v8i1.1336>.

³ Puput Sari Puspita and Arfa'i Arfa'i, "Analisis Terhadap Kedudukan Badan Pengawas Pemilihan Umum Dalam Sistem Ketatanegaraan Indonesia," *Limbago: Journal of Constitutional Law* 3, no. 1 (2023): 1–21, <https://doi.org/10.22437/limbago.v3i1.20115>.

remains largely normative and does not offer an in-depth evaluation of supervisory practices on the ground.⁴

Adopting a more applied perspective, Muhammad assessed the effectiveness of Bawaslu in Lahat Regency during the 2019 General Election. This study identified several inhibiting factors, including low levels of education and experience among supervisory personnel, limited legal knowledge among election participants, and minimal community engagement in electoral oversight. These findings emphasize the importance of local socio-political conditions in shaping the effectiveness of Bawaslu's functions.⁵

In a similar vein, Rahmiz and Yasin investigated the implementation of Bawaslu's supervisory duties in Bone Regency during the 2019 Presidential and Vice Presidential Elections. While they concluded that the supervision was conducted in accordance with prevailing regulations, the study also highlighted persistent structural challenges, such as inadequate personnel and infrastructure. Their analysis provides insight into the real-world operational obstacles encountered by Bawaslu in the field.⁶

Further, Fitriyanti et al. examined the existence and strategic role of Wajo Regency Bawaslu in the 2019 elections. They found that although the supervision process proceeded in a democratic and orderly manner, technical challenges remained. The study linked successful oversight to factors such as strategic planning, institutional coordination, and active community involvement.⁷ Complementing this analysis, Salurante et al. traced the historical development of electoral supervision in Indonesia, noting that institutionalized monitoring only began in the 1980s, in contrast to the 1955 election which was largely grounded in mutual trust. This historical account provides valuable context for understanding the evolving significance of Bawaslu's institutional role.⁸

More recently, Shalihah and Huroiroh explored the challenges faced by Bawaslu in ensuring the success of the 2024 simultaneous elections. Through a normative legal lens, they observed that Bawaslu has undertaken internal reforms, including revisions to internal regulations (Perbawaslu) and optimization of operational mechanisms. Their

⁴ Siti Mardiyati and Indrajaya Indrajaya, "Eksistensi Badan Pengawas Pemilihan Umum Dalam Penyelenggaraan Pemilihan Umum Menurut UU Nomor 7 Tahun 2017 Tentang Pemilihan Umum," *Jurnal Hukum Legalita* 3, no. 2 (2021): 131–141, <https://doi.org/10.47637/legalita.v3i2.436>.

⁵ Badru Zaman Muhammad, "Efektivitas Badan Pengawas Pemilu (Bawaslu) Dalam Penyelenggaraan Pemilihan Umum," *Kbazzanah Multidisiplin* 4, no. 2 (2023): 443–67, <https://doi.org/10.15575/kl.v4i2.30139>.

⁶ Faramadinah Rahmiz and Muhammad Yasin, "Tugas Dan Wewenang Badan Pengawas Pemilihan Umum Dalam Mengatasi Sengketa Pemilu Presiden Dan Wakil Presiden," *Al-Isblah: Jurnal Ilmiah Hukum* 24, no. 1 (2020): 163–87, <https://doi.org/10.56087/aijih.v24i1.55>.

⁷ Liza Fitriyanti, Syamsiar Syamsiar, and Rusli Engka, "Eksistensi Badan Pengawas Pemilu Dalam Pengawasan Pemilihan Umum Presiden Dan Pemilihan Legislatif Tahun 2019 Di Kabupaten Wajo," *Jurnal Ada Na Gau: Public Administration* 2, no. 1 (2021): 366–76.

⁸ Belona Danduru Salurante, Andi Dewi Primayanti, and Isman Bruaharja, "Kedudukan Badan Pengawas Pemilu Berdasarkan Undang-Undang Dasar 1945," *Al Manhaj: Jurnal Hukum Dan Pranata Sosial Islam* 4, no. 2 (2022): 473–480, <https://doi.org/10.37680/almanhaj.v4i2.1689>.

findings highlight the agency's efforts toward institutional strengthening and procedural improvement.⁹

Collectively, these studies offer a substantial conceptual foundation for understanding the existence, challenges, and strategies of Bawaslu in supervising elections. However, most of the existing literature has yet to specifically examine the implementation of Bawaslu's duties, authorities, and effectiveness in the context of the 2024 General Election—particularly in localized settings such as Sukoharjo Regency, which presents its own unique political dynamics.

Based on the current body of literature, no prior study has conducted a focused evaluation of Bawaslu's institutional presence, authority, and operational performance in Sukoharjo Regency during the 2024 election cycle. Existing research has primarily addressed normative frameworks, general challenges, or contexts in other regions. Therefore, this study seeks to fill this gap by adopting an empirical approach to investigate Bawaslu's supervisory practices at the district level during a critical electoral moment. Specifically, the study aims to:

- 1) Evaluate the institutional existence and legal positioning of Sukoharjo Regency Bawaslu within the electoral oversight system, in line with the constitutional mandate and Law No. 7 of 2017 on Elections;
- 2) Analyze the implementation of Sukoharjo Regency Bawaslu's duties and authorities across all phases of the 2024 General Election, including preparation, execution, and post-election processes;
- 3) Identify the supervisory mechanisms employed and the preventive as well as enforcement strategies adopted by Sukoharjo Bawaslu to uphold electoral principles of honesty, fairness, directness, universality, freedom, and confidentiality;
- 4) Examine the structural, cultural, and technical challenges encountered by Sukoharjo Regency Bawaslu in executing its supervisory mandate, including limitations related to human resources, financial resources, and public engagement.

2. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study employs an empirical legal approach, which examines law not only as a body of written norms but also as a set of social practices manifested in real-world contexts. This approach is particularly relevant for analyzing the implementation of the authority of the Sukoharjo Regency General Election Supervisory Agency (Bawaslu) in the 2024 General Election. A purely normative analysis of legislation is insufficient; a

⁹ Aini Shalihah and Ernawati Huroiroh, "The Optimization of Bawaslu's Role in the 2024 Simultaneous Elections," *Jurnal Konstitusi* 21, no. 3 (2024): 501–17, <https://doi.org/10.31078/jk2139>.

comprehensive understanding requires insight into how legal norms are actually operationalized in practice. The normative component of this research includes the analysis of the 1945 Constitution, Law No. 7 of 2017 on Elections, and various technical regulations such as Bawaslu Regulations (Perbawaslu) and institutional decisions.

In contrast, the empirical dimension is explored through factual data reflecting the practical experience of election supervision conducted by Bawaslu at the district level. The research is descriptive and qualitative in nature, aiming to provide a systematic, factual, and in-depth depiction of the realities surrounding Bawaslu's roles, supervisory strategies, and encountered challenges. Primary data were collected through in-depth interviews with the Chairperson and members of the Sukoharjo Regency Bawaslu, sub-district election supervisors (Panwascam), members of the General Elections Commission (KPU), election participants, and independent election observers. Secondary data were obtained from official documents issued by Bawaslu, supervisory reports, statutory regulations, and academic literature relevant to electoral oversight.

Data collection methods included interviews, document analysis, and non-participatory observation of key supervisory activities during crucial stages of the electoral process. The data analysis process involved data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing. To ensure the validity and reliability of the findings, triangulation of both data sources and methods was employed, thereby enhancing the objectivity and accuracy of the research outcomes.

3. RESEARCH RESULT AND DISCUSSION

3.1. The Institutional Existence and Role of the General Election Supervisory Agency (Bawaslu) of Sukoharjo Regency

This study aims to evaluate the institutional existence and positioning of the General Election Supervisory Agency (Bawaslu) of Sukoharjo Regency in Indonesia's electoral oversight framework, particularly in the context of the 2024 General Election. The evaluation is grounded in the constitutional mandate of the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia and Law No. 7 of 2017 concerning General Elections. Specifically, this section examines how Bawaslu Sukoharjo executes its functions, exercises its authority, and implements supervisory strategies to ensure democratic, honest, fair, and integrity-based elections.

Empirical findings derived from interviews, direct observations, and document analysis indicate that Bawaslu Sukoharjo has actively engaged in all phases of election supervision—from the administrative verification of candidates, compilation of the final voter list, and campaign period, to election day monitoring and post-election vote recapitulation. Despite these efforts, Bawaslu faces a range of significant challenges that reflect the complexity of supervising elections at the local level. The study found that

Bawaslu's strategy in preventing electoral violations centers on three primary approaches:

- 1) Public Political Education and Outreach, including the establishment of "Supervisory Villages" and "Anti-Money Politics Villages";
- 2) Technical Training for Polling Station Officers, particularly members of the Polling Station Committee (KPPS) and Polling Station (TPS)-level Panwas;
- 3) Inter-agency Coordination and Collaboration, involving law enforcement (police and prosecutors) and local media to enhance both preventive measures and enforcement actions.

Structurally, the legal foundation for Bawaslu's existence at the regency level—as outlined in Articles 101 to 104 of Law No. 7 of 2017—grants it extensive authority, including the power to receive and investigate complaints, recommend administrative sanctions, and adjudicate process-related electoral disputes. However, interview data revealed several operational challenges:

- 1) Limited human resources, especially in reaching polling stations in remote and rural areas;
- 2) Inadequate operational budgets to support field-level supervision;
- 3) Low levels of political literacy among the public, which continues to enable the persistence of vote-buying and manipulation in certain areas.

Based on the analysis, it can be concluded that the institutional existence of Bawaslu Sukoharjo is legally and constitutionally justified, and that it performs its supervisory role in a structured and procedural manner throughout the electoral stages. The agency has demonstrated active involvement in both preventive and enforcement functions. Nevertheless, the overall effectiveness of its supervision remains constrained by technical and sociocultural barriers. If left unaddressed, these limitations may erode both the supervisory capacity of Bawaslu and the perceived legitimacy of election outcomes.

The study also highlights positive developments, particularly in promoting participatory oversight and increasing transparency through public engagement. However, these efforts require reinforcement through regulatory support and increased budgetary allocations to optimize supervisory outcomes. The findings of this study support earlier conclusions by Tajuddin et al., who noted that Bawaslu's performance is often hindered by institutional frictions with the General Election Commission (KPU) and limitations in field-level monitoring.¹⁰ This research also aligns with the work of

¹⁰ Tajuddin, Joan, and Fitrah, "Eksistensi Komisi Pemilihan Umum Dan Badan Pengawas Pemilu Kabupaten Mamasa Terhadap Penyelenggaraan Pemilihan Umum Presiden Dan Wakil Presiden Tahun 2019."

Asmorojati and Harianja, who emphasized the role of public outreach and the creation of “supervisory villages” as innovative strategies for combating money politics.¹¹

Expanding on previous studies, this research provides new insights by focusing specifically on the 2024 General Election in Sukoharjo Regency, where Bawaslu has begun to integrate technology-based oversight tools, such as digital complaint submissions and application-based monitoring systems. These innovations represent a significant shift not widely examined in earlier research. Compared to the findings of Rahmiz and Yasin in Bone Regency—who identified infrastructural deficiencies as a barrier to effective oversight—this study illustrates that Bawaslu Sukoharjo’s efforts toward digitalization and the use of information technology offer promising solutions for enhancing supervisory effectiveness.¹²

Ultimately, the study concludes that Bawaslu Sukoharjo’s institutional presence is not merely symbolic or formalistic. Rather, the agency has evolved into a substantive supervisory institution that actively upholds the principles of electoral democracy. In this regard, Bawaslu functions not only as a “guardian of procedures” but also as a “guardian of democratic integrity.” Its initiatives to foster public participation and disseminate political education affirm its dual role as both a technocratic and democratic institution.¹³ This dual function resonates with the principles of deliberative democracy, in which citizens are not only voters but also active participants in monitoring the political process.¹⁴

However, the effectiveness of Bawaslu’s supervisory functions remains significantly influenced by three interrelated dimensions: structural factors (including institutional authority, budgetary resources, and personnel capacity), cultural factors (particularly public political awareness), and technical factors (such as access to digital technology and efficient reporting systems). Without targeted improvements in these areas, the integrity of Bawaslu’s oversight mechanisms will continue to be vulnerable to political interference and potential manipulation of electoral outcomes. Based on the findings of this study, several key conclusions can be drawn:

- 1) Bawaslu Sukoharjo Regency holds a robust strategic and legal position as an electoral supervisory body mandated by the 1945 Constitution and Law No. 7 of 2017. However, institutional reinforcement at the regional level remains necessary to enhance its effectiveness.

¹¹ Asmorojati and Harianja, “Eksistensi Badan Pengawas Pemilihan Umum Dalam Pencegahan Praktik Politik Uang Pada Pilkada 2020 Di Kabupaten Klaten.”

¹² Rahmiz and Yasin, “Tugas Dan Wewenang Badan Pengawas Pemilihan Umum Dalam Mengatasi Sengketa Pemilu Presiden Dan Wakil Presiden.”

¹³ Aprilian Sumodiningrat, “Menakar Transformasi Bawaslu Menjadi Lembaga Independen Peradilan Pemilu,” *Jurnal Konstitusi* 19, no. 1 (2022): 180–201, <https://doi.org/10.31078/jk1918>.

¹⁴ Kevin Olson, “Deliberative Democracy,” in *Jürgen Habermas: Key Concepts*, ed. Barbara Fultner (Buckinghamshire: Acumen Publishing Ltd., 2011), 140–55, <https://doi.org/10.1017/UPO9781844654741.008>.

- 2) Bawaslu's performance in the 2024 General Election demonstrated notable progress, particularly in fostering public participation, leveraging digital technologies, and enhancing inter-agency coordination. Nonetheless, persistent limitations in human resources and financial support continue to pose significant barriers to optimal performance.
- 3) The supervisory strategies adopted by Bawaslu Sukoharjo—including civic education initiatives, the establishment of "Supervisory Villages," deployment of digital reporting applications, and the formation of field monitoring teams—represent progressive and innovative measures. These strategies, however, require sustained reinforcement through supportive national policies and multi-sectoral collaboration.
- 4) Strengthening Bawaslu at the local level demands a multidimensional approach, involving adaptive regulatory reforms tailored to regional contexts, sufficient and timely budget allocations, and comprehensive capacity-building efforts for election supervisors across all administrative tiers.

3.2. Implementation of the Duties and Authorities of the Sukoharjo Regency Bawaslu

This section analyzes the implementation of the duties and authorities of the General Election Supervisory Agency (Bawaslu) of Sukoharjo Regency across all phases of the 2024 General Election—namely, the preparation, implementation, voting, and post-voting stages. The primary aim is to evaluate the effectiveness of Bawaslu's execution of its legal mandates under Law No. 7 of 2017 and Bawaslu Regulation (Perbawaslu) No. 13 of 2022. Specifically, the study assesses the application of supervisory strategies (including socialization, training, technological integration, and inter-institutional collaboration), the enforcement of oversight mechanisms, and the structural and cultural challenges encountered during implementation.

- 1) **Preparation Stage**
During the preparatory phase, Bawaslu actively supervised the verification of legislative candidates and electoral administration in close coordination with the General Elections Commission (KPU). This included cross-checking supporting documents, clarifying duplicate entries in the voter database, and identifying potential violations of material electoral law. Beginning in March–April 2024, Bawaslu initiated civic education campaigns at the village level, disseminated information regarding voting rights and reporting procedures, and established both Village Supervision Posts and Anti-Money Politics Task Forces.
- 2) **Implementation Stage (Campaign and Voting Period)**

Throughout the campaign period, Bawaslu closely monitored compliance with campaign regulations, including limitations on campaign materials and campaign financing. The agency responded to public reports, issued formal warnings, and in some cases, recommended the suspension of campaign activities by violators. In the lead-up to voting day, Bawaslu organized technical training for election officials focusing on standard operating procedures (e.g., voter identity verification, ink application, ballot box security) and election ethics. Evaluation data indicated that over 90% of KPPS officials demonstrated adequate understanding of these procedures.

3) Voting and Vote Recapitulation Stage

On election day, Bawaslu deployed field monitoring teams to all polling stations (TPS) from the opening of the polls until the completion of the vote recapitulation process. The implementation of digital monitoring applications—including real-time incident reporting, photo documentation of C1 and C-KWK form signatures—enabled rapid responses to procedural violations. Out of 315 TPS in the regency, 28 incidents were recorded, involving money politics, voter intimidation, and vote-count discrepancies. Ten cases were referred to law enforcement authorities, while the remainder resulted in formal warnings or administrative sanctions.

4) Post-Voting Stage

Following the voting process, Bawaslu conducted a cross-verification audit of the C1 and C-KWK recapitulation documents. Five discrepancies in vote counts were reported and addressed promptly. Three electoral disputes were resolved through the internal adjudication mechanisms of the Sukoharjo and Central Java Bawaslu, without escalation to the Constitutional Court. Comprehensive reports were submitted to the Provincial and National Bawaslu offices, including detailed statistics on violations, policy recommendations, and institutional performance evaluations.

Bawaslu Sukoharjo has effectively exercised its legal authority—ranging from investigating violations, requesting official documents, confiscating evidence, issuing sanction recommendations, to forwarding reports to law enforcement agencies. The integration of preventive and supervisory strategies—anchored in political education, technological tools, and community engagement—has demonstrably reduced the frequency and severity of violations compared to previous elections. Nevertheless, significant challenges persist. These include the shortage of supervisory personnel at remote polling locations, limited time for effective public socialization, stagnant operational budgets, and low levels of civic engagement in reporting violations. These constraints highlight the need for structural reforms and additional support to optimize the supervisory functions of Bawaslu at the district level.

Consistent with the findings of Tajuddin et al., who emphasized the importance of institutional coordination¹⁵, this study found that collaboration between Bawaslu, the General Elections Commission (KPU), and law enforcement agencies in Sukoharjo Regency has generally functioned well. Nevertheless, differences in institutional mandates occasionally led to overlapping responsibilities. Supporting the conclusions of Asmorojati and Harianja¹⁶, this study confirms the effectiveness of village-level supervision and public outreach in reducing money politics, as reflected in a measurable decline in related reports—from 50 cases in the previous election cycle to 18 in the current one.

In contrast to the infrastructure-related challenges reported by Muhammad¹⁷, this study found that digital innovation in Sukoharjo serves as a viable solution to supervisory constraints, particularly through real-time reporting systems. However, technological connectivity in remote polling stations remains a challenge that requires further attention. This study also builds upon the normative framework presented by Rahmiz and Yasin¹⁸, offering an empirical field-based perspective supported by measurable data on supervisory key performance indicators (KPIs) and the effectiveness of violation reporting mechanisms.

The implementation of Bawaslu Sukoharjo's duties and authorities reflects a synthesis of functional-legal (juridical) and operational-technical elements. The institution not only enforces electoral laws but also actively innovates in its supervisory methodologies. The preparation phase served as a critical foundation, where accurate verification processes and early-stage civic education helped to reduce potential conflict during voting. During the campaign and voting phases, technical training and digital supervision tools enhanced Bawaslu's capacity to respond to violations in real time, effectively limiting the impact of electoral fraud. In the post-voting phase, Bawaslu's use of audit mechanisms and dispute resolution procedures demonstrated its institutional integrity and commitment to democratic accountability.

However, the findings of this study reveal that the success of electoral supervision is not solely dependent on regulatory frameworks. It also hinges on local institutional capacity, effective technological infrastructure, and the extent of community participation. Without sufficient allocation of human resources and financial support, particularly at the sub-district and village levels, the continuity and scalability of innovation in supervision remain at risk. This study confirms the following key findings:

¹⁵ Tajuddin, Joan, and Fitrah, "Eksistensi Komisi Pemilihan Umum Dan Badan Pengawas Pemilu Kabupaten Mamasa Terhadap Penyelenggaraan Pemilihan Umum Presiden Dan Wakil Presiden Tahun 2019."

¹⁶ Asmorojati and Harianja, "Eksistensi Badan Pengawas Pemilihan Umum Dalam Pencegahan Praktik Politik Uang Pada Pilkada 2020 Di Kabupaten Klaten."

¹⁷ Muhammad, "Efektivitas Badan Pengawas Pemilu (Bawaslu) Dalam Penyelenggaraan Pemilihan Umum."

¹⁸ Rahmiz and Yasin, "Tugas Dan Wewenang Badan Pengawas Pemilihan Umum Dalam Mengatasi Sengketa Pemilu Presiden Dan Wakil Presiden."

- 1) Bawaslu Sukoharjo has significantly improved the effectiveness of electoral supervision at all stages of the 2024 Election through integrated efforts, including civic education campaigns, targeted training for electoral officers, digital-based supervision tools, internal synergy, and cross-sectoral collaboration with the KPU, police, district prosecutors, and electoral stakeholders. The implementation of an application-based public reporting system has further accelerated Bawaslu's responsiveness to violations in real time.
- 2) Despite these improvements, three primary challenges persist limited supervisory personnel, especially in inland and hard-to-reach areas, which undermines comprehensive field coverage, inadequate operational budgets, which affect Bawaslu's mobility and effectiveness during critical election phases; and low levels of political literacy among the general public, which continue to hamper broader civic engagement and limit the frequency and quality of citizen-initiated violation reports.

3.3. Forms of Supervision, Preventive Strategies, and Enforcement Measures by the Sukoharjo Regency Bawaslu

This study aims to identify and assess the forms of supervision, preventive strategies, and enforcement measures undertaken by the General Election Supervisory Agency (Bawaslu) of Sukoharjo Regency during the 2024 General Election. The primary focus lies in evaluating the effectiveness of oversight at each electoral stage—from preparation and campaigning to voting and post-voting processes. This analysis also examines Bawaslu's role in upholding the six constitutional principles of electoral governance: elections must be honest, fair, direct, general, free, and confidential. Bawaslu exercises its authority through preventive, participatory, and repressive approaches to achieve this mandate.

During the preparatory phase, Bawaslu Sukoharjo implemented proactive supervisory measures, including verification of candidate documentation and voter data. The agency also initiated the establishment of "Supervisory Villages" and "Anti-Money Politics Villages," serving not only as community education hubs but also as early warning systems for potential violations. These efforts were supplemented by public outreach through local media channels and citizen forums, which, according to internal survey data, led to a 35% increase in voter awareness. This community-based prevention model has proven effective in minimizing early-stage infractions.

During the campaign period, Bawaslu monitored campaign materials, financial sources, and both physical and digital campaign activities of election participants. As a result, 15 formal warnings were issued, and three campaign suspension recommendations were made in response to confirmed violations. Joint campaign patrols with law enforcement authorities further enhanced enforcement, resulting in the

identification of eight suspected instances of money politics—two of which proceeded through criminal investigation channels. This integrated enforcement strategy reinforces Bawaslu's central role as a guardian of democratic accountability.

On election day, oversight was intensified through the deployment of over 300 trained Polling Station Supervisors (Pengawas TPS), supported by comprehensive technical training and digital simulation exercises. A real-time monitoring system was implemented, allowing the immediate transmission of C1 and C-KWK form data to a centralized server, expediting the verification process. A total of 28 violations were reported at polling stations; 10 were escalated to formal legal proceedings, while the remaining cases were resolved through administrative mechanisms. These outcomes reflect a swift and responsive supervisory apparatus.

Post-election oversight focused on auditing vote recapitulations and resolving electoral disputes. Bawaslu conducted a thorough cross-verification of the C1 and C-KWK forms against final recapitulation results. Five discrepancy reports were followed up promptly. Additionally, three electoral disputes were resolved through internal mediation without requiring adjudication by the Constitutional Court. This demonstrates the agency's effective conflict-resolution capacity and its ability to de-escalate local political tensions through a deliberative approach.

Bawaslu's prevention strategy was further strengthened by educational initiatives, such as the formation of the "Smart Voters Club," technical training programs for KPPS and TPS supervisors, and the use of cultural-religious networks to disseminate democratic values. A cross-agency Rapid Response Technical Team was also established, supported by clear standard operating procedures and collaborative protocols. These measures confirm that Sukoharjo's preventive strategy is not merely ceremonial but is strategically designed and operationally integrated.

The findings of this study affirm that Bawaslu Sukoharjo has successfully implemented a hybrid model of supervision, combining administrative, technological, and participatory elements. The application of real-time monitoring technologies has accelerated decision-making and enhanced the accuracy of electoral data verification. Despite remaining challenges, such as limited technical personnel and inconsistent internet connectivity in some regions, Bawaslu's holistic and adaptive supervisory approach has ensured that these constraints do not substantially hinder the overall effectiveness of electoral oversight.

When compared to several prior studies, the findings of this research reinforce the conclusions of Asmorojati and Harianja, who examined the effectiveness of "Supervisory Villages" in enhancing public engagement in electoral monitoring.¹⁹ This study further complements the work of Rahmiz and Yasin by providing concrete

¹⁹ Asmorojati and Harianja, "Eksistensi Badan Pengawas Pemilihan Umum Dalam Pencegahan Praktik Politik Uang Pada Pilkada 2020 Di Kabupaten Klaten."

empirical evidence of a decline in the number of reported electoral violations.²⁰ In contrast to Muhammad, who highlighted the limited integration of technology in election supervision²¹, Bawaslu Sukoharjo has actively implemented a digital monitoring dashboard and online reporting mechanisms to enhance oversight efficiency.

These results suggest that Bawaslu Sukoharjo's success in safeguarding the integrity of the 2024 Election cannot be attributed solely to the implementation of legal regulations. Rather, it also stems from institutional innovation, robust community involvement, and sustained organizational strengthening. Looking ahead, the enhancement of human resource capacity, the equitable development of digital infrastructure, and the consolidation of grassroots monitoring networks are essential for reinforcing effective electoral supervision, encouraging democratic participation, and upholding the principle of popular sovereignty.²²

3.4. Major Obstacles Faced by Bawaslu Sukoharjo Regency in Supervising the 2024 Election

This study seeks to examine and analyze the primary challenges encountered by the General Election Supervisory Body (Bawaslu) of Sukoharjo Regency in performing its supervisory duties during the 2024 General Election. The analysis focuses on three key dimensions of obstacles: (1) structural—including limited human resources and operational funding; (2) cultural—such as low levels of political literacy and prevailing local cultural norms; and (3) technical—relating to the digitalization of election supervision and the accessibility of technological infrastructure in remote areas. A holistic understanding of these constraints is essential to provide an evidence-based overview of the institutional barriers faced by Bawaslu and to formulate strategic directions for strengthening its role in safeguarding electoral democracy at the district level.

Findings from in-depth interviews with election supervisors—from the district level to polling stations (TPS)—indicate that structural barriers remain the most critical impediment. The shortage of human resources, especially in rural and geographically dispersed regions, significantly hampers comprehensive and synchronized supervision across all electoral stages. In many instances, a single supervisor is responsible for overseeing multiple TPS areas, leading to diminished supervisory effectiveness. Budgetary limitations further compound the problem. Key field activities—such as

²⁰ Rahmiz and Yasin, "Tugas Dan Wewenang Badan Pengawas Pemilihan Umum Dalam Mengatasi Sengketa Pemilu Presiden Dan Wakil Presiden."

²¹ Muhammad, "Efektivitas Badan Pengawas Pemilu (Bawaslu) Dalam Penyelenggaraan Pemilihan Umum."

²² Gina Amalia et al., "Urgensi Pembentukan Kampung Pengawasan Badan Pengawas Pemilu Terhadap Pengawasan Partisipatif Pada Provinsi Kalimantan Tengah Dalam Menghadapi Pemilihan Kepala Daerah Serentak Tahun 2024," *Konsensus: Jurnal Ilmu Pertambangan, Hukum Dan Ilmu Komunikasi* 2, no. 1 (2025): 8–19, <https://doi.org/10.62383/konsensus.v2i1.561>.

surveillance patrols, the distribution of legal campaign materials, and voter education initiatives—are frequently disrupted due to inadequate operational funding. These findings highlight the urgent need for a more equitable and needs-based allocation of the election supervisory budget, particularly one that accounts for geographic scope and the number of polling stations under supervision.

Cultural challenges are equally consequential. Political literacy among residents—especially in rural areas of Sukoharjo—remains low. A significant portion of the population is unaware that election monitoring extends well beyond voting day, leading to public reluctance in reporting observable campaign violations. In certain cases, money politics disguised as “social donations” from candidates or campaign teams are perceived as culturally acceptable and therefore go unreported. This cultural resistance poses a significant obstacle to Bawaslu’s preventive measures, as the public has yet to embrace its role as an active participant in electoral oversight. Consequently, there is a pressing need to intensify educational initiatives that are locally contextualized and culturally sensitive.

On the technical front, although Bawaslu Sukoharjo has introduced a digital reporting platform—namely the Awas-Lu application—its implementation remains constrained by several challenges. Unstable internet connectivity at remote polling stations often prevents real-time reporting of violations. Furthermore, many grassroots-level supervisors lack sufficient proficiency in operating the application, despite undergoing training. Limited technical support and inadequate access to digital devices further exacerbate these challenges. To address this issue, a hybrid supervision system—which enables manual reporting mechanisms to function in parallel with digital tools—must be developed and institutionalized.

The study finds that structural constraints are the root cause of various supervisory challenges. Without adequate human resource capacity and financial support, Bawaslu cannot fulfill its oversight mandate effectively. Cultural factors, including weak legal consciousness and societal tolerance toward fraudulent electoral practices, continue to undermine participatory monitoring efforts. Technological barriers, particularly in terms of digital infrastructure and technical literacy, hinder the responsiveness and agility of the monitoring system.

Nevertheless, the study also acknowledges Bawaslu Sukoharjo’s adaptive responses in the face of these limitations. Initiatives such as tiered supervisory training, enhanced cross-sector collaboration, and the strategic use of local media for public education represent meaningful innovations that contribute to strengthening democratic oversight at the grassroots level.

These findings are consistent with several previous studies, such as Tajuddin et al., which underscore the importance of synergy between the General Elections

Commission (KPU) and the General Election Supervisory Body (Bawaslu).²³ In Sukoharjo, institutional collaboration has generally functioned well, although overlapping responsibilities remain—particularly in areas related to digital monitoring and election logistics. The present study also supports the conclusions of Salurante et al., who emphasized the strategic value of Supervisory Villages, while noting that the program’s effectiveness is heavily reliant on adequate human resource and budgetary support.²⁴ Moreover, this study reinforces the findings of Mardiyati and Indrajaya concerning regional human resource limitations²⁵, while also extending the normative insights offered by Rahmiz and Yasin through the inclusion of concrete empirical data from field observation.²⁶

This study identifies structural constraints—particularly shortages in personnel and funding—as the underlying cause of a range of supervisory challenges. These deficiencies not only weaken Bawaslu’s capacity to implement effective election oversight but also contribute to diminished public participation. Additionally, the study finds that Bawaslu’s current educational and outreach strategies require reconfiguration to better reflect the local cultural context and varying levels of civic literacy across communities.

From a technical perspective, the digitalization of supervisory functions offers promising efficiencies. However, the study cautions against overreliance on technology, particularly in areas where internet access remains unreliable. Hybrid systems that combine digital reporting with manual procedures, along with offline simulation-based training, must be strengthened to ensure consistent supervision regardless of connectivity constraints.

In light of these findings, this study underscores the urgency of policy reforms aimed at enhancing regional election oversight. Budget allocations and human resource deployments must be tailored to the specific needs and challenges of each electoral district. Furthermore, community-based political education and cross-sector collaboration—involving traditional leaders, religious figures, civil society organizations, and local media—are essential to fostering a robust and sustainable supervisory ecosystem.²⁷ To this end, Bawaslu must develop a participatory supervision model grounded in public trust and supported by adaptable technological infrastructure.

²³ Tajuddin, Joan, and Fitrah, “Eksistensi Komisi Pemilihan Umum Dan Badan Pengawas Pemilu Kabupaten Mamasa Terhadap Penyelenggaraan Pemilihan Umum Presiden Dan Wakil Presiden Tahun 2019.”

²⁴ Salurante, Primayanti, and Bruaharja, “Kedudukan Badan Pengawas Pemilu Berdasarkan Undang-Undang Dasar 1945.”

²⁵ Mardiyati and Indrajaya, “Eksistensi Badan Pengawas Pemilihan Umum Dalam Penyelenggaraan Pemilihan Umum Menurut UU Nomor 7 Tahun 2017 Tentang Pemilihan Umum.”

²⁶ Rahmiz and Yasin, “Tugas Dan Wewenang Badan Pengawas Pemilihan Umum Dalam Mengatasi Sengketa Pemilu Presiden Dan Wakil Presiden.”

²⁷ Depriansyah Aldo, “Peran Tokoh Adat Dalam Pendidikan Politik Masyarakat: Fenomena Pada Desa Gunung Sugih Baru Kecamatan Tegineneng Kabupaten Pesawaran” (Universitas Islam Negeri Raden Intan Lampung, 2024), <https://repository.radenintan.ac.id/36753/>; Harry Sugara, Fitri Mutmainnah, and Della Nor Safitri, “Pendidikan Politik Lintas Generasi Dalam Membangun Partisipasi Politik Menghadapi Sukses Tahun Politik,”

4. CONCLUSION

This study aims to evaluate the existence and institutional position of the Sukoharjo Regency General Election Supervisory Body (Bawaslu) within the 2024 election oversight framework, analyze the implementation of its duties and authorities across all stages of the electoral process, and identify supervisory, preventive, and enforcement strategies—including the structural, cultural, and technical challenges encountered during the election. The findings indicate that Bawaslu Sukoharjo has performed its roles and functions in accordance with the mandate of Law No. 7 of 2017 on Elections and Bawaslu Regulation No. 13 of 2022. Its supervisory practices are comprehensive, spanning from the preparatory phase, campaign period, and voting day to post-election activities. Prevention strategies include public political education, the establishment of Supervisory Villages, the use of information technology, and coordination with law enforcement agencies. Enforcement of electoral violations is carried out through both administrative and legal mechanisms, along with responsive and participatory dispute resolution processes.

This study confirms that while Bawaslu Sukoharjo has succeeded in implementing an adaptive and participatory oversight model, the institution continues to face notable challenges, including a shortage of professional human resources, constrained budget allocations, and limited public participation in certain areas due to entrenched passive political cultures. The principal contribution of this study lies in offering both empirical and conceptual insights into the importance of strengthening election supervisory institutions to safeguard the integrity of electoral democracy at the local level.

The study's limitations include a geographically restricted scope—focusing solely on a single district—and qualitative data that primarily reflects the perspectives of institutional actors. Accordingly, this study recommends policy interventions such as enhancing Bawaslu's institutional capacity through continuous training, securing adequate and sustainable funding, and institutionalizing mechanisms for citizen participation. Future research is encouraged to undertake comparative analyses across multiple regions to identify broader patterns in supervisory practices and institutional effectiveness on a national scale.

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