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# Electoral Fraud and Its Solutions from The Perspective of Islamic Politics in Yogyakarta


*Penipuan Pilihan Raya dan Penyelesaiannya daripada Perspektif Politik Islam di Yogyakarta*

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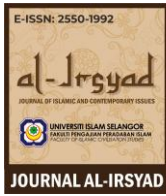
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# Electoral Fraud and its Solutions from the Perspective of Islamic Politics in Yogyakarta

*[Penipuan Pilihan Raya dan Penyelesaiannya daripada Perspektif Politik Islam di Yogyakarta]*

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## Keywords:

Electoral Fraud, Election Efforts, 2024 Election, Indonesia, Islamic Politics.

## ABSTRACT

Issues of fraud, injustice, and dishonesty in validating my electoral data from village to capital levels are increasingly urgent. This phenomenon stems from intense competition and the pursuit of popularity, undermining the integrity of the electoral process. This study examines electoral fraud in the 2019 elections, focusing on data invalidity in Wirokerten, Banguntapan, Bantul, and Yogyakarta. The subjects include village heads, election committee members, potential voters, former 2019 voters, and local communities selected based on gender and specific criteria. This qualitative case study utilized direct interviews and field observations, with data analysis following the Miles and Huberman method: reduction, display, and verification. The findings reveal fraud and ambiguity due to poor communication, lack of supervision, and the absence of Information Technology (IT) in vote counting. Issues such as missing ballot boxes and absentee committee members due to illness were also identified. Approximately 80% of the problems in Yogyakarta were related to electoral disputes. The study proposes a 2024 electoral strategy rooted in Islamic political values, emphasizing candidate collaboration, mutual support, and IT utilization, as implemented by Muhammadiyah during its 48<sup>th</sup> Congress. This approach aims to ensure elections that are legitimate, transparent, and trustworthy, guided by Islamic principles.

**Contribution:** This study deepens the understanding of electoral fraud in Banguntapan, Yogyakarta and offers strategies based on Islamic political values to enhance the legitimacy, trust, and transparency of elections in Indonesia.

**Kata Kunci:**

Penipuan Pilihan Raya, Usaha Pilihan Raya, Pilihan Raya 2024, Indonesia, Politik Islam.

**ABSTRAK**

Isu penipuan, ketidakadilan, dan ketidakjujuran dalam pengesahan data pilihan raya dari peringkat kampung hingga ibu kota semakin mendesak. Fenomena ini berpunca daripada persaingan sengit dan usaha mengejar populariti yang merosakkan integriti proses pilihan raya. Kajian ini menyiasat penipuan dalam pilihan raya 2019 dengan fokus pada ketidaksahan data di Wirokerten, Banguntapan, Bantul dan Yogyakarta. Subjek kajian melibatkan ketua kampung, pasukan jawatankuasa pilihan raya, pengundi berpotensi, bekas pengundi 2019, dan komuniti tempatan yang dipilih berdasarkan jantina dan kriteria tertentu. Kajian kes kualitatif ini menggunakan temu bual langsung dan pemerhatian lokasi, dengan analisis data mengikuti kaedah Miles dan Huberman; pengurangan, paparan, dan pengesahan. Hasil kajian menunjukkan adanya penipuan dan kekaburan akibat komunikasi buruk, kurang pengawasan, dan tidak menggunakan IT dalam pengiraan undi. Masalah seperti kotak undi hilang dan ketidakhadiran ahli jawatankuasa akibat sakit turut ditemui. 80% masalah di Yogyakarta berkait dengan pertikaian pilihan raya. Kajian mencadangkan strategi pilihan raya 2024 berdasarkan nilai politik Islam, menekankan kerjasama calon, sokongan bersama dan penggunaan IT, seperti dilakukan Muhammadiyah dalam Muktamar ke-48. Pendekatan ini diharapkan memastikan pilihan raya yang sah, telus dan boleh dipercayai berpandukan prinsip-prinsip Islam.

**Sumbangan:** Kajian ini memperdalam pemahaman tentang penipuan pilihan raya di Banguntapan, Yogyakarta dan menawarkan strategi berbasis nilai-nilai politik Islam untuk meningkatkan keabsahan, kepercayaan, dan ketelusan dalam pilihan raya di Indonesia.

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## I. INTRODUCTION

The issues of fraud and injustice in the validation of election data during the 2019 election were not widespread across Indonesia, but were instead concentrated in certain areas with large voter populations or significant political stakes. Cases of data manipulation and irregularities were generally influenced by local factors such as weak oversight, lack of transparency, and political pressure, meaning not all regions experienced these problems to the same degree (Rahbari Bonab, Rajabi, Vedadhir, & Majdzadeh, 2024). There is fierce competition between various teams which creates great pressure to win the desired results. This competition tends to emphasize the victory of certain parties without paying attention to the integrity of the validation process. Ambition to achieve popularity or political interests often influences objectivity and honesty in data validation, ignoring democratic principles that should be upheld in the election process (Farkhani, Baidhawiy, & Kuswaya, 2021).

The problems above have a serious impact on the integrity of the election process and the credibility of the results. It is important for researchers to understand the root of this problem thoroughly, starting from the

source of dishonesty, the influence of political dynamics on the validation process, to the role of certain actors involved. This is the basis for formulating appropriate solutions to increase transparency, honesty and integrity in the implementation of future elections (Wang, 2024). Regarding fraud and injustice in validating election data at all levels, from villages to capital cities, this is an interesting research focus for researchers. In the 2019 Indonesian General Election, various allegations of fraud surfaced, particularly from the losing side. One of the key claims involved errors in inputting vote data into the General Elections Commissions (KPU) Situng system, where discrepancies in the C1 forms (vote tally sheets at polling stations) were allegedly mishandled. However, the KPU clarified that Situng was merely a transparency tool and not the official vote count, and any data input errors could be corrected. Prabowo-Sandiaga's campaign team filed a lawsuit with the Constitutional Court (MK), claiming systematic, structured, and massive fraud. After reviewing evidence, including testimonies and documents, the court dismissed the claim due to insufficient proof. Independent audits by agencies like the Election Supervisory Body (BAWASLU) and election monitoring organizations found no significant fraud that could alter the election results. International and domestic observers also stated that the election was largely free and fair, despite minor administrative errors. Ultimately, the allegations lacked substantial data to prove any widespread fraud capable of changing the election outcome. This fraud can include various things, ranging from data manipulation, unclear procedures, to unfairness in the implementation of validation (Taufik, 2020). During the election data validation process, there was intense competition and ambition to achieve popularity between the various teams. This creates pressure to achieve desired results, often at the expense of the integrity and honesty of the validation process. The ambition to dominate or win a certain agenda often results in distortions in the election data validation process (Ipandang, 2021).

Several studies have examined various aspects of elections in Indonesia, providing insights into the political process, challenges, and democratic consolidation. Siti Zuhro's study, *Pemilu dan Konsolidasi Demokrasi di Indonesia*, highlights the role of elections in consolidating democracy in post-Reformasi Indonesia, discussing issues such as corruption, vote manipulation, and money politics (Ismail, Aisyah, & Bakri, 2020). Burhanuddin Muhtadi, in *Political Dynasties in Regional Elections: A Threat to Democracy?*, explores the rise of political dynasties in local elections, arguing that these dynasties often undermine democracy by leveraging state resources to maintain power (Burhanuddin, Syamsuddin, & Qudsy, 2019). Andreas Ufen in *Money Politics in the 2019 Indonesian Presidential Election*, focuses on how money politics influenced voter behavior in the 2019 presidential election, weakening public trust in the democratic process (Schneider, Gardner, Hinojosa, & Marin, 2014). Khoirul Umam in *The Role of Electoral Management Bodies in the 2019 Elections: A Case Study of the KPU*, examines the challenges faced by the General Elections Commission (KPU) in ensuring a free and fair election, including issues of fraud and data manipulation (Umam, 2020). Lastly, Hadar Gumay's study, *Electoral Fraud and Its Impact on Indonesian Democracy*, delves into various forms of election fraud and their negative effects on the legitimacy of election results and the overall quality of democracy in Indonesia. These studies collectively provide a comprehensive view of the electoral system's vulnerabilities and the ongoing efforts to strengthen democratic governance in the country.

Previous research that was carried out aimed to explore problems related to fraud in the general election process in the Special Region of Yogyakarta, with a focus on the Wirokerten, Banguntapan, Bantul areas. Through a multidimensional approach, this research tries to identify the types of fraud that may occur, the triggering factors, and their impact on the integrity and validity of election results at the local level. The research methods used involve surveys, in-depth interviews, and valid data analysis, emphasizing the importance of detailing specific information regarding existing fraud patterns (Kaltsum, Nugraha, & Azizy, 2021). The sources for this research were collected directly from the study area in Wirokerten, Banguntapan, Bantul, Yogyakarta, through fieldwork such as interviews and observations. The findings on potential election fraud are based on local data, not just secondary references, providing a more accurate understanding of the challenges to democratic integrity at the local level.

Based on the information above, the novelty in this research is to analyze problems related to fraud in the election process in the Special Region of Yogyakarta, especially in the Wirokerten, Banguntapan, Bantul areas. In this context, the main focus of the research is to understand in depth the types of fraud that may occur, the triggering factors, and their impact on the integrity and validity of election results at the local level. By detailing valid and specific data for this region, it is hoped that this research can provide clearer insight regarding fraudulent practices that may occur in the general election process, allowing for more targeted and effective improvement efforts.

This research aims to explore problems related to fraud in the general election process, with a special focus on the Yogyakarta Special Region, especially in the Wirokerten, Banguntapan, Bantul areas. The main objective of this research is to collect valid and reliable data that specifically identifies fraud patterns that may occur during elections in this area. Through a careful methodological approach, this research aims to dig up in-

depth information regarding vote manipulation, violations of election procedures, or other forms of fraud that could disrupt the integrity and validity of general election results at the local level.

Muhammadiyah was chosen as a reference because of its proven success in implementing effective and transparent technology applications during the 48th Muktamar in Surakarta. The use of technology by Muhammadiyah in managing large-scale events showcases its ability to ensure credibility, accuracy, and transparency—qualities that are essential for election processes. Additionally, Muhammadiyah is one of the largest Islamic organizations in Indonesia, known for its strong organizational structure and commitment to Islamic values, making it a relevant example for integrating Islamic principles into the electoral system. This makes Muhammadiyah an ideal model for proposing improvements in election management, especially in terms of transparency and technological adoption (Rahman & Abdurakhman, 2021). The results of previous research highlight the need for a deeper understanding of the dynamics of fraud in the context of general elections in Wirokerten, Banguntapan, Bantul. The research findings provide valuable insight into possible fraud patterns, whether in vote manipulation, tendentious distribution of information, or other practices that have the potential to damage election integrity (Akmaliah, & Nadzir, 2024; Widian, Indra Prima Satya, & Yazid, 2023). Previous research provides a strong basis for improving electoral systems at the local level. The recommendations resulting from the analysis of valid data are a source of inspiration for efforts to prevent and overcome election fraud in the future, as well as building awareness of the importance of integrity in the democratization process in this region (Sahide, Yoyo, & Muhammad, 2022).

The theoretical study in this research involves an in-depth understanding of the concept of election fraud which includes various aspects such as vote manipulation, tendentious information distribution, voter intimidation, or violations of election procedures. The theories used relate to political science, sociology, and law to embrace various dimensions that influence election integrity at the local level. For example, from a political science perspective, theoretical studies might focus on political strategies that involve fraud in electoral competition, such as vote buying, unethical negative campaigning, or manipulation of voting results. Meanwhile, from a sociological perspective, theoretical studies may explore social and cultural factors that influence fraud rates, such as unequal access to information or social pressure on voters. On the legal side, theoretical studies can involve analysis of existing election regulations, weaknesses in election supervision, and legal implications related to violations in the general election process (Aditoni & Rohmah, 2022). By combining these various theoretical perspectives, it is hoped that this research can provide a comprehensive understanding of the problem of election fraud in Wirokerten, Banguntapan, Bantul, as well as produce strong recommendations for improving the general election system to be fairer and more transparent at the local level.

Previous research investigated the phenomenon of an increase in the number of politicians from various parties emerging ahead of the Simultaneous General Election. The research focus is on the political strategies adopted by politicians from various parties, with the aim of building image and trust among voters. In this context, there is a special emphasis on the Islamic political approach known as *al-Islām al-siyāsah* or Islamic politics. The research explores how politicians from Islamic political backgrounds use religious principles as a basis for achieving their political goals (Budiman, Safri, & Wendry, 2020). The research methods used involve in-depth interviews with politicians, analysis of political speeches or statements, as well as literature studies reviewing the concept of *al-Islām al-siyāsah*. With this approach, previous research has succeeded in uncovering the political strategies used by politicians in the Islamic context, such as the use of religious values to gain public support, the development of political narratives that prioritize morality and ethics, and efforts to gain voter trust and support through emphasizing religious identity.

The results of this research illustrate how politicians from various parties utilize religious rhetoric and Islamic values in their efforts to gain fame and trust among the public. These findings provide deeper insight into the political dynamics in Indonesia ahead of the Simultaneous General Election, especially related to the use of religious identity politics as a political strategy (Abdullah, 2020). Relevant research provides a strong foundation for further understanding of the complexity of the relationship between religion and politics in the context of Indonesian democracy. The findings and analysis obtained from this research can be the basis for further evaluation of the impact of the Islamic political approach in the political process in Indonesia, especially in relation to its influence on people's political decisions in the future (Mukrimin, 2023).

## 2. METHODOLOGY

The setting of this research is in the Wirokerten Banguntapan area, Bantul, Yogyakarta. The subjects of this research consisted of the village head, the election committee team, prospective voters, former 2019 voters, and the local community. The selection of research subjects was carried out with honesty and data validity. This

means that the researcher has asked directly, met the informant or research subject directly. The research subjects were conducted from the perspective of gender and informant character. The approach used in this research is qualitative, a case study type of research, namely the case of the 2019 election and the upcoming 2024 election. Researchers collected data using direct interview techniques and direct observation at the location as well as local residents and communities located in Mutihan, Wirokerten Banguntapan, Bantul Yogyakarta. Data analysis was carried out by referring to the previous theory proposed by Miles and Huberman (reduction, display and verification) (Graham & Craig, 2011).

This research was located in the Wirokerten Banguntapan Bantul Yogyakarta area and involved subjects from various levels of society, such as village heads, election committee teams, prospective voters, former 2019 voters, and the local community. The process of selecting research subjects is carried out with full data integrity and validity, where researchers directly ask questions and interact with informants or research subjects. Subjects were collected by considering the gender perspective and characteristics of the informants to obtain a holistic picture. The approach used is qualitative with a case study type of research, which focuses on the case of the 2019 election and anticipation of the 2024 election. Researchers used interview techniques and direct observation at the location, including interaction and direct observation with local residents and communities in Mutihan, Wirokerten Banguntapan, Bantul Yogyakarta (Kusuma, Rahmawati, & Ramadoni, 2020). This qualitative approach allows researchers to understand the deeper dynamics of the election case in focus, explore the various perspectives of the subjects involved, and explore the local context in more depth. Data analysis refers to the approach proposed by Miles and Huberman, which includes data reduction stages for simplification, data display for visual understanding, and data verification to confirm the validity of the information obtained (Graham & Craig, 2011; Qodir, Jubba, Hidayati, Abdullah, & Long, 2020).

### 2.1 Data Collection

Data was collected through:

- i. In-depth Interviews: The researcher interviewed 20 respondents, consisting of 12 males and 8 females aged between 25 and 60 years. These respondents include members of the KPU, polling station officials, and community members with direct experience in election processes.
- ii. Documentation: Additional data was collected from official election documents, including vote count reports, mass media coverage, and internal KPU documents related to the commission's performance.

### 2.2 Data Analysis

The data was analyzed using a thematic approach, grouping the respondents' answers based on key themes that emerged during the interviews, such as technical issues in the elections, money politics, and political dynasties. The analysis involved categorizing response patterns, identifying differences in perspectives, and pinpointing challenges and suggested solutions by the informants.

### 2.3 Interview Questions

Table 1 presents the set of interview questions designed to gather insights from respondents on various aspects of the election process in Indonesia. Each question has a specific objective, focusing on different facets of the electoral system and potential issues faced. Here's a breakdown of each question and its purpose.

**Table 1**  
*Interview Questions to Respondents or Informants*

| No. | Interview Questions   | Objectives  |
|-----|---|---|
| 1   | What is your experience in participating in or managing elections in Indonesia? | To explore firsthand experience in election processes   |
| 2   | Do you observe any money politics in the elections? If yes, how does it occur?  | To examine the role of money politics in elections      |
| 3   | What technical issues often occur in the election process in your area?         | To understand technical challenges in elections         |
| 4   | What is the role of political dynasties in the elections in your region?        | To identify the influence of political dynasties        |
| 5   | In your opinion, what needs to be improved in Indonesia's election system?      | To gather suggestions for improving the election system |

## 2.4 Number of Informants

A total of 20 informants were interviewed, consisting of:

Males: 12

Females: 8

Ages: 25-60 years

Occupations: Election officials, academics, political observers, and community members

Based on the data above, it can be explained that a total of 20 informants were interviewed in this study, with the following details: 12 of them are male, while 8 others are female. The age range of the informants is between 25 and 60 years, encompassing various age groups. These informants come from diverse professional backgrounds, including election officials, academics, political observers, and community members. Election officials provide direct insights into the electoral process, while academics and political observers bring theoretical and analytical perspectives on political dynamics. Community members also offer broader viewpoints from a social life perspective, enriching the understanding of the issues being studied (de Santos Barbosa & Oosterlynck, 2024).

Through this approach, it is hoped that this research can provide a more comprehensive understanding of the problem of election fraud and potential improvements that can be implemented in preparation for the 2024 elections. By involving various parties involved in the general election process, this research has the potential to provide more targeted recommendations and relevant in efforts to increase integrity, transparency and participation in the general election system at the local level. This research employs a qualitative method with a case study approach to explore elections in Indonesia. Data collection was carried out through in-depth interviews with relevant informants in the context of elections, such as election officials, academics, voters, and political observers. The research locations include several electoral regions in Indonesia, including Jakarta, West Java, and South Sumatra, which represent areas with large voter populations and various challenges in election administration (Graham & Craig, 2011).

## 3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Explicitly, the research results show that there are shortcomings in the 2019 election process in Indonesia. Fraud and ambiguity in vote counting occurred due to a lack of information and communication from the election team, especially at the village level such as the village head and village head. Lack of supervision and the absence of the use of information technology in vote counting are also major factors (Rahmawati, Yahiji, Mahfud, Alfin, & Koiri, 2018). These findings indicate that there were ballot boxes that were not registered or had not been delivered, and other problems such as inability or permits that were not available to the election team during the election event.

Implicit in this finding is that the electoral system in Indonesia still has many weaknesses that need to be corrected. The presence of disputes in the election process, especially as many as 80% in the Special Region of Yogyakarta, highlights serious problems in the continuity of general elections. The implication is the need for deep reform in the general election system which is rooted from the most basic level to the national level. Apart from that, the research results reveal the importance of using adequate technology and paying attention to aspects of transparency, reliability and credibility in the general election process (Khairil Musthafa, Prasetyo, & Maghfuri, 2023). With the response shown by researchers in dealing with this problem, namely by responding with an alternative strategy for the 2024 election which is based on an Islamic political perspective, there is a strong implication of the importance of religious values, especially in terms of integrity, justice and togetherness in the election process in the future. This indicates the need for a deeper understanding of Islamic values as a guide in building a stronger and more credible political system (Abdullah et al., 2019).

Based on information from informants in the 2019 election, fraud in the 2019 general election at the village level, especially in the Banguntapan Bantul area, is a problem that attracts important attention and needs to be investigated in depth. Several crucial issues emerged from direct observation and interaction with various related parties, such as the village head, the election committee team, and the local community. One of the main problems identified was the lack of appropriate information and communication from the election team to stakeholders at the village level. Ignorance and ambiguity of the election process is often the main cause of dissatisfaction and doubt in the results (Muhsin, Rochmawati, & Huda, 2019).

Among them also the minimal use of information technology and related applications in the vote counting process is also a significant problem. This affects transparency and accountability in the

implementation of elections, increasing vulnerability to possible errors or manipulation (Burhanuddin et al., 2019). The inability of the election team or the absence of the team due to illness during voting also has a negative impact on the integrity of the election process, especially in the supervision and management of ballot boxes. It was reported that around 80% of fraud cases related to disputes occurred in the Special Region of Yogyakarta, including Banguntapan Bantul. These disputes involve disputes that may affect the entire election process. Actions of a conflict nature can damage the integrity of elections and disrupt the democratization process at the village level, reducing public trust in electoral institutions and systems (Zara, 2022). Through in-depth understanding of the various problems identified, it is important for researchers to respond with relevant and solution strategies. The proposed 2024 election strategy prototype focuses on the use of more sophisticated information technology, considering applications that have proven effective in vote counting. Furthermore, including Islamic values in the election process is a suggestion given by researchers as an effort to build the quality of transparency, credibility and mutual support between candidates in the upcoming general elections (Maksum, Abdullah, Mas'udah, & Saud, 2022).

Based on the information above, there are many problems that actually occurred in the 2019 elections in Bantul. There are foreign residents who cannot vote in their aspirations for voting rights in the 2019 election. Meanwhile, many election teams lack coordination with BAWASLU in Yogyakarta. Based on information provided by the local community, there were still many in the 4 ballot boxes where no one voted or were not present, aka abstainers did not vote (Abdullah et al., 2019). This is also in line with previous research in that the focus on election problems in Yogyakarta is very significant. It could be said that it is almost comprehensive for other problems. Therefore, the local government in Yogyakarta needs to evaluate and improve election evaluation in the future. The hope is that elections in 2024 and in the future will run confidentially, fairly and honestly.

### *3.1. The Context of Electoral Fraud Occurring in the 2019 Election*

The 2019 elections in Indonesia showed a series of serious problems related to fraud that came to the surface. The BAWASLU is the institution that records a number of fraud incidents that affect the integrity of elections. One of the main problems is the discovery of alleged money politics involving vote buying (Akmaliah & Nadzir, 2024). This practice often affects the democratization process by reducing fairness and equality in voter votes (Rane, Duderija, & Mamone, 2021).

Not only money politics, but also various other incidents such as indications of abuse of power, unfair distribution of basic necessities and social assistance, as well as the spread of false information or hoaxes that influence public opinion. BAWASLU notes that data manipulation in determining election results is also a serious problem, raising concerns about the validity of declared vote results (Kusmana, 2019). There were reports of disproportionate use of state resources in favor of certain candidates, violating neutrality rules and affecting the equality of competition. Practices of intimidation, threats and violence also occurred in some cases, threatening the integrity of elections and putting pressure on the free participation of voters (Rahman & Abdurakhman, 2021).

Based on BAWASLU's report, this problem shows the need to reform the electoral system and strengthen election monitoring institutions to prevent fraud. Greater transparency in the election process, increased use of technology for voting and counting votes, and strict law enforcement against election violations are top priorities in improving the integrity of general elections in Indonesia (Syarif, Mughni, & Hannan, 2020). Elections are the main pillar of a democratic system, therefore, addressing the problem of fraud thoroughly is the key to building public trust in the democratization process. Strong preventive and deterrence measures need to be implemented to ensure fairness, transparency and integrity at every stage of the election. In this case, the active role of the community in reporting and monitoring the election process is very important to ensure clean and fair general elections (Jahar, Lubis, & Fahri, 2021; Maftuhin & Muflihati, 2022).

### *3.2 Alternatives or Solutions for Indonesia Elections*

Based on the results of observations and interviews, many problems and fraud in the 2019 election were due to the lack of technological tools in counting votes which were still manual. That said, there is still a risk due to the lack of validity of the election vote data. Apart from that, there are many people who abstain and the vote counting in the village is less effective. In this case, an alternative application or system is needed to quickly count votes as was done by the 45th Muhammadiyah Muktamar in Surakarta (Anwar, 2021).

The 2024 election strategy which refers to an Islamic political perspective is one of the alternatives presented by researchers as a response to the problem of fraud in elections. This concept proposes collaboration between election candidates to qualify and support each other well. The main focus is to build cooperation

between candidates with the values contained in an Islamic political perspective, such as mutual support, honesty, integrity and justice. In this context, it is hoped that election candidates will work together to create an atmosphere of healthy competition, minimize excessive competition, and prioritize common interests over personal interests (Akmaliah & Nadzir, 2024; Widian et al., 2023). Implementing this strategy also implies the importance of providing adequate facilities, especially in the use of information technology (IT) and relevant applications. For example, researchers refer to the application used by Muhammadiyah in calculating the results of the 48th Mukhtamar chairmanship in Surakarta. The successful use of the application as a model for the election calculation process shows the potential of technology in ensuring transparency, accuracy and efficiency in managing election results (Sari & Saleh, 2020).

The use of appropriate technology and relevant applications has a crucial role in minimizing vote counting errors, increasing accountability, and offering solutions to the problem of fraud in elections. Furthermore, applications that have proven to be effective, such as those used by Muhammadiyah, are an example for election systems that want to transform into a more transparent and trustworthy direction (Novia, Permanasari, Riandi, & Kaniawati, 2020). However, in implementing this strategy, adjustments are needed to various contextual factors. It is important to take into account the diversity of societies and the political values that exist within them. Moreover, awareness of plurality and the need to ensure inclusiveness of diverse political and religious views is essential in implementing Islamic political strategies in general elections (Zarkasyi, 2011). The use of applications and technology must be accompanied by an approach that ensures equal accessibility for all voters, including those who may be unfamiliar with or have limited access to technology. Guarantees of data security and privacy protection are also important in the application of information technology in the election process (Kesuma, Halim, & Syam, 2022). It is also important to actively involve various related parties, such as election monitoring institutions, political parties, civil society and religious institutions in developing, implementing and monitoring this strategy. Cross-sector collaboration will strengthen integrity and trust in the general election process (Zubaidi, 2020). The implementation of Islamic political strategies in the 2024 elections must be supported by clear and consistent regulations, as well as strict supervision from relevant institutions. The success of this strategy depends on a strong commitment from all parties involved to implement it effectively and responsibly (Munir, 2018).

Thus, this strategy is not only about implementing Islamic political values, but also about the use of appropriate and inclusive technology, collaboration between candidates who support each other, and the active involvement of various parties in ensuring integrity and transparency in the general election process. Openness to refine and adapt this strategy according to evolving needs and contexts is key to achieving cleaner, fairer and more trustworthy general elections (Saidin & Azrun, 2024; Zain & Din, 2022). Alternatives to running the 2024 elections fairly, different from the 2019 elections, require a series of careful strategies and steps to ensure integrity and fairness in the democratic process. One important step is to ensure wider and more inclusive participation from various parties involved in the election process. Increasing the participation of civil society, independent observers and election observers can strengthen supervision of the election process, reduce room for fraud and increase accountability (Gu et al., 2022). Transparency in all stages of the election is the main key. Clear and easily accessible information regarding the election process, applicable regulations, and data related to general elections must be made available to the public. This will help increase public understanding and trust in the election process, as well as reduce the scope for manipulation or fraud (Ech-Charfi, 2018). A commitment to implementing strict rules against the practice of money politics, intimidation, or other efforts that affect freedom and equality in voting is very important. Strengthening punishments and strict sanctions for election violations must also be guaranteed to prevent practices that are detrimental to election integrity (de Santos Barbosa, & Oosterlynck, 2024).

The use of sophisticated and relevant information technology will be a crucial aspect in running the 2024 elections fairly. Using tested applications can speed up vote counting, minimize errors, and provide greater transparency in the process. However, the need for an approach that takes into account the accessibility and security of data for all voters must also be a focus (Nomer & Aksoy, 2022). Collaboration across sectors, including political parties, religious institutions, civil society and other related institutions, must be increased to create a fair and transparent election environment. Collaboration between parties will ensure that elections run with strong and fair democratic principles (Afif, 2019). Reforms in the preparation of voter lists are also a crucial aspect in running the 2024 elections fairly. Increasing the accuracy and validity of voter lists will be an important step to ensure that the voting rights of every citizen are well guaranteed (Latief, 2022). By combining these various strategic steps, the alternative for running the 2024 Election fairly seeks to correct the weaknesses that occurred in the previous election, as well as ensuring that the democratization process runs in accordance with the principles of justice, integrity and transparency.

### *3.3. Elections in the Context of Islamic Politics*

Elections in the context of Islamic politics involve the use of Islamic values and principles as a basis for the political and democratic process. This concept is rooted in the principles of justice, honesty, morality and togetherness contained in Islamic teachings (Jailani, 2023). In an Islamic political perspective, general elections must be based on religious and ethical values that guide perspectives on government, power and social justice (Kasri, 2016).

The Islamic political model carries the idea that Islamic values such as justice, truth and integrity must be reflected in the political system (Aripudin et al., 2022). One of the theories underlying Islamic political thought is the concept of *al-dīniyyah wa al-takwīniyyah*, which underlines the legitimacy and responsibility of political obligations under the will of Allah. In the context of elections, Islamic politics emphasizes the importance of implementing policies that are in accordance with Islamic values in choosing leaders who are fair, honest and responsible (Al Zumor, 2019). The Islamic political perspective theory also recognizes the importance of active involvement of Muslims in the political process. The concept of *ijtihad* or interpretation carried out by religious scholars is often used to deal with changing times and changing political contexts. Understanding Islamic values and their application in general elections is often debated and discussed in the context of Islamic politics (Bensaid, Machouche, & Tekke, 2021). At a practical level, Islamic politics tries to harmonize Islamic principles with the political process, including in holding elections. In this model, political participation must be based on the principles of justice, fair participation and equal treatment for all parties involved. General elections must represent the values of justice, togetherness and freedom that are upheld in Islamic teachings. The concept of Islamic politics in elections also emphasizes the importance of the quality of the leader chosen. Prospective leaders must meet the moral, ethical and justice criteria set by Islamic teachings. The Islamic political perspective theory emphasizes that elected leaders must consider the interests of the people and society as a whole, not just certain groups (Saidin & Azrun, 2024; Zain & Din, 2022). In its implementation, the theory of Islamic political perspectives in elections often raises debates regarding how religious values can be represented appropriately in an inclusive political process. Some views underline the need to separate religion from politics, while others argue that religious values should be the main guide in holding elections (Abdullah et al., 2019; Harun, Rasyid, Lubis, Mohd Balwi, & Rasyid, 2021).

In this case, the concept of Islamic politics in elections is not a single, homogeneous entity, but rather a spectrum of diverse views and interpretations reflected in cultural diversity, religious understanding and interpretation of sacred texts in a political context (Abdullah & Rozani, 2020; Abu Bakar, Hussin, Wan Abdullah, & Nur, 2023; Senin, Azizan, Ismail, & Shafie, 2020). Therefore, holding elections based on an Islamic political perspective faces challenges in combining religious values with the diversity and dynamics of modern politics. Overall, the Islamic political perspective in elections emphasizes the importance of combining religious values with the political process, upholding the principles of justice, morality and social welfare in holding general elections. Meanwhile, implementation must take into account the diversity of views and needs of the community so that the election process remains inclusive and accommodates various interests (Suheri & Yahuda, 2019). Elections based on Islamic values in Indonesia refer to the application of the principles of justice, morality and ethics contained in the teachings of the Islamic religion in the political process. First of all, Islam emphasizes the importance of justice in all aspects of life, including in the political system. In the context of elections, the principle of justice demands equal treatment for all parties involved, including political rights, participation opportunities, and fair handling of election results (Hidayah, 2021). The moral values taught in Islam are an important basis for elections. Integrity, honesty and courage in upholding moral principles are things of great concern. In the context of elections, this means minimizing the practices of corruption, money politics and other manipulations that are contrary to the principles of Islamic morality (Ema, Permana, Suatang, & Kurniati, 2024; Majidi, 2019; Salim, 2022).

Elections based on Islamic values also emphasize active participation in the democratic process. Islam encourages its followers to participate in social and political life. In this context, healthy, informed and responsible participation is important to elect leaders who comply with the criteria of morality and integrity taught by Islam (Makin, 2016a, 2016b; Sutomo & Budihardjo, 2021). A political system based on Islam also emphasizes the importance of social welfare and justice in political decision making. The principles of wealth redistribution, protection of the weak, and concern for the welfare of the people are the basis of political policy (Arifin, Mughni, & Nurhakim, 2022; Madjid, Latief, & Fauzan, 2022; Salik, 2019). In the context of elections, this includes selecting candidates who are able to represent and fight for the interests of all levels of society, especially the less fortunate. Islam teaches about the importance of deliberation and consultation in making political decisions. This concept is applied in the election process where open dialogue and discussion between various parties is very necessary to reach a fair and just agreement. Deliberation based on Islamic principles is a means of achieving consensus that accommodates common interests (Qodir et al., 2020; Zamhari, 2022). Overall, elections

based on Islamic values in Indonesia are based on the principles of justice, morality, participation, social welfare and deliberation. The implementation of these values in the political process is expected to produce fairer, more transparent and responsible general elections, in accordance with the teachings of the Islamic religion.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

Based on research findings regarding fraud and ambiguity in the 2019 election calculations, along with a lack of coordination and inadequate use of technology, the conclusions emphasize the urgent need for changes in the general election system. The primary recommendation for future research is to implement a more integrated approach involving electoral institutions, local government, and communities at the village level. Close collaboration between these parties is crucial to enhance communication, monitoring, and the use of modern technology in the election process. To address issues of fraud and ambiguity, further research should focus on developing systems that integrate information technology, with the use of relevant applications in vote counting, like those utilized by Muhammadiyah in the election of the Mukhtamar chairman, serving as a model for improving the electoral process.

Additionally, future studies should explore the root causes of electoral conflicts and disputes in the Special Region of Yogyakarta (DIY) and develop strategies to minimize their impact on election integrity. This requires a holistic approach, including active dialogue between political parties, electoral institutions, and local communities. Another recommendation is to build awareness of Islamic values in the election process. Future research could delve deeper into how an Islamic political perspective can be effectively and inclusively applied in general elections, ensuring that they reflect values of justice, morality, and collaboration between candidates. In conclusion, future research should prioritize closer collaboration, advanced technology adoption, deeper understanding of political conflict, and better integration of Islamic values to overcome the challenges of fraud and ambiguity. Furthermore, researchers recommend examining the upcoming 2024 elections, focusing on fairness and secrecy from an Islamic political and legal perspective, while addressing the ongoing legislative changes, such as the hot issue involving the Constitutional Court's revisions to the age limit for presidential candidates. This research will have significant implications for ensuring fair and secret elections in Indonesia.

#### CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare that they have no financial or personal relationship(s) that may have inappropriately influenced them in writing this article.

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#### AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Mohammad Jailani contributed as the originator of ideas in this research, particularly in identifying the research gap or novelty related to elections in Islamic politics in Indonesia. Meanwhile, Syarul Azman Shaharuddin as the corresponding author contributed to proofreading and completing the data, as well as refining and improving the manuscript in Malay abstract.

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