Election Campaign Oversight Strategy for 2024: Addressing Bawaslu's Complexity and Challenges

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ABSTRACT - The enhancement of the Election Supervisory Body's (Bawaslu) role in election oversight heavily depends on the clarity of authority provided by legal frameworks. In the context of administrative law, authority not only grants legitimacy but also serves as a boundary to prevent abuse of power. The challenges faced by Bawaslu have become increasingly complex with the emergence of social media as a new arena prone to violations, such as black campaigns, misinformation, and hate speech. However, Bawaslu's limited authority in addressing anonymous accounts creates a gap in oversight that can undermine electoral integrity. This study highlights the need to strengthen Bawaslu's legal foundation through revisions to Law Number 7 of 2017 and the development of regulations that are relevant to technological advancements. The theoretical approach emphasizes the importance of legality, attribution, delegation, and mandate in the management of authority. Moreover, it recommends the establishment of a dedicated subunit for social media oversight, supported by advanced technology and collaboration with digital platforms. The findings show that expanding Bawaslu's authority and enhancing its technical capacity are crucial steps to ensure more effective oversight in the digital era. This strategy is expected to uphold transparency, fairness, and integrity in elections while fostering a stronger and more trustworthy democracy in Indonesia.

Keywords: bawaslu; elections; oversight; authority; principle of legality; black campaign

Introduction

In preparation for the 2024 Elections, the Election Supervisory Body (Bawaslu) is facing challenges that are far more complex than in previous elections. The General Elections Commission (KPU) has established the 2024 campaign schedule, with campaigns for the Legislative (Pileg) and Presidential elections running from November 28, 2023, to February 10, 2024. If the Presidential Election enters a second round, the campaign will resume from June 2 to June 22, 2024. These campaign periods are critical phases as political competition typically intensifies, and the potential for violations, such as black campaigns, vote-buying, and misuse of state facilities, significantly increases. Therefore, Bawaslu must prepare strategic measures and enhance oversight at all levels to ensure the campaign process is orderly and adheres to regulations.

Despite its strategic role, Bawaslu faces several internal challenges ahead of the 2024 Elections. Rahmat Bagja, a member of Bawaslu RI, identifies three main challenges in election management: macro challenges, technical challenges, and human resource (HR) challenges. Macro challenges include political, legal, and policy dynamics that can affect the overall execution of the election. Technical challenges involve operational aspects in the field, such as election logistics management, campaign supervision, and voter data management. Meanwhile, HR challenges relate to the quality and availability of election supervisors, including permanent and ad hoc personnel.

The composition of Bawaslu members is structured at various territorial levels. At the central level, Bawaslu consists of five members. At the provincial level, membership ranges from five to seven individuals, while at the district/city level, it also ranges from five to seven. At the subdistrict level, there are only three members, and at the village/ward level, there is only one supervisor per village or ward, regardless of the area size or the number of registered voters (DPT) in that area. This

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membership structure impacts supervisory capacity, particularly at the village/ward level, where a single supervisor must handle diverse field challenges, such as reporting violations, conducting outreach, and navigating socio-political dynamics in varied regions.

A prominent HR issue is the recruitment of ad hoc election supervisors. This recruitment process often encounters difficulties, especially in remote areas or regions with low political participation. Bawaslu struggles to find ad hoc personnel with the necessary capacity and competence to carry out election supervision duties. Beyond recruitment, capacity building is a central issue. Ad hoc supervisors require sufficient knowledge and skills to oversee critical phases, particularly during the vote counting process (Rahayu & Rohmah, 2022; Tambalean et al., 2023). Without strong oversight, the risks of vote manipulation and potential conflicts at polling stations (TPS) increase.

In this context, strengthening HR becomes a priority agenda for Bawaslu ahead of the 2024 Elections. Effective and competence-based recruitment of ad hoc election supervisors is essential to ensure that selected personnel can perform their duties effectively (Fitrianto, 2015). Intensive training and capacity building for supervisors, particularly at the village/ward level with limited personnel, must also be enhanced. Furthermore, technology-based supervision strategies, such as utilizing online monitoring applications, are needed to support more effective and efficient oversight. With optimal HR management, Bawaslu is expected to face the challenges of the 2024 Elections and ensure a fair, transparent, and credible process.

The work mechanisms and relationships of Bawaslu are firmly regulated under Bawaslu Regulation Number 1 of 2020. This regulation governs Bawaslu's operations from the central to the village/ward level and includes election supervision abroad and at polling stations (TPS). This regulation aims to create synergy and uniformity in election oversight across Indonesia, including in regions with limited access and geographical challenges. With such a broad scope of oversight, Bawaslu's duties and responsibilities are highly complex, requiring attention, diligence, and collective efforts from all Bawaslu institutional elements at all levels.

In practice, election supervision faces several technical challenges. Four key technical challenges have been identified. First, overlapping phases between the General Elections and Regional Elections can lead to excessive workloads, both in managing human resources and prioritizing time. Second, limited access to information technology networks in certain areas, especially regions without cellular or internet signals, hampers real-time data collection, particularly in online application-based supervision. Third, geographical barriers in remote or isolated areas, such as mountainous regions, islands, and difficult-to-access locations, present logistical challenges and limit transportation to supervision sites. Fourth, the increased spread of fake news (hoaxes) during the 2024 campaign period poses a serious threat, influencing public opinion negatively and fostering societal polarization.

Previous studies have discussed Bawaslu's oversight efforts and strategies for addressing these challenges. Research by Setiawan (2020), titled "Bawaslu Networks in Handling Violations in Concurrent Elections," emphasized the need for broader supervision networks and strengthened coordination with related institutions at central and regional levels. Although focused on general violation management in concurrent elections rather than campaign oversight, this study provides insights relevant to Bawaslu's strategy for strengthening campaign supervision in the 2024 Elections.

Other relevant research includes Hananto Widodo & Dicky Eko Prasetio (2011) study, "Structuring KPU and Bawaslu Authority in Supervision and Electoral Dispute Resolution." This research highlights the need for a clear division of roles between KPU and Bawaslu, suggesting that KPU handle minor administrative violations while Bawaslu focuses on substantial violations.

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Although not directly examining campaign oversight, these findings indirectly support a clearer role distribution for campaign supervision.

A third study by Turnip et al., (2021), "The Implementation of Oversight Functions in Regional Election Campaigns," examines campaign supervision during the 2018 West Kalimantan Governor Election. This study underscores the importance of risk-based approaches, mapping campaign vulnerability, and prioritizing supervision in high-risk areas. While focused on provincial-level campaigns, these findings are applicable to the 2024 General Election campaign oversight, particularly in risk management and prevention strategies.

Based on these studies, it can be concluded that the 2024 Election campaign will face greater challenges than previous elections. Overlapping phases of General and Regional Elections, limited access to information technology, geographical barriers, and the prevalence of hoaxes are key issues to address. Bawaslu must enhance its supervision strategies, focusing on risk management, violation prevention, and social media information control. Leveraging online monitoring technologies, such as Siwaslu applications for real-time oversight and faster reporting, is crucial. Strengthening the role of ad hoc supervisors at the village and ward levels is equally important, given their frontline position in field oversight.

To address these challenges, Bawaslu's oversight strategy for the 2024 Elections should prioritize three key areas. First, strengthen technology-based oversight using digital applications for faster and real-time violation reporting and handling. Second, improve risk management and campaign vulnerability mapping, focusing on high-risk areas through ad hoc supervisors and participatory supervision involving civil society. Third, enhance the capacity of ad hoc supervisors through intensive training and skill development to manage their tasks effectively. This strategic focus aims to ensure a fair, transparent, and credible election process.

Method

The research methodology employed in this article is a qualitative descriptive approach aimed at providing an in-depth depiction of the challenges and strategies for supervising the 2024 simultaneous election campaigns by Bawaslu. This approach was chosen because the study focuses on understanding the complex phenomena associated with campaign oversight, from identifying challenges to implementing strategic solutions. The research data were collected from two primary sources: primary data and secondary data. Primary data were gathered through semi-structured interviews with relevant informants, including Bawaslu members, ad hoc supervisors at various levels, and election experts. Meanwhile, secondary data were obtained through the analysis of official documents, such as Bawaslu Regulation Number 1 of 2020, Bawaslu’s annual performance reports, and academic literature related to election and campaign oversight.

Data collection techniques included interviews, document analysis, and participatory observation. Semi-structured interviews were conducted to gain firsthand insights and experiences from the informants regarding campaign oversight challenges and strategies. Document analysis was utilized to understand the regulatory and policy frameworks underpinning election oversight and to explore findings from previous relevant studies. Where feasible, participatory observation was conducted by attending campaign oversight simulations organized by Bawaslu to gain a comprehensive understanding of operational processes in the field. The data were analyzed using thematic analysis, which involved steps such as data collection, coding, theme identification, and conclusion drawing. Key themes identified include macro, technical, and human resource challenges, as well as strategies like technology-based oversight, risk management, and capacity-building for supervisors.

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To ensure the validity and reliability of the data, this study employed data triangulation techniques. The findings from interviews were cross-checked with document analysis and observations to provide a more comprehensive perspective. Additionally, the study involved multiple informants from diverse backgrounds to minimize bias, and the analysis results were discussed with experts or peers to validate the findings. Through this methodology, the research aims to produce practical and relevant recommendations to enhance the performance of campaign oversight for the 2024 simultaneous elections.

Result and Discussion

The enhancement of the Election Supervisory Body's role as a strategic institution for election oversight is inseparable from the examination of its authority, which forms its legal foundation. In the context of administrative law, authority is synonymous with the principle of legality, requiring clear regulation before such authority can be exercised. This principle ensures that every action taken by Bawaslu is based on valid legal grounds, not only conferring legitimacy but also guaranteeing legal certainty in the execution of its duties (Rokhim, 2013).

Authority not only grants a body or official the right to act but also functions as a mechanism to limit the scope of actions that can be undertaken. These limitations are crucial to preventing abuses of power or arbitrary actions that may harm democratic principles and citizens' rights. Clear authority enables Bawaslu to perform its duties accountably and in accordance with legal frameworks, thereby providing protection to the public against potential abuse of power by election management institutions (Ansori, 2015).

In the context of election oversight, particularly on social media, the enhancement of Bawaslu's role must be grounded in specific and explicit authority as outlined in legal regulations. Social media has become a complex new arena in the implementation of elections, with high potential for violations such as black campaigns, misinformation, and hate speech (Abidin et al., 2024; Afnira, 2023; Karim, 2023). However, without clearly defined authority, Bawaslu's efforts to supervise this domain may be limited. This creates ambiguity in the execution of oversight and enforcement tasks, ultimately reducing the effectiveness of Bawaslu's role.

As a form of implementing the principle of legality, strengthening the regulations underpinning Bawaslu's authority is a priority. Specific legislation relevant to technological advancements must be developed to provide a robust legal foundation for Bawaslu to oversee elections on social media. Additionally, these regulations must include definitions and forms of violations on social media, thereby providing clarity and standards that can guide the oversight process.

Authority as a Fundamental Element in Institutional Duties: The Case of Bawaslu

Authority, as a critical element in the execution of an institution's duties, including Bawaslu, must fulfill three primary components: influence, legal basis, and conformity. These components ensure that the authority exercised is not only legally valid but also effective in achieving desired objectives and aligned with the principles of good governance (Sabrina & Ristawati, 2021; Zaelani et al., 2019).

The first component, influence, refers to the capacity to use authority to influence or control the behavior of legal subjects. In the context of Bawaslu, this influence is aimed at fostering compliance with electoral regulations among election participants, organizers, and the general public. By exercising its influence, Bawaslu ensures that the entire electoral process adheres to the principles

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of fairness, transparency, and integrity. This influence serves as a strategic tool to guide stakeholders' behavior in line with the prevailing regulations (Intihani, 2020; Mukhlis et al., 2024).

The second component is the legal basis. Authority granted to an institution must be founded on a clear legal framework, usually stipulated in legislation. For Bawaslu, every action must be backed by legitimate legal authority to avoid ambiguity or legal disputes. A robust legal foundation provides legitimacy and protects Bawaslu's actions from accusations of power abuse while ensuring that its measures align with the national legal framework.

The third component, conformity, emphasizes that the authority granted must adhere to well-defined standards, whether general or specific. Conformity aims to create uniformity and certainty in the exercise of authority. For Bawaslu, these standards include supervisory procedures, reporting mechanisms, and enforcement measures against electoral violations. Clear standards enable Bawaslu to carry out its duties in a measurable and accountable manner, reducing potential deviations or errors in exercising its authority (Sánchez, 2024).

The authority held by an institution or public official, including Bawaslu, can be derived through three main mechanisms: attribution, delegation, and mandate (Gandara, 2020). These mechanisms establish the source, scope, and responsibilities of authority, ensuring its execution aligns with administrative law principles.

1. Attribution

   Attribution refers to authority directly derived from legislation, explicitly outlined in specific provisions. It provides a primary legal foundation for an institution to act, making it a fundamental source of authority. According to Henk Van Maarseveen, constitutions can be regarded as "regulasi van atribut" or attribution regulations, implying that attribution may also stem from a nation's constitution (Nasution et al., 2023). Recipients of attribution have the right to expand their authority as long as it does not violate or amend existing laws and regulations (Hasanah et al., 2024). One unique aspect of attribution is that recipients are not obligated to report their execution of authority, as responsibility is inherently attached to the institution or official.

2. Delegation

   Delegation involves the transfer of authority and responsibility from one party (delegator) to another (delegatee). Unlike attribution, delegated authority comes with full responsibility, with the recipient acting on their own behalf. Delegation does not allow the recipient to create or expand the scope of delegated authority, requiring strict adherence to the limits set by the delegator (Napolitano, 2025). This mechanism provides flexibility in governance but requires stricter oversight to ensure accountability remains with the delegatee.

3. Mandate

   Mandate is another form of authority transfer. However, unlike delegation, the responsibility for exercising authority remains with the mandator. In this context, the mandatee acts on behalf of the mandator, making every decision or action taken by the mandatee legally the responsibility of the mandator. According to H.D. van Wijk and Willem Konijnenbelt, mandates occur when a mandator permits another party to exercise their authority without relinquishing control or ultimate responsibility (Napolitano, 2025).

These three mechanisms—attribution, delegation, and mandate—have distinct implications for the management of authority, including its scope, responsibility, and flexibility in execution. In the context of Bawaslu, understanding and appropriately applying these mechanisms are crucial to ensuring that its authority is exercised legally, effectively, and responsibly. With a clear legal

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framework and proper implementation, Bawaslu can fulfill its role as a professional election supervisor, uphold democratic integrity, and protect citizens' rights throughout the electoral process.

Bawaslu's Efforts in Addressing Black Campaigns

The term "black campaign" refers to activities aimed at undermining political opponents through unethical means, often involving false or manipulative information (Kandias et al., 2024; M. Nur et al., 2022; Mirdad et al., 2025; Suyono, 2021). In the current digital era, black campaigns are frequently conducted on social media by anonymous accounts that are difficult to trace. This anonymity poses a significant challenge for supervisory institutions like Bawaslu, as the activities of these accounts fall outside the regulatory authority's scope. This lack of clarity makes it impossible for Bawaslu to take direct action against such anonymous accounts, thereby weakening oversight efforts.

In carrying out its duties, Bawaslu's authority to oversee the stages of election implementation is explicitly regulated in Article 93, letter d, point 3 of Law Number 7 of 2017. This regulation stipulates that one of Bawaslu's main tasks is to oversee the determination of election participants. According to Article 1, number 27 of Law No. 7/2017, election participants include political parties for legislative elections (DPR, provincial DPRD, and regency/city DPRD members), individuals for DPD elections, and presidential and vice-presidential candidates supported by political parties or coalitions of political parties. Therefore, Bawaslu's supervision explicitly targets official actors registered as election participants.

Since anonymous accounts on social media are not categorized as election participants under the law, Bawaslu has no direct authority to act against their activities. In this context, Bawaslu's oversight is limited to formally registered election participants. This creates a gap in supervision, as black campaigns conducted by anonymous accounts can significantly impact the democratic process but fall outside the legal framework overseen by Bawaslu.

This situation highlights the need for a more comprehensive approach to handling black campaigns, especially on social media. Bawaslu could strengthen cooperation with other institutions, such as the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology (Kemenkominfo), to trace and act against anonymous accounts spreading black campaigns. Moreover, updating regulations to include definitions and measures for handling anonymous activities on social media is an urgent necessity. This step is crucial to ensure that all forms of violations, including those committed by anonymous accounts, can be legally addressed to protect the democratic process.

The proliferation of black campaigns on social media presents a significant challenge in election supervision. To date, Bawaslu lacks formal authority to directly address black campaigns, particularly those conducted by anonymous or unidentified accounts. This lack of authority limits Bawaslu’s actions to merely recommending relevant agencies, such as Kemenkominfo, to block or take action against these accounts. This condition reveals a regulatory gap that prevents Bawaslu from fully carrying out comprehensive supervision and enforcement of violations occurring on social media.

In the context of elections, black campaigns are often used to undermine competing candidates by targeting sensitive issues related to wealth, power, and personal matters of political competitors (Amalia & Cahyani, 2022; Anggraini, 2024; Erinaldi, 2024). These campaigns can be carried out through various media, such as banners, face-to-face interactions, flyers, and online platforms, including social media, which has become the primary channel for disseminating information. Social media offers a broad and fast space for spreading black campaign content, making its impact quickly reach the public.

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Under Law Number 7 of 2017, explicit provisions regarding black campaigns are absent. Article 280 of Law No. 7/2017 only lists general prohibitions in campaigns, such as using SARA issues, spreading hate, and disseminating false news, which implicitly points to a ban on black campaigns. However, the lack of clear and detailed definitions of black campaigns creates legal loopholes, complicating supervision and enforcement efforts. Without this clarity, Bawaslu's actions against black campaigns on social media are often questioned, especially regarding their legality.

As black campaigns have now penetrated social media, the use of technology for oversight and enforcement has become an urgent need. With the appropriate authority, Bawaslu can leverage technology to detect, track, and act against violations in the digital sphere. For instance, advanced algorithms can be used to identify patterns of black campaigns, collaboration with social media platforms to monitor suspicious content, and community involvement through reporting applications like Gowaslu. However, these measures will only be effective if supported by formal authority under statutory regulations.

Therefore, regulatory updates granting explicit authority to Bawaslu to handle black campaigns on social media are necessary. With a clear legal foundation, Bawaslu can take legally accepted decisive measures, improving oversight effectiveness. Additionally, these updates should include definitions and operational standards for black campaigns, providing clarity for Bawaslu and related parties in handling similar cases.

Although Bawaslu faces limitations in handling social media accounts not registered with the General Election Commission (KPU), Article 27, paragraph (2) of Bawaslu Regulation Number 18 of 2021 on Election Campaign Oversight (Perbawaslu No. 18/2021) provides a legal basis for Bawaslu to supervise these accounts. This provision states that "In addition to supervising social media accounts registered with the KPU, election supervisors oversee social media accounts that are not registered." This provision broadens Bawaslu's scope of oversight to include unofficial social media activities, including anonymous accounts frequently used to spread black campaigns.

Furthermore, Bawaslu has the authority to ensure that social media accounts registered with the KPU are closed on the last day of the campaign period. This is regulated in the same article, which states, "Election supervisors ensure that social media accounts referred to in paragraph (1) must be closed on the last day of the Campaign." This provision underscores Bawaslu's role in ensuring compliance with election participants' campaign rules, including in the digital realm. However, despite this authority, unregistered accounts often remain active and continue to proliferate, even after being blocked by Kemenkominfo.

This phenomenon demonstrates that current efforts are still ineffective in addressing anonymous accounts used for black campaigns. These accounts not only disrupt healthy campaign processes on social media but also undermine election integrity. Therefore, further steps are needed to enhance Bawaslu's role in overseeing and taking action against unregistered accounts. Ideally, Bawaslu should be granted full authority to handle these violations independently, without always relying on assistance from other parties.

To achieve this, legislative changes are required to grant explicit authority to Bawaslu to act against accounts not registered with the KPU but involved in black campaigns. Such legislation must be supported by detailed implementing regulations that govern the mechanisms for monitoring and enforcing actions against these accounts. These regulations could include procedures for identifying anonymous accounts, administrative and legal enforcement steps, and cooperation with social media platforms to enhance monitoring effectiveness.

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With these additional powers, Bawaslu can take a more proactive role in protecting the digital space from activities detrimental to the democratic process. Strengthening technical capacity and human resources also becomes an urgent need for Bawaslu to perform its tasks more effectively. It is hoped that these measures will not only improve Bawaslu's ability to oversee social media but also positively impact transparency and election integrity in the future.

Bawaslu as an Auxiliary Organ

Institutionally, Bawaslu is categorized as an auxiliary organ or a supporting organ of state administration. An auxiliary organ refers to an institution that functions as a supporter or enabler for other institutions in carrying out their roles and authorities. However, despite being a supporting organ, Bawaslu's position is not inferior to the General Election Commission (KPU), which is also a national, permanent, and independent election management body (Raihan & Nasution, 2022). In the context of election implementation, Bawaslu and KPU work synergistically and complement each other to ensure elections are conducted based on the principles of direct, general, free, confidential, honest, and fair elections (LUBER JURDIL).

According to Black's Law Dictionary, the term "auxiliary organ" is not explicitly defined but can be understood from its components. The term "institution" is defined as "an established organization, especially one of public character (public institution)". Meanwhile, "auxiliary" means "adding or supporting" and "subordinate". Based on these definitions, Bawaslu's authority as a supporting organ is to assist in election implementation and ensure that other state institutions, including the KPU, can effectively carry out their duties. This role is aimed at ensuring the election of candidates with integrity, such as members of the House of Representatives (DPR), Regional Representative Council (DPD), the President and Vice President, and regional leaders.

Bawaslu's authority is derived from the mandate granted by Law Number 7 of 2017 on General Elections. Through this law, Bawaslu is authorized to oversee election organizers and participants. This authority encompasses various aspects of supervision, such as ensuring compliance with regulations, monitoring campaign implementation, and handling election process disputes. However, Bawaslu's authority is still limited to formal oversight of registered election participants and organizers. This limitation means that Bawaslu does not yet have the authority to directly address black campaigns conducted by anonymous accounts on social media.

In the modern context, the challenges faced by Bawaslu are becoming increasingly complex, particularly with the growth of technology and social media, which often serve as arenas for disseminating black campaigns. The absence of formal authority to address such campaigns creates a loophole that irresponsible parties can exploit. Black campaigns on social media have significant potential to undermine the democratic process and compromise the integrity of elections.

Therefore, it is crucial for Bawaslu to gain expanded authority through relevant legislative revisions. Such expansion of authority should include the supervision and enforcement of activities on social media, including anonymous accounts involved in black campaigns. With a more comprehensive legal foundation, Bawaslu can not only support the KPU in organizing clean and credible elections but also take proactive steps to protect the digital space from practices that harm democracy.

Looking forward, strengthening Bawaslu's role and authority as an auxiliary organ supporting election implementation will be key to addressing election challenges in the digital era. With robust synergy among Bawaslu, KPU, and other institutions, the aspiration for honest and fair elections can be realized optimally.

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The authority to amend election laws lies with the House of Representatives (DPR) and the President as Indonesia's positive legislators. This authority is based on Article 20, Paragraph (2) of the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia, which states, "Every draft law shall be discussed by the House of Representatives and the President to gain mutual agreement." This provision emphasizes that changes or drafting of laws, including those related to elections, can only be carried out through legislative processes involving these two institutions (Fitri et al., 2022).

The process of amending laws is also in line with the principle of contrarius actus, a legal doctrine granting an authorized body or official the right to amend, revoke, or withdraw a decision or regulation previously issued. In the context of legal changes, contrarius actus means that only the legislative body or official with legislative authority can amend regulations issued by them (Supardi & Safriani, 2022). This principle applies not only in state administrative regimes but also in legislative processes. Therefore, any effort to amend or add provisions to election laws, including those concerning Bawaslu's authority, must go through formal legislative processes involving the DPR and the President (Sipayung et al., 2024).

In the context of expanding Bawaslu's authority, this is essential given the need to increase its oversight capacity, particularly against modern challenges like black campaigns on social media. However, it must be understood that changes to Bawaslu's authority cannot be made unilaterally by the institution itself; they must go through legislative revisions approved by the DPR and the President. This process ensures that any changes are grounded in legitimate legal foundations and follow constitutional procedures.

Furthermore, the contrarius actus principle ensures that the addition of authority is not carried out arbitrarily but through transparent and accountable mechanisms. In this regard, the DPR and the President, as lawmakers, are responsible for considering real needs in the field, including strengthening Bawaslu's role in supervising and addressing violations in the digital era. Thus, legislative changes are not only administrative but must also reflect the state's commitment to safeguarding election integrity.

If Bawaslu's authority is expanded through amendments to Article 95 of Law No. 7/2017, the next strategic step would be to establish a special subunit under Bawaslu to focus on monitoring social media accounts. This subunit would be designed to identify, monitor, and address activities on social media that have the potential to disrupt elections. This aligns with the mandate of Article 22E, Paragraph (1) of the 1945 Constitution, which states that, "General elections shall be conducted in a direct, general, free, confidential, honest, and fair manner every five years." This subunit would aim to uphold these principles amid the increasingly complex development of digital technology.

The establishment of this subunit, supported by strong regulations, adequate resources, and well-planned operational strategies, could be an innovative solution for addressing the challenges of election supervision on social media. Hopefully, its formation will significantly contribute to creating more transparent, fair, and constitutionally aligned elections. This would strengthen Bawaslu's role as a proactive and adaptive supervisory body in the digital era, enhancing its ability to ensure democratic integrity and fairness in Indonesia's elections.

Conclusion

Bawaslu, as a strategic institution for election oversight, relies heavily on the clarity of authority granted through legal frameworks. In the context of administrative law, Bawaslu's authority must adhere to the principle of legality, which provides a foundation for legitimacy while also serving as a limitation to prevent abuse of power. With clear authority, Bawaslu can carry out its duties accountably and protect the public's rights from potential democratic violations.

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The complexity of election oversight has increased alongside advancements in information technology, particularly social media, which has become a primary arena for violations such as black campaigns, fake news, and hate speech. This research emphasizes that strengthening regulations is a priority to provide an explicit legal foundation for Bawaslu in addressing challenges in the digital era. Furthermore, comprehensive regulations must include definitions and standards for social media violations, serving as crucial references for oversight activities.

Three main elements of Bawaslu's authority—impact, legal basis, and conformity—play a critical role in ensuring effective oversight. This authority can be obtained through attribution, delegation, and mandate, each offering different levels of flexibility and responsibility. In the context of digital oversight, Bawaslu requires explicit authority to handle anonymous social media accounts through legislative revisions and the establishment of a specialized subunit equipped with advanced technology.

With expanded authority and strengthened technical capacity, Bawaslu can enhance the effectiveness of its oversight while safeguarding the integrity of elections amidst the challenges of the digital era. This strategy not only reinforces Bawaslu's position as an adaptive supervisory institution but also ensures that the election process adheres to the principles of fairness, transparency, and healthy democracy.

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