



Review Article

# Legal Politics Dynamics in the Era of Digital Democracy: Ensuring Free and Fair Elections in Indonesia's 2024–2029 Electoral Cycle

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**Abstract:** This study examines the dynamics of legal politics in Indonesia's digital democracy era, with a focus on ensuring free and fair elections. Utilizing a normative juridical approach, data were gathered through statutory analysis of laws, implementing regulations, and judicial decisions, complemented by a conceptual review of legal-political theory, digital democracy, and political party power. In-depth interviews with election organizers and expert validation of instruments provided additional qualitative insights. The analysis reveals that digitalization has transformed political parties' strategies, shifting power toward those adept at leveraging digital platforms and algorithms to mobilize support. While digital tools have expanded political participation and transparency, they also pose risks of algorithmic manipulation, disinformation, and elitist control of digital spaces. The study identifies institutional weaknesses in party discipline, ideological coherence, and internal democracy that undermine compliance with democratic norms. It highlights the prevalence of pragmatic and opportunistic elite behavior, which leads to selective issue framing and erosion of public trust. To address these challenges, the research proposes strengthening legal frameworks governing digital campaign practices, enhancing party education on democratic values, and improving mechanisms for transparency and accountability in both online and offline political processes. By reinforcing internal party democracy and promoting normative adherence to constitutional mandates, Indonesia can harness digital democracy to uphold electoral integrity and realize the constitutional principle of popular sovereignty.

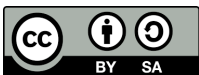
**Keywords:** Digital Democracy; Electoral Integrity; Legal Politics; Political Parties.

## 1. Introduction

Indonesia is a country based on law. have legal norms highest namely Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia. Legal politics is part of political science and legal science, the study from politics law covering aspects related to state institutions. In this aspect This There are internal and external factors that will influence formation political law in a country.

From an academic perspective, the study of political material is discussed not only limited to understanding in terms of *ansich*, but also involves studies that related with development political law at the level of the democratic process organization party politics, working system political in the state administration that can implement all policies that are part of the government's work program. On the other hand other, each party political must conduct political studies law who adheres to principle double movement, as framework institutional which is also related with policy political at a time strength political democracy that works in a country in accordance with the principles legal policy regarding development general election system [1].

Reformation carried out as a process that must be carried out by all organizations party political that exist in this country for face demands and changes community lifestyle patterns that must remain in accordance with values laws that apply in the life of society. The simultaneous elections that were implemented by the KPU in 2024, with a total of 18 parties



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political national and 6 parties political local, has been completed by producing a legitimate government according to the provisions of the applicable laws and regulations to continue the tasks and performance of the government that must be carried out. carry out actualization of government programs to continuously improve the welfare of society and the nation.

The 2024 elections that have been held have left various notes critical from activists and several elements of society, even a number of ex- organizer elections highlight aspect integrity in the implementation of the election, one of which is in the recapitulation process verification factual towards election candidates from various parties political which will be implemented in 2024 [2].

View to the vision, mission and ideology used by each politician in a way factual will be studied with such appearance by society, one of which is through digital devices. Contestation people's party through elections in 2024 is a democratic process that is usually carried out every 5 (five) years with a more effective system, namely including existence digital democratization built by politicians from all parties political used as tool consolidation with the community as their constituents and also used as tool communication political to get in touch with government. Digital democracy is currently used more focused to the side the impact of the results or quantity expected by politicians who are competing to achieve their goal of becoming members of the people's representatives in government institutions. But most of these politicians, rarely once examined the benefits of the digital democracy process as a tool change fundamental to quality democracy That Alone especially from corridor legal politics [3].

D impact of the presence of the digital era democracy to party political is actualization source of power superstructure political to carry out political collaboration law. In context this, system political is part important in analysis, legal politics when viewed from his position in the democratic process is a political system what must be understood as part from culture politics, institutions politics, at the same time behavior ongoing politics from a country. Formation power in perspective system political viewed as a sub-system in system social, which remains positioning aspect institutional especially in the relationship with structure between various institution or supporting institutions working a system politics, both at the supra-level and infrastructure politics, especially in the era of digital democracy.

Indonesia is a country that adheres to a democratic system of government, which we can understand as a system of government that promotes the welfare of the people. In other words, democracy is often referred to as a government of the people, by the people, and for the people. As a political system, democracy has held the highest position, accepted by many countries because it is considered capable of regulating and resolving social and political relations within a single entity called the state. Democracy own very meaningful broad and complex, one example of which is about the rights that citizens are given chance for choose prospective representatives of the people to run the wheels of government. The people's ability to choose state leaders who come from political parties politics at the time of implementation election called as democracy [4].

Every country democracy, always organize election general that regarded as symbol, at the same time reject measuring from success of democracy. Election results general held in atmosphere openness with freedom opinion and freedom association, considered reflect participation as well as aspirations society in making the election a success. However Thus, it is realized that election general is not is the only way as a benchmark measure for the realization of a democratic state, but need also equipped with a number of other activities that are ongoing in carrying out participation in activities democracy [5].

Elections are party democracy for all levels of society that become runway politics of a nation and state in building a better future good again. Election is also a pillar of democracy which will deliver a nation and state in reach civilization. In addition, elections are also a very important evaluative momentum for A regime power in realize national ideals [ 6 ].

The problem that arises in this research is whether digital communications produced by the community will strengthen a democratic process? How power party politics in lam the cloak of reform against contestation 2024 elections in the era d democratization digital?.

## 2. Literature Review

### 2.1. Political Theory of Law

According to Mahfud MD, politics law is state policy through authorized state bodies set the desired regulations that are expected will used For express the values contained in public For reach aspired goals [7]. Legal policy own utility important in system state administration, including: explaining law with method interpreting the meaning/ understanding, conditions or element legitimacy something incident law and hierarchy strength regulation law; assess something incident law; and predict about something related with development law [8]. In the context elections, politics law become determination on related politics with democracy in the country, where policies laws that are formed must monitor and update system elections as means embodiment people's sovereignty to produce democratic government based on Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution.

### 2.2. Digital Democracy Theory

Ernesto Laclau develop theory digital democracy focused on analysis discourse (discourse analysis) as approach For understand dynamics political contemporary [9]. According to Laclau, digital democracy can categorized into two aspects main: first, aspect electoral understanding that digital democracy makes transformation Work government digitally, which is marked with open data government, digital services, and digital information; second, the non- electoral aspect, which looks at digital democracy as opportunity for public civil For involved in participation political in a country, such as elections electronics, participation online politics, and digital activism [10]. In the context of elections, theory This explain How digital space through social media can utilized for present idea political and catch aspirations public based on characteristics digital generation through content produced in a way creative.

### 2.3. Theory of Power Political parties

Max Weber developed theory power party political as part from analysis stratification social consisting of from three dimensions: class, status, and party. According to Weber, the party political is organized group in a way stable with objective make or maintain mastery to government for leadership his party, and based on mastery This give to member his party benefits that are ideal or material. Weber emphasized that party politics in essence is about power ability for realize will someone, even oppose the opposition has characteristics: action goal-oriented, membership and organization, and competition with other parties to get influence and sources power. In the context of elections, theory This explain How party political try maximize power (office seeking) and maintaining continuity life collective they through various political strategies, including formation coalition and use source Power For influence voters [11].

## 3. Proposed Method

This research uses a normative juridical approach with two main strategies, namely a statute approach and a conceptual approach to analyze the dynamics of legal politics in the context of free and fair elections. In the statute approach, data is collected through the study of official documents in the form of laws, implementing regulations, and relevant court decisions, then systematically analyzed to assess the regulation's conformity with the principles of democracy and popular sovereignty. The conceptual approach is carried out by examining the theoretical framework of legal politics, digital democracy, and political party power to understand the philosophical foundations and values underlying the implementation of election law. Data collection techniques include literature and documentation studies with in-depth interview guidelines for election organizers. While the validity and reliability of the instruments are tested through expert judgment and limited trials before field implementation. Data analysis is qualitative descriptive, using content analysis methods to identify key themes in regulations and legal politics concepts and interpret the findings from a juridical and sociopolitical perspective [12].

## 4. Results and Discussion

### 4.1. Political Science Discipline of Law

The discipline of legal political science is of paramount importance for political parties in the contemporary context, particularly as they prepare for forthcoming elections amid ongoing socio-political transformations. A theoretical examination of political law integrating current political developments remains highly pertinent, given the ongoing re-institutionalization of politics that has elevated political parties to one of the most critical instruments of democratization. In fulfilling their functions and exercising their institutional roles, political parties should be principally oriented toward maximizing benefits for society [12].

Political parties possess a range of inherent functions, among which are the functions of political education, interest aggregation, the articulation of the people's aspirations, and others. These functions form an indivisible whole, serving as distinct but interrelated categories of a political party's roles according to their respective domains [13]:

- Strategic function, especially in carrying out and running political organizations and public tasks;
- The functions of political parties related to elections; and
- Functions inherent in the management of government issues [14].

Political parties possess the capacity to discharge public functions by exercising authority through the electoral process, by organizationally channeling public interests via aggregation mechanisms, and by administering formal public governance. The *raison d'être* of a political party is to actualize the vision and mission of its political organization [15].

In a democratic society, political parties serve both as institutions for cadre development and as instruments of political education, each operating within its respective capacity. Political modernization is a crucial component of party management in an environment of increasingly rational contestation and competition. Only political parties can establish systems capable of channeling public aspirations and responding to them through evolving political issues. Accordingly, in this capacity, a party policy deemed populist is highly likely to garner substantial public support [16].

The electorate will select candidates from political parties deemed genuinely capable of addressing the pressing challenges confronting the nation. Such capacity manifests in the contest for constituents' votes, particularly through efforts to strengthen a party's institutional standing. The concept of power aggregation, familiar across multiple academic disciplines, is regarded as a strategic element within political marketing theory. This notion invites scholarly debate, as researchers from diverse fields propose varied definitions of power each emphasizing different aspects according to their theoretical backgrounds and the relevant social context [17].

Some scholars fundamentally emphasize the aspects of dominance and coercion, viewing power as directed toward specific objectives. Consequently, this group regards power as the capacity to mobilize and influence others in furtherance of a defined agenda. Other experts interpret power as influence considered itself a form of power and view this condition as an operative dimension of the political system of authority [5].

The foregoing condition arises from efforts to achieve objectives through persuasion and inducement, or by other means such as the provision of comprehensive information or the deployment of expert personnel. Moreover, there is a view that regards power as ethically neutral power in and of itself is neither good nor bad; its moral quality depends entirely on those who wield it. It must also be recognized that the exercise of power encompasses not only negative aspects but positive ones as well. For example, power may not merely restrict one's range of options but may actually enlarge and expand the possibilities for action.

According to these perspectives, power may be understood as a relationship between two or more individuals or collectives. Power is inherently relational, imbued with a subjective dimension, and invariably manifested as a social relation. At its core, power pertains to strength, capability, and the capacity to act, or to authority over matters. In light of the foregoing, the state can be viewed from both formal and substantive levels.

From the formal standpoint, the state is defined as a public authority exercising power over the governed and the governing, whereby it establishes rules and perpetuates governance. Accordingly, the state generally constitutes a form of public authority

characterized by particular attributes, depending upon the theoretical framework employed, and encompasses the regulation of institutions, administration, government, humanity, power, and the capacity for governance. The concept of public authority, with its division of powers, dates back to ancient Greece; Aristotle identified three functions operative within the state, namely:

- Deliberation on general issues;
- Organizing positions or officials; And
- Functions of the judiciary.

This perspective led to the formulation of countervailing powers based on the conviction that only such mechanisms enable effective checks on authority, thereby fostering the fullest possible freedom. Over time, this theory has manifested in numerous modern states through the institutionalization of constitutional and legal systems across all dimensions of political institutions, legal frameworks, and party structures. In the Republic of Indonesia, as embodied in the 1945 Constitution, it underscores a state of distributed powers in accordance with the constitution's mandate [18].

#### **4.2. The Power of Political Parties in the Garb of Reform**

Political parties ought to play a decisive role in combating political amnesia, particularly with respect to past episodes of state-sponsored political violence. In practice, however, their strategic priorities seldom include a comprehensive resolution of the abuses committed by previous regimes. As Suzanne Keller observes, most parties devote their attention to the interests of key individuals or specific political factions rather than to accountability for past atrocities.

This unhealthy orientation within political parties can be attributed to the internal dominance of political pragmatism and opportunism, which reduce parties to arenas for the advancement of individual elites. Politics thereby ceases to be guided by civilized values and becomes a contest of competing interests. Party solidarity is construed narrowly as a tactical alliance of convenience rather than as a principled bond.

Although political parties should initiate legal proceedings when a member or associate is implicated in misconduct, they are in fact selective in elevating political issues. Parties evaluate each issue solely on the basis of its immediate practical utility or its capacity to serve short-term objectives. Matters that fail to satisfy these criteria are promptly discarded. Underlying this practice is the misconception that political parties consist merely of individuals pursuing personal agendas. The dominant reality, however, is that political elites subordinate public aspirations to their private interests, thereby conflating elite priorities with the party's collective welfare.

Ideology understood as a system of values that should be inculcated in party cadres is seldom imparted through rigorous political education. Consequently, political parties morph into organizations characterized by an aggregation of interests rather than by a coherent platform or a clear vision and mission that could underpin targeted work programs. Distinctive, well-tested, and consistent ideas ultimately fail to flourish and may even regress. As a result, political parties conduct their activities primarily in pursuit of power, favoring short-term objectives over long-term principles [19].

Political succession through elections held quinquennially at both national and regional levels has effectively become a contest for the "number one" position. When political parties operate merely as vehicles for power, the values that regard authority as an end unto itself permeate easily, transforming these parties from instruments for promoting the general welfare into platforms for personal ambition. Consequently, the obligation of political parties to provide optimal public service is neglected.

A political party should not be understood merely as a coalition of political elites, cadres, or sympathizers. Rather, it must bear the responsibility to contribute substantively to the public interest. Yet in practice, many parties remain dominated by senior figures dating back to the transition to democracy. These longstanding actors continue to dictate party dynamics, resulting in change only at the level of personnel and not at the level of normative structures. Individuals within the party may shift, but the regime of power they represent remains intact. Under these conditions, political parties are unable to fulfill their core functions: formulating political ideals, articulating collective interests, providing political education, fostering constructive civic engagement, and recruiting and nurturing governmental elites.

Although the political framework especially the constitution and related legislation has evolved over time, the architects and beneficiaries of that framework remain the old political elite who cloak themselves in the rhetoric of reform. Both the institutional format and its principal actors constitute what we term the “regime.” Few elements of this regime have changed, for political parties are inextricably bound to such political structures. This phenomenon can be understood through the lens of populism, which functions as both a political logic and a particular demand: an antithesis to current societal conditions, manifested in leadership styles and actions claimed to be “on behalf of the people.”

Populism, as a political subject endowed with populist ideas, exhibits an identity that distinguishes it from other political actors. The relationship between this subject and the power structure merits thorough elaboration. The creation of political agency as a subject of power is fundamentally integral to the construction of political identity especially in delineating the boundaries between “self” and “other,” or between “us” and “them.” These constructions are mutually determinative and, in a constitutive manner, shape political identity as a power-bearing subject or agent [15].

The formation of political identity as an active agency is intrinsically linked to the adoption of a populist leader’s identity, which invariably invokes “the people” to delineate a clear boundary between “us” and “them.” “Them” refers to political elites who are perceived as indifferent to, and derelict in their responsibilities toward, public issues particularly those affecting marginalized communities. This constructed identity becomes a democratic instrument that enables populist actors to pursue political equality by entering the political arena, including through the strategic use of digital media technologies.

Political parties face significant challenges in securing electoral gains. Voter realignment presents two key phenomena: first, the tendency of voters to distance themselves from established parties; and second, the fragility of voter loyalty, as the size of a party’s electorate often hinges more on the personal appeal of a party’s presidential or leadership candidate than on the party itself. Surveys have identified the emergence of voter loyalty defined as the steadfast commitment of voters to the same political party they supported in the previous election [20].

Volatility refers to the phenomenon of shifting voter allegiance or loyalty, whereby voters who previously supported a particular political party transfer their support to alternative political parties. Nine political parties holding seats in the Indonesian House of Representatives (DPR-RI) that secured participation in the 2024 elections have experienced a decline in voter loyalty. Notably, this phenomenon has affected political parties traditionally known for maintaining close relationships with their constituents through strong identity-based and ideological factors [21]. Loyalty among voters toward a political party exhibits a reciprocal relationship: the decision to extend support and cast votes will not transpire in the absence of sufficiently high voter loyalty to the party of choice. Conversely, voters will refrain from voting if their assessment deems the political party unworthy or if the party has proven inconsistent in fulfilling its promises and meeting its expectations [22].

A decline in voter loyalty experienced by the majority of political parties represented in parliament has contributed to volatility, reaching 35.9 percent. This indicates that more than one third of a party’s electorate may shift its political support to another party in the forthcoming election [23]. Volatility may arise from a range of factors, including economic conditions, the stability of the party system, political elites, ideology, cultural segmentation, institutional fragility, shifts in governing patterns, and social cleavages. Electoral volatility is characterized by features that lead swing voters to accept electoral clientelism as a political norm namely, weak emotional attachments, low interest in electoral contests, and individual self-interest. Consequently, this phenomenon poses significant challenges for political parties, especially given the prevailing trend that a party’s electoral success is often determined by the identity of its presidential candidate [24].

#### **4.3. The 2024 Election Contest and Digital Democratization**

Political parties first emerged in Western European countries. As the notion that the people constitute a vital factor to be considered and included in the political process gained traction, political parties arose spontaneously and developed into intermediaries between the populace on one hand and the government on the other. In their nascent phase during the late eighteenth century in Western nations such as England and France political activities were confined to parliamentary factions. These activities were initially elitist and aristocratic in

character, safeguarding the interests of the nobility against the demands of the monarch. With the gradual expansion of suffrage, political engagement extended beyond parliament through the formation of electoral committees known as caucus parties that organized the mobilization and aggregation of supporters' votes in advance of general elections. Recognizing the necessity of securing support from diverse social strata, parliamentary factions progressively developed mass organizations.

By the end of the nineteenth century, political parties had fully crystallized as institutional intermediaries linking citizens and government. The formation of new political parties within democratic states became an unavoidable consequence of democratization. The more democratic a nation becomes, the greater the level of political participation and public involvement. Through a multiplicity of institutional avenues enabling society to pursue its collective aspirations, political parties have a compelling interest in broadening their support base to consolidate their influence and fulfill their roles effectively. Conversely, the electorate possesses the sovereign authority to choose the political party it deems most suitable. Furthermore, the advent of digital media has significantly facilitated citizens' ability to network, thereby enhancing avenues for political participation [25].

The experience of electoral contests in previous years has reflected the increasing openness of democracy as it enters the digital era. The rapid growth in digital media usage in Southeast Asia not only creates space for opposition groups' activism but also poses challenges to democracy, which must contend with the rise of political authoritarianism through Internet control. Indonesia, as is well known, has experienced a fivefold increase in Internet users this year compared to 2019, with an average daily online duration of nine hours far exceeding the global average of under seven hours. The 2024 electoral arena in Indonesia thus has the potential to foster practices of digital-space control, presenting disruption challenges for political parties. Digitalization compels political parties to adapt swiftly in order to strengthen their influence in the digital sphere. With the ascendance of digital technology, power has shifted from the state alone to a combination of politics and media corporations.

This situation underscores the concentration of political power in media owners who simultaneously serve as politicians or even as party leaders. Digital-platform algorithms create opportunities for political parties to treat these platforms as marketplaces in which to recruit sympathizers. This dynamic influences political behavior among citizens whether as voters, consumers, or netizens whose digital engagement is governed by algorithms that shape electoral orientations and political preferences.

Online social interactions can facilitate democratic consolidation. However, the political arena ideally built on sound democratic principles must confront political actors whose primary concern is party image. Recent political dynamics have been characterized by a cacophony of hate speech, smear campaigns, and the continuous reproduction of fake news in digital media, all of which undermine the quality of democracy itself. Genuine political engagement must ensure voter sovereignty to achieve a high-quality democracy. While political elites may perceive voters as consumers in a marketplace, market considerations and track records must be balanced. Political parties must carefully craft their public personas to master the market, provided they continue to comply with applicable legal boundaries and regulations.

Consequently, political parties resemble goods and services that must be sold, marketed, and promoted to attract potential audiences who may evolve into steadfast supporters [26]. Political engagement emerges when a political party is able to harness all of its potentials and resources to craft a favorable public image and to demonstrate distinguishing features that captivate the electorate. Consequently, it is imperative for political parties to develop political marketing strategies that highlight their appeal and attractiveness to a broad audience, as reflected in the ideology they espouse.

In practice and in principle, the political arena cannot be equated with a commercial market, nor is it ever free from personal interests. This assertion is particularly relevant in light of the political realities leading up to the 2029 general election, which necessitate a careful balance between these two contexts. When political competition intensifies and parties enter a more heated phase, they bear a normative duty and legal consequences *vis-à-vis* their constituents to demonstrate transparency in the public sphere. In this context, the political process is simultaneously framed as a marketplace and a democratic forum, where parties must engender confidence among their supporters. Such political considerations translate into the legal-political responsibilities parties owe their electorate, both in the articulation of their

programs and in the fulfillment of their political contracts. The dynamics of politics invariably accelerate as election years approach.

Each political force intensifies its preparations to consolidate power, forge alliances, and assess potential elite figures who may emerge during the democratic contest. Accordingly, the formal legal status of these candidates is determined in party leadership meetings before being disclosed to the public. What warrants scrutiny today is the tendency of political-party institutions to reproduce traditional socio-political characteristics rooted in a singular objective: *machtsvorming* (the consolidation of power) and *machtsaanwending* (the exercise of power)[27].

Politics, understood as efforts to obtain power and authority, gives rise to political life that produces structures for contesting influence, calculating alliances and antagonisms, and engendering power struggles prone to friction. This condition manifests in the digital era, wherein democracy becomes characterized by any means necessary to seize power at the expense of the public interest. The complexity of the political process leading up to the 2029 elections will confront the emergence of first-time voters and Generation Z both deeply versed in digital media. In this context, political parties, as pillars of democracy, must play a significant role in serving as engines of sound political education for society.

The digital sphere, especially social media, can be strategically leveraged to present political ideas and to gauge societal concerns according to Generation Z's distinctive characteristics, through creatively produced content. Political parties must capitalize on this opportunity, given Generation Z's well-documented affinity for rapidly and dynamically consuming information via social platforms. More importantly, political parties must also ensure proper and lawful public participation and discharge their legal responsibilities throughout the electoral process. Legal measures are necessary to mitigate impunity and to reinforce citizens' rights to justice within the democratic framework. Accordingly, guaranteeing the protection of every citizen's civic rights within the rule-of-law system will be achieved.

Moreover, it is essential to elucidate to the electorate the existing status quo of power as it pertains to the credibility of the political-legal system within party institutions. Political parties should then heighten their attentiveness and sensitivity in guiding society's transition toward the digital democracy phase. Emphasis on this phase must take the form of profound respect for the equal dignity of all individuals. The authoritarian tendencies present in Indonesia's democratic milieu represent a paradox within a state that ought to be founded upon popular sovereignty [28].

The actions undertaken by political party elites within the state and directed toward other political parties constitute a form of elitism cloaked in democratic rhetoric that cannot arise spontaneously. What transpires is a deeply entrenched bond with political parties as institutions, grounded in the ongoing practices of those parties themselves. The term "cartel political parties" refers to the phenomenon whereby political elites express satisfaction with subservient actors who comply with those in power in exchange for specific rewards.

Political parties must foster the emergence of figures capable of crafting and communicating a compelling narrative that mobilizes the populace. Future development should proceed within a participatory framework, in which the people serve as the principal agents. Such leaders must also cultivate commitment to, and stewardship of, national unity and democratic principles so that the substance of political law functions as a regulatory instrument. These laws should originate from representatives elected through honest and fair elections, guarantee legal certainty for the fulfillment of citizens' rights, and ensure the preservation of popular space within the national framework. Strengthening these criteria is essential to overcoming social polarization and guiding democratic processes in accordance with the national consensus.

## 5. Conclusions

The legal philosophies and the authority of political parties within the democratic framework leading up to the 2029 election represent a pivotal political-legal moment that can evolve into a democratic institution faithful to both the principles and practices of democracy. Democracy cannot survive without political parties; yet, any betrayal of democratic values will set a damaging precedent for the quality of national politics. Political parties must therefore develop more mature mechanisms for constructing internal democracy.

Moreover, political parties must deconstruct prevailing mindsets and organizational practices that sometimes undermine the strengthening of internal democracy, especially as the aspiration for a digital democracy gains momentum. The inculcation of democratic values requires a careful and precise approach. If democracy is understood merely as a government guaranteeing citizens the right to speak or as a facet of governmental accountability, these two notions are not always congruent.

The foundation of a party's democracy lies in the elite's exercise of power, whereas the democratic process should aim at enhancing systemic quality rather than merely seizing opportunities to garner votes. As the electorate's voice continues to improve in overseeing democratic political parties, the accountability mechanisms of party power implemented through digital democratization in Indonesia are entering a new phase capable of consolidating popular sovereignty. The rapid digital developments, especially among first-time voters today, present an opportunity to facilitate the ongoing evolution of democracy through the collaborative engagement of the state, political parties, and civil society.

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