

Research Article

Simultaneous National and Local Elections 2024: Triggering Voter Fatigue, Coattail Effect, and Political Polarization in Indonesia

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Abstract.

The simultaneous legislative elections and regional elections (pilkada) in Indonesia, in 2024, present significant challenges related to voter behavior, including the occurrence of voter fatigue, coattail effect, and political polarization. Voter fatigue can negatively impact participation and the quality of elections, while the coattail effect influences election outcomes at the legislative and local levels. This study employs a qualitative approach with a descriptive-analytical method. Data were collected through in-depth interviews, including voters, election organizers, political experts, and an analysis of documents related to the elections. Data were analyzed using thematic techniques to identify patterns related to the phenomena under investigation. The findings indicate that voter fatigue negatively affects voter participation, leading to a decrease in votes and the quality of decision making. Additionally, the study shows that the coattail effect of presidential candidates significantly influences legislative and local election outcomes. Meanwhile, political polarization is rising, resulting in social tensions among voters with differing political views. These findings suggest that simultaneous elections can create complex challenges in the context of Indonesian democracy. Voter fatigue and political polarization must to be primary concerns for election organizers and policymakers to ensure better participation and sustainable political stability.

Keywords: elections, regional elections, voter fatigue, coattail effect, political polarization

1. Introduction

Elections are a critical cornerstone of democracy. They represent a tangible implementation of democratic principles that must be carried out democratically. In democratic countries like Indonesia, elections serve as a key indicator of the success of democracy. Elections are understood as the process of selecting public officials, both legislative and executive, at the national and local levels, and are seen as a “conditio sine qua non”—the one cannot exist without the other—meaning that they are a procedure for transferring the people’s sovereignty to specific candidates to occupy political positions [1].

The development of democracy in Indonesia has continued to evolve, especially since the 1998 Reform era, when political openness and public participation expanded

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significantly [2] As part of this electoral democracy improvement, Indonesia has adopted a simultaneous election system and simultaneous regional elections, which will be officially implemented again on a large scale in 2024.

The 2024 simultaneous elections will be a pivotal moment in Indonesia's democratic journey. In this election, the people will vote for the President and Vice President, as well as legislative members (DPR, DPD, and DPRD) simultaneously. The simultaneous election system aims to strengthen the presidential system by reducing political instability between the executive and legislative branches. It is also believed that simultaneous elections can improve the efficiency of election administration, both in terms of budget and time [3]

The year 2024 will also mark the simultaneous regional elections across Indonesia, where regional heads (governors, regents, and mayors) will be elected at the same time throughout the country. The 2024 simultaneous regional elections are expected to synchronize local political cycles with national ones, increase local political stability, and strengthen the relationship between the central and regional governments [4] By combining the legislative, national executive, and regional head elections into one timeframe, Indonesia faces the challenge of ensuring that the democratic process runs smoothly, fairly, and continues to reflect the people's aspirations.

Simultaneous elections and regional elections in Indonesia present various challenges related to political dynamics and voter behavior. One major issue is voter fatigue, where the public faces the burden of choosing multiple political positions at once, which can affect the quality of decisions and voter participation [5] Additionally, there is the potential for the coattail effect, where strong national presidential or party candidates influence the election of candidates at the legislative and local levels [6] This phenomenon raises questions about whether simultaneous elections benefit certain lower-level candidates. On the other hand, simultaneous elections also carry the risk of increased political polarization, where differences in political views become more pronounced among the public, potentially disrupting social cohesion and political stability [7]

Based on these issues, the research problems to be discussed in this study are: 1) How does voter fatigue affect voter participation and election quality in simultaneous elections and regional elections in Indonesia? 2) Is the coattail effect significant in determining election results at the legislative and local levels? and 3) How does political polarization impact political stability and social cohesion during simultaneous elections?

This study aims to analyze the impact of voter fatigue on political participation and election quality in simultaneous elections and regional elections in Indonesia. Additionally, this research seeks to evaluate the existence and significance of the coattail effect in influencing election outcomes at the legislative and local levels and identify which candidates or parties are advantaged by this phenomenon. The study also aims to assess the impact of political polarization during simultaneous elections on political stability and social cohesion. Therefore, the main objective of this research is to provide a comprehensive understanding of how voter fatigue, the coattail effect, and political polarization influence the implementation of simultaneous elections and regional elections in Indonesia.

2. Methods

The approach used in this study is a qualitative approach with a descriptive-analytical method [8] This approach was chosen to explore the phenomena of voter fatigue, coattail effect, and political polarization in the context of the 2024 simultaneous national and regional elections in Indonesia. The research data consists of primary and secondary data. Primary data was obtained through in-depth interviews with key informants [9], including election officials from the KPU and Bawaslu, political science experts, academics, and voters from various regions. These interviews aim to gain an understanding of the impact of simultaneous elections on political participation, voter perceptions of the voting burden, and the effect of campaigns on their political choices.

In addition, the study also utilizes secondary data collected from literature reviews, official documents, election reports, scholarly articles, voter survey results, and media analyses. Data collection techniques include semi-structured interviews with open-ended questions, as well as observations of political campaigns and social media discussions to measure the level of political polarization. Secondary data is analyzed comparatively by examining trends in the coattail effect and the impact of political polarization on election results in various regions [10]

Data analysis is conducted descriptively using the thematic method [8] to identify patterns related to voter fatigue, the coattail effect, and political polarization. Interview and observation data are analyzed to understand voter preference dynamics and the socio-political impact of simultaneous elections. Through this approach, the study aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the challenges emerging from the 2024

simultaneous national and regional elections and their implications for Indonesia's democracy.

3. Results and Discussion

The simultaneous elections in 2024, which include legislative and presidential elections, will have significant impacts on the Regional Head Elections (Pilkada) that will take place shortly after. These two elections are closely linked from political, legal, and social perspectives. Below are several key impacts that need to be considered:

3.1. Voter Fatigue in Simultaneous Elections and Regional Head Elections in Indonesia

In Indonesia, voter fatigue has become increasingly prominent after the introduction of simultaneous elections that combine the presidential, legislative, and regional head elections within a relatively short time frame. The implementation of simultaneous elections and regional elections in close succession has the potential to create voter fatigue, a phenomenon where voters feel tired or jaded due to frequent elections occurring in a short period [11]

This phenomenon can lead to a decline in voter participation in both the elections and regional elections, as well as less thoughtful decision-making. Voter participation in the 2019 elections was recorded at 81.97%, the highest in the last four elections. Meanwhile, in the 2024 elections, participation dropped to 81.78%, indicating a decrease compared to 2019 (Indonesia, 2024). This decline in voter participation can be interpreted as a signal of public dissatisfaction with the 2024 election process, influenced by several factors as follows:

1. Many voters feel that the candidates put forward by political parties do not meet public expectations [12], whether in terms of integrity, competence, or a clear vision for the nation's progress. Contemporary political and public theory agrees that political parties are essential and inseparable elements in the democratic process [13]. However, at the same time, society shows widespread skepticism towards political parties as institutions and the representative governance processes dependent on them. The majority of citizens believe that political parties do not pay attention to public aspirations, are not responsive enough to public interests, and cannot be trusted to represent the common good.

2. In the 2024 elections, there were 310 reported incidents of alleged fraud, including violations of neutrality, vote manipulation, misuse of state facilities by candidates, vote-buying, and other forms of fraud [14]. Some of these frauds are structural, involving actors such as election organizers, government structures, or civil servants. This makes it more difficult to detect and eradicate fraud due to the involvement of powerful actors with access to state resources. Structural fraud can include manipulation in the vote counting process, the use of public facilities for political gain, and violations of ethical codes by state officials. As a result, the public increasingly loses trust in the conduct of fair and transparent elections.
3. Society feels that candidates and parties do not sufficiently address important issues faced by the people, such as poverty, unemployment, or social injustice. The irrelevance of campaign programs can make the public feel neglected. This can lead to distrust and apathy towards the political process, where citizens feel that their votes do not have a significant impact on determining policy direction [15]. Consequently, participation in elections declines, and the space for constructive political discussions becomes increasingly limited. If this situation is left unaddressed, the potential for increased social and political instability grows larger, as the gap between the government and the public widens.
4. Difficult economic conditions, such as inflation or unemployment, can raise public expectations for leaders capable of providing real solutions. Dissatisfaction may arise if the public feels that elections do not address the challenges they face [16]. This can worsen the crisis of trust in the political system and its leaders, where citizens believe that candidates focus only on rhetoric without concrete actions. The inability of leaders to respond to challenging economic situations can lead to waves of protests, political instability, or increased support for populist movements that offer quick fixes. Ultimately, elections lose their meaning as democratic mechanisms intended to improve people's lives.
5. Elections often serve as an arena for public protest, where voters express their dissatisfaction with existing policies and difficult socio-economic conditions. In this context, elections become a means to convey messages and hopes for change, especially when the voices of the people are not accommodated through formal channels [17]. Marginalized or overlooked communities may use elections as an opportunity to replace leaders or parties they consider unresponsive to their expectations. In some cases, elections can create momentum for larger social

movements, where marginalized groups unite to advocate for issues important to them, such as social justice, human rights, and transparent governance. These protests do not only occur at polling stations [18] but also through campaigns that emphasize issues close to the public's heart, creating pressure for candidates to be more responsive to the people's needs. However, if these protests are not adequately addressed by elected leaders, the potential for dissatisfaction could escalate to more radical stages, triggering deeper social and political tensions.

6. The electoral mechanisms considered complicated and difficult to understand, such as the voting procedures (identity verification, ballot filling, and ballot return) can disproportionately affect certain groups, such as older [19] voters with disabilities, or those with limited education. These groups may struggle to navigate existing procedures, leading to a decrease in their participation levels in elections. If they feel unable to participate effectively, this can exacerbate injustice in political representation [20] where their voices are not adequately represented. Additionally, a lack of understanding of the electoral mechanisms can cause anxiety and distrust in the election results, further eroding public confidence in the integrity of the democratic system. Therefore, it is crucial for election organizers to provide clear information and better accessibility to ensure that all segments of society can participate easily and fairly in the electoral process.

Voter fatigue can have significant long-term impacts on democracy and political stability in Indonesia. When citizens choose without thoroughly considering the programs or backgrounds of candidates, they risk making hasty decisions [21]. This can lead to the election of leaders who lack the vision or competence necessary to address the challenges faced by society. As a result, the policies enacted may not reflect the needs or aspirations of the people, leading to greater dissatisfaction with the government.

This phenomenon can result in a further decline in political engagement among citizens, who feel that their voices and choices do not have significant impact [22]. If people tend to vote without serious consideration, it becomes increasingly difficult to foster constructive dialogue between voters and potential leaders.

This indifference can ultimately lead to a lack of accountability from leaders, who feel no obligation to fulfill campaign promises as they no longer feel bound by public hopes and expectations.

The cumulative effects of voter fatigue and uninformed voting can lead to an erosion of democratic quality. The political system may become increasingly unstable, with rising

polarization among groups within society that feel unrepresented. This can trigger social conflicts and exacerbate political tensions, which in turn threaten the sustainability of the democratic process itself.

3.2. Coattail Effect in Legislative and Local Elections in Indonesia

The close scheduling of elections and local elections (Pilkada) is a new phenomenon in Indonesia's democracy. This phenomenon has given rise to what is known as the coattail effect, a term referring to an action that influences other actions (a follow-on effect) [23]. When simultaneous elections are held, a popular presidential candidate often helps increase the vote share for the political party supporting them. Voters drawn to the presidential figure often cast their vote for legislative candidates from the same party, even if they are less familiar with or do not pay much attention to these candidates. This gives a significant advantage to political parties with strong and popular presidential candidates.

In Indonesia, the coattail effect has experienced notable success. For instance, it occurred in 2004 and 2009 with the figure of Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono (SBY). The Democratic Party, which had only been established in 2001, suddenly gained a significant share of votes in the 2004 election. In fact, in 2009, it became the election winner. Evidently, SBY's popularity contributed to the Democratic Party's vote share in both elections. The public chose the Democratic Party because it was closely associated with SBY, who at the time was a president with high public satisfaction and electability ([24] A similar situation occurred in the 2014 and 2019 elections, where the PDIP party enjoyed a coattail effect from Joko Widodo (Jokowi). Even today, as Jokowi's electability and public satisfaction continue to rise, PDIP's electability has skyrocketed in several recent survey results [25]

The coattail effect is also evident in the 2024 elections with the emergence of several presidential candidates and political parties attempting to leverage the popularity of certain figures to boost their electability. One example is Anies Baswedan, the presidential candidate for the 2024 elections, supported by the Nasdem, PKB, and PKS parties. The coattail effect of Anies Baswedan in the 2024 elections is illustrated in Table 1 below:

"Indonesian politics is increasingly driven by personalities than by party machines." Personal characteristics of candidates contribute more than the role of political party machinery [25, 25]. As a result, voters tend to focus more on the character, credibility, and track record of individual candidates rather than the political party they represent.

TABLE 1: Coattail Effect of Anies Baswedan in the 2024 Elections.

Factor	Impact on Supporting Parties
Presidential Candidate	Increased electability of NasDem, PKS, and PKB
Urban Areas	Increased support in urban areas
Muslim Voter Areas	Increased votes for PKS, PKB, and NasDem
Main Supporting Parties	Increased from 12,661,792 votes in 2019 to 14,660,516 votes in 2024
Additional Supporting Parties	Leveraging Anies' support for additional votes
PKS	Votes increased from 11,493,663 in 2019 to 12,781,353 in 2024
PKB	Votes increased from 13,570,970 in 2019 to 16,115,655 or 10.62% of the vote in 2024
Voter Mobilization	Increased seats in the DPR and DPRD
Influence in Local Elections	Advantages for local candidates from supporting parties
Campaign Strategy	Strengthening the coattail effect for legislative candidates
Source: Primary data processed by researchers	

This highlights a shift in electoral dynamics, where figures with strong personalities and good communication skills can attract broader public support.

The success of candidates in building a positive image and strong relationships with voters often becomes the determining factor in securing votes, especially amid rising skepticism toward political parties that are seen as failing to meet public expectations. This situation pushes candidates to be more active in building personal networks and demonstrating concern for local issues faced by the public, thereby enhancing their image in the eyes of voters.

The strong influence of individual personalities over political parties presents a risk where party policies could be overlooked. Voters may choose based on emotional affiliations or identification with a particular figure rather than considering the programs or policies promoted by the party. As a result, political parties must adapt to this reality and strive to create synergy between individual personalities and party agendas to remain relevant in Indonesia’s increasingly competitive political arena.

The coattail effect is also evident in the case of Prabowo Subianto, the elected president, in the 2024 simultaneous local elections in Indonesia, as shown below:

The coattail effect phenomenon in the 2024 simultaneous regional elections will have negative impacts on Indonesia’s democratic process, as follows:

1. Dominance of Certain Candidates: In the context of the coattail effect in simultaneous regional elections, this refers to a situation where candidates affiliated with a popular political figure or party dominate the election results, not due to their

TABLE 2: Coattail Effect of Prabowo Subianto in the 2024 Simultaneous Local Elections.

Factor	Impact
Effect on Local Elections	Candidates for governor or regent from the Gerindra Party are likely to gain higher votes due to Prabowo's popularity.
Figure	The campaign of parties supporting Prabowo in the simultaneous local elections will link Prabowo's figure with regional candidates to strengthen the candidates' appeal to voters.
National Politics	Issues raised by Prabowo, such as infrastructure development, may influence voter choices at the regional level.
Political Party	Prabowo's victory can enhance public perception of the Gerindra Party, giving greater legitimacy to candidates from that party.
Source: Primary data processed by researchers	

own quality or capability, but because of the influence or support from more well-known figures. This dominance is dangerous because: a). Independent candidates or those from smaller parties may struggle to compete, even if they are more competent or have more relevant programs for the region. The popularity of a major figure or party can create an unfair electoral gap. b). Voters may not thoroughly consider the quality and vision of local candidates, but are only influenced by their political affiliation. This can reduce the election process's focus on quality and local issues. c). Candidates who win due to the coattail effect may be less competent or unprepared to lead their region, as they are elected based on the popularity of another figure, not their own personal capabilities [26]

2. Disrupting Fair Democratic Competition: The coattail effect in simultaneous regional elections refers to interference in healthy and fair competition in regional head elections. The coattail effect occurs when certain candidates gain electoral advantages because they are affiliated with a highly popular political figure or party at the national or provincial level. This can undermine the integrity and fairness of political competition at the local level for several reasons: a). Candidates who receive support from national figures or major parties automatically have more visibility and support, both in terms of campaign resources and popularity. Independent candidates or those from smaller parties, who lack such backing, will find it hard to compete, even if they have better or more relevant programs for the local community. b). The coattail effect may lead voters to choose based on the popularity of a party or national figure, rather than on the quality and vision of local candidates. Voters may feel compelled to vote for candidates linked to popular figures, even if those candidates are not suitable to lead their regions. c). When

democratic competition is disrupted by the coattail effect, election outcomes may not reflect the true desires of the local community. Candidates who win because of the influence of national figures may be less focused on important local issues, reducing the quality of governance in the region. d). When one party or coalition continues to dominate local elections due to the coattail effect, the chances for political change or reform become smaller. This can cause local governments to stagnate because there is no strong competition to drive innovation and policy improvements [27].

3. Strengthening Political Dynasties: The coattail effect in simultaneous regional elections refers to situations where already-established political families or groups further consolidate their power through inherited political networks and affiliations. Political dynasties occur when public office positions are continuously held by individuals from the same family or group, often using existing political influence and power to maintain their dominance. The coattail effect can strengthen political dynasties in several ways: a). If a member of a family or political dynasty already holds an important position, their popularity and power can “pull” other family members to gain the same political support in elections. This often happens because people are more likely to vote for candidates affiliated with well-known figures who have an established political track record. b). Political dynasties have access to vast political networks, financial resources, and strong party support, which makes it easier for them to secure positions for other family members. The coattail effect further strengthens their dominance because they can use these political connections to attract more electoral support. c). Strong political dynasties tend to monopolize opportunities in elections, making it difficult for new or independent candidates to compete. The coattail effect, especially when involving highly popular figures, can block the emergence of new leaders who may be more competent and innovative. d). By strengthening political dynasties, the coattail effect helps maintain the status quo, where significant policy changes or political reforms are hard to achieve. Families or groups already in power may focus more on maintaining their political influence than addressing the needs of the community or enacting change [28]

3.3. The Impact of Political Polarization on Political Stability and Social Cohesion During Simultaneous Elections

Political polarization is a term increasingly heard in today's political context. According to the Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI), "polarization" is defined as the process or action of dividing into two opposing parts, especially between groups with different interests. In other words, polarization refers to the separation of society based on their political views and support or the different ways society responds to political issues. Political polarization occurs when society is divided due to differences in political choices, potentially leading to mistrust and hatred among these groups, as well as inciting hostility.

Political scientists distinguish two levels of polarization: elite polarization and mass polarization. Elite polarization refers to divisions among political elites [29] such as party officials and elected representatives, while mass polarization focuses more on voters or the general public.

Polarization is not unique to Indonesia but also occurs in various countries worldwide, such as the United States and the United Kingdom. Political polarization can emerge in various contexts, including elections, public policies, and socio-cultural issues [30]. During elections, polarization often reflects the divide between political parties and their supporters. Differences in understanding and goals among political parties can cause deep polarization, with society splitting into opposing groups. Several factors that drive political polarization include political parties, mass media, regional divisions, and the political and ideological context of society.

In Indonesia, political polarization is not a new phenomenon. During the New Order and Reform eras, political polarization subsided but resurfaced in 2014 and continued through 2019. Since then, Indonesia has experienced significant political polarization during every election, both for national executive leadership and in Jakarta. A combination of populism, identity politics, and the spread of hoaxes has worsened this polarization. The results of the 2019 Presidential Election revealed two new patterns: a high proportion of Muslim voters in a province correlated with increased support for Prabowo-Sandi, while a high proportion of non-Muslim voters correlated with support for Jokowi-Ma'ruf. This high level of polarization resulted in less effective programmatic campaigns [31]. Post-2019 presidential election polarization also created extreme partisan attitudes, diminishing society's ability to think critically. As a result, both Jokowi and Prabowo supporters became less capable of objectively assessing facts.

Political polarization in Indonesia's 2024 elections can be seen in the increasing divide among citizens in supporting certain presidential candidates and political parties. The table below illustrates the polarization in the 2024 elections:

The impact of polarization on the 2024 Regional Elections is likely to be highly significant, particularly in exacerbating political and social tensions across various regions. Here are some potential impacts of polarization on the 2024 Regional Elections:

1. Damaging democratic institutions. Polarization in a country can damage democratic institutions. In the first point, I explained that polarization can create two opposing camps in their choices. When polarization occurs in a country, the resulting impact may include the weakening of democratic institutions, as political polarization can hinder the process of lawmaking, policymaking, and strengthen one side's position in the polarization. This could lead to decisions or regulations that disadvantage certain segments of society. Polarization has a fatal impact as it allows the winning side to gain substantial power, leaving the losing side excluded from governance.
2. Loss of credibility of political parties. Public trust in political parties can decline due to polarization. Political polarization can reduce public interest in politics, as control is held by the winning side, which may lead to public dissatisfaction and potentially result in demonstrations from those who feel marginalized by the government [32]
3. Impact on governance. Polarization is formed by creating compromise, consensus, interaction, and a lack of tolerance for individuals and political actors on opposing sides. Destructive polarization often undermines respect for democratic norms, damages the legislative process, weakens the non-partisan nature of the judiciary, and increases public dissatisfaction with political parties. This exacerbates intolerance and discrimination, reduces public trust, and increases violence throughout society, potentially leading to democratic backsliding [33] In cases of destructive political polarization in any country, the winning side often excludes the losing side from power or uses methods to prevent the losing side from becoming a future threat. In such situations, the losing side typically questions the legitimacy of institutions that allow the winning side to create hegemony, leading to growing public cynicism towards politics. In these countries, political polarization is often seen as a self-serving power game that has little to do with the public.

TABLE 3: Political Polarization in the 2024 Elections.

Aspect	Description of Polarization	Impact
Polarization Based on Religious Identity	Society is divided based on political choices linked to religious identity, especially among Muslim and non-Muslim voters.	This polarization has the potential to worsen interfaith relations and trigger social tensions in multicultural regions. Political conflict based on religion can strengthen divisions between majority and minority religious groups in several areas.
Elite Polarization	Political parties and political elites sharply oppose each other during campaigns, emphasizing ideological and policy differences.	Elite polarization worsens cross-party collaboration, deepens distrust between parties, and creates a more aggressive political atmosphere. It also triggers negative campaigning, eroding public trust in political institutions.
Mass Polarization	The masses supporting each presidential candidate are polarized, with strong loyalty to their favored candidate and strong rejection of political opponents.	Mass polarization can lead to grassroots tension, creating animosity between supporters and potentially even physical conflict at the local level. This social division weakens societal solidarity and creates frictions that are difficult to resolve after the election is over.
Social Media and Hoaxes	Polarization becomes more acute on social media, where supporters attack each other using fake news and misleading information.	The spread of hoaxes and disinformation on social media deepens polarization, forming “echo chambers” where supporters only consume information that reinforces their views. This reduces the quality of public discourse and worsens the democratic climate.
Influence of Populism and Identity Politics	Certain candidates use populist and identity politics issues to garner support, further deepening divisions based on ethnicity, religion, or social class.	The use of identity politics can worsen polarization, especially in regions with ethnic and religious diversity. Such identity-based campaigns can widen social divides and create fragmentation within society, complicating post-election reconciliation.
Political Party Coalitions	Ideologically divided political party coalitions reinforce differences between political blocs.	Coalitions based on ideological differences deepen the rift between political elites and their supporters, strengthening partisan identities and creating limited space for political compromise. This can also lead to political deadlock and instability after the elections.
Economic Development Issues	Polarization arises in how society views economic issues, with some supporting populist policies and others favoring a liberal approach.	This polarization worsens debates over the direction of economic policies and development, especially concerning wealth distribution and poverty alleviation. Populist and liberal policy supporters find it increasingly difficult to reach common ground, potentially slowing future economic growth.

Source: (Karim, 2019)

4. Conclusion

The 2024 Simultaneous Elections and Regional Head Elections (Pilkada) in Indonesia mark an important period in the democratic process but also present significant challenges. Three key phenomena that arise from the implementation of these simultaneous elections are voter fatigue, coattail effect, and political polarization.

Voter fatigue has become one of the most striking impacts, where voters feel exhausted from participating in frequent elections within a short period. This trend has the potential to lower voter participation and diminish the quality of decision-making, as people may tend to vote without considering substantial issues or thoroughly evaluating the backgrounds of candidates.

On the other hand, the coattail effect can provide advantages for candidates affiliated with popular figures, such as Prabowo Subianto. However, this also creates the risk of dissatisfaction if elected candidates fail to meet public expectations or do not prioritize important local issues. Relying on the popularity of figures may result in candidates neglecting the specific agendas and needs of the regions they represent.

Additionally, political polarization has become increasingly sharp within society, potentially hindering dialogue and collaboration among groups. The tendency for voters to choose based on political affiliation rather than substantive issues can exacerbate divisions within society, creating tensions that could harm political stability in Indonesia.

Overall, while simultaneous elections and regional head elections can enhance efficiency and reduce political costs, the negative impacts they produce warrant serious attention. It is crucial for all stakeholders, including political parties, candidates, and the public, to address these challenges to ensure that the democratic process in Indonesia can operate more effectively, taking into account the comprehensive needs and aspirations of the people.

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