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## Voter Education and Constitutional Democracy: A Socio-Legal Analysis of the Cirebon Regency General Election Commission

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### Abstract

Voter political education constitutes a crucial challenge in consolidating constitutional democracy, particularly in addressing low political awareness, procedural participation, and limited understanding of constitutional values among voters. In many regions, voter participation tends to be driven by administrative compliance rather than informed and responsible civic engagement, which may weaken the substantive quality of democracy. Responding to this problem, this study aims to analyze the role of the General Election Commission in implementing voter political education and to examine its contribution to strengthening constitutional democracy, with specific attention to the practices of the Cirebon Regency General Election Commission. This research employs a socio-legal approach that integrates normative legal analysis and empirical qualitative methods. Normatively, the study examines constitutional provisions, election laws, and regulatory frameworks governing political education for voters. Empirically, qualitative data are derived from official documents, institutional reports, and records of political education activities conducted by the Cirebon Regency General Election Commission. Data are analyzed to assess the alignment between legal mandates and practical implementation at the regional level. The findings indicate that voter political education possesses a strong constitutional and statutory foundation, which legitimizes its implementation as an integral function of election management bodies. In practice, the Cirebon Regency General Election Commission implements political education through educational outreach, inter-institutional collaboration, and adaptive strategies targeting diverse voter groups, particularly first-time voters. These initiatives extend beyond technical election socialization by emphasizing constitutional values, democratic rights, and civic responsibility. The study implies that effective voter political education serves as a strategic bridge between legal norms and democratic practice. Strengthening such programs can enhance constitutional awareness, promote meaningful political participation, and reinforce constitutional democracy at the local and regional levels.

**Keywords:** *Constitutional Democracy, General Election Commission, Political Education*

### A. Introduction

In Indonesia, general elections are an important pillar of the modern democratic system. General elections serve as a manifestation of people's sovereignty and a means of legitimizing political power by involving the people in the process (Halimah et al., 2025). The quality of voter participation drives the quality of democracy (Baroutsis et al., 2016). The Indonesian

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Democracy Index (IDI) in 2023 recorded 79.25 points, a decrease from 80.41 points in 2022, shifting Indonesia's democracy status from “good” to “moderate” (Hudha, 2025). Democracy will also improve if there is freedom to make life choices (Acheampong & Opoku, 2026). This means that quality can be measured by the extent to which citizens understand their rights and obligations and can make informed political decisions. Therefore, political education plays an important role in improving the quality of democracy, not only procedurally but also substantively. Political reform opens up broad opportunities for participation (Barokah & Hertanto, 2022). However, it also raises various challenges, such as low political literacy, voter pragmatism, money politics, and rampant disinformation in the electoral process (Nadya Tridrisna Manurung, 2025). Ramdani's study shows that high voter participation is not always linearly related to the quality of political participation (Ramdani et al., 2026). Chen's study shows that education levels can influence citizens' political participation (Chen & Ma, 2025). In these circumstances, political education should not only be considered an additional activity but also an important element in maintaining democracy and the legitimacy of quality election results.

In Indonesia, political education is narrowly understood as technical socialization activities on voting procedures, voting schedules, and the introduction to election participants. This approach tends to place voters as administrative objects rather than political subjects with constitutional awareness. Political education has long been a central issue in political philosophy and political science because it is considered to influence participation (Willeck & Mendelberg, 2022). Political education must reorient itself from being merely procedural to promoting voters' understanding of democratic values, namely accountability, integrity, and upholding the sovereignty of the people (Fossati, 2019). In electoral democracy, the right of the people to elect political leaders helps strengthen trust in government and increase the perception that individual participation and voting have significant meaning and impact (Acheampong & Opoku, 2026).

The General Election Commission (KPU) is a national institution responsible for organizing elections in Indonesia (Pahlevi, 2016). As an election organizing institution, the KPU has an ethical duty to provide political education to voters. General Election Commission Regulation (PKPU) No. 10 of 2018 emphasizes that voter education is carried out to develop voters, foster voter awareness, increase voter participation, and improve the public's knowledge, understanding, and ability regarding elections (PKPU, 2018). This regulation recognizes that the KPU's function is not only as a technical organizer but also as an implementer of voter socialization and education. However, the issue is the extent to which this normative mandate is effectively translated into practice, and how the KPU's role in voter political education can strengthen constitutional democracy. In other words, there is a need to examine the relationship between legal norms, institutional practices, and the constitutional impact of voter political education.

The integration of political education into the system is a long-term effort to build and strengthen democracy (Ferdman, 2017). Previous studies have highlighted that political education encourages effective participation in public discourse, thereby promoting transparency, accountability, and inclusiveness, which ensure consideration in policy-making and governance (Erkkilä, 2020). In addition, a digital technology- or social media-based approach is seen as a solution for reaching first-time voters. Social media activity influences participation in public discourse (Sukidin et al., 2025). However, these solutions often fall outside the institutional framework of election organizers. Some studies tend to be evaluative or descriptive, without deeply examining voter political education within the framework of constitutional democracy. Existing legal studies often focus on the technical aspects of election administration or the KPU's independence, while the political education dimension of this institution's constitutional function receives relatively little attention. In addition, the approaches

used are generally purely normative or purely empirical, so they do not fully capture the interaction between law and social practice in the implementation of voter political education.

Based on this literature review, a gap emerges: suboptimal socio-legal studies that fail to situate the KPU's role in voter political education within efforts to strengthen constitutional democracy. In fact, a socio-legal approach allows for a more comprehensive analysis by linking electoral law norms (law in the books) with the political education practices carried out by the KPU (law in action), and by assessing their implications for the quality of democracy. This gap indicates the need for research that not only describes KPU regulations and programs, but also analyzes the constitutional meaning of this role.

Based on this description, the purpose of this study is to analyze the role of the General Election Commission in voter political education through a socio-legal approach and to assess its contribution to strengthening constitutional democracy in Cirebon. The novelty of this research lies in its attempt to position voter political education as a constitutional instrument, not merely an administrative activity, by positioning the KPU as an important actor in shaping citizens' political awareness. The scope of this research is limited to analyzing the legal regulations and practices of the Cirebon Regency KPU's voter political education, as well as their implications for the principles of constitutional democracy, without engaging in a quantitative study of voter behavior. Thus, this research is expected to provide theoretical and practical contributions to the development of election law and the strengthening of democracy in Indonesia.

## **B. Methods**

This study adopts a socio-legal research design that integrates normative legal analysis with the empirical examination of social practices (Atikah et al., 2024). This design is appropriate because the issue of voter political education involves both the legal framework governing electoral management and the practical implementation of these norms within society. Through a socio-legal approach, the study examines the interaction between legal provisions and institutional practices, particularly the role of the Cirebon Regency General Election Commission (KPU) in implementing voter political education to strengthen constitutional democracy.

The research was conducted in two main stages. The first stage involved normative legal analysis, focusing on the identification and examination of constitutional and statutory provisions governing political education for voters. The second stage consisted of a qualitative empirical analysis that explored how these legal norms are operationalized by the Cirebon Regency KPU in practice. These stages were carried out sequentially and complementarily to ensure a comprehensive understanding of both the regulatory framework and its implementation at the regional level.

Data were collected through documentary research. Normative data were obtained from primary legal materials, including the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia, Law Number 7 of 2017 on General Elections, and relevant General Election Commission Regulations that define the authority and responsibilities of the KPU in voter education. Empirical data were gathered from institutional documents of the Cirebon Regency KPU, such as official activity reports, policy publications, and records of inter-institutional cooperation that reflect the implementation of voter political education programs.

The collected data were analyzed using thematic analysis. Normative data were examined to identify legal principles, objectives, and institutional mandates related to voter political

education. Empirical data were analyzed to detect recurring patterns and strategies in the implementation of voter education initiatives. Subsequently, the normative and empirical findings were integrated through data triangulation to assess the consistency between law in the books and law in action. This analytical process enhanced the validity of the findings and provided a deeper understanding of the contribution of voter political education to the strengthening of constitutional democracy.

### C. Results and Discussion

#### *Legal Framework and Mandate for Political Education by the Cirebon Regency KPU*

The results of this study show that the role of the Cirebon Regency General Election Commission (KPU) in conducting political education for voters has a strong legal basis and is structured in layers within Indonesia's electoral law system. The legal basis is attached in the following table:

**Table 1.** Electoral Law Basis in Indonesia

Legal Basis	Contents
UUD NRI Tahun 1945	The principle of people's sovereignty
UU Nomor 7 Tahun 2017	The authority of the KPU as the election organizer to carry out political education.
PKPU Nomor 10 Tahun 2018	The objectives of political education are to foster awareness, increase participation, and improve the community's knowledge, understanding, and capabilities regarding elections.

Constitutionally, the principle of people's sovereignty, which places the people as the source of political legitimacy, as stipulated in the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia, serves as the normative foundation for all electoral democracy practices, including voter political education. Elections have a constitutional role in channeling people's sovereignty, so the quality of voter participation is an integral part of the quality of democracy. At the legislative level, the mandate for voter political education is affirmed in Law No. 7 of 2017 on General Elections, which grants the KPU, as the election organizer, the authority to conduct voter outreach and education as part of the election process. This regulation positions voter education as part of the KPU's institutional function, not as an optional additional activity. This provision shows that, normatively, voter political education is part of the electoral system design aimed at strengthening the legitimacy of electoral democracy.

In this context, the Cirebon Regency KPU is hierarchically an institutional representation of the national mandate at the regional level. General Election Commission Regulation (PKPU) Number 10 of 2018 explicitly states that voter education aims to develop voters, foster voter awareness, increase voter participation, and improve the public's knowledge, understanding, and ability regarding elections. This regulation provides an operational framework for the KPU at all levels, including the Cirebon Regency KPU, to develop voter education programs. A review of the document shows that this regulation serves as the primary reference for preparing voter socialization and education programs at the regency level, covering activity planning, target determination, and implementation methods.

Based on the structure of the regulation, the form of voter political education can be classified into general, technical, and administrative norms. General norms are reflected in the constitutional principles of people's sovereignty and electoral democracy; technical norms are

found in election laws and the PKPU that regulate voter education mechanisms; and administrative norms appear in internal policies, technical guidelines, and KPU decisions that regulate operational implementation in the regions. At the Cirebon Regency KPU level, this normative structure provides a relatively clear institutional framework for the scope of voter political education, from planning to implementation. These findings show that, in terms of law in the books, voter political education has been institutionalized as a formal function of the General Election Commission (KPU). Thus, the results of this stage of research show that the role of the Cirebon Regency KPU in voter political education has strong legal legitimacy, sourced from constitutional norms, laws, and technical regulations. This regulatory structure serves as the normative foundation for implementing voter political education at the regional level and for translating legal mandates into institutional practice.

***The Contribution of Political Education by the Cirebon Regency KPU to Constitutional Democracy***

The results of this study also show that the political education of voters carried out by the Cirebon Regency KPU not only forms a series of educational activities but also builds a sustainable institutional pattern. Political education is not only carried out ahead of elections but also in non-stage activities as part of democratic culture. Within the framework of constitutional democracy, political education for voters by the Cirebon Regency KPU contributes to strengthening the basic principles of democracy, including participation, equality among citizens, and constitutional awareness. Voter political education builds citizens' understanding of political rights as part of their constitutional rights, while also fostering awareness that political participation is not merely an individual right, but a shared responsibility in maintaining the legitimacy of the democratic system.

The collaborative activities developed by the Cirebon Regency KPU also demonstrate the institutional dimension of constitutional democracy. Voter political education is not only an administrative task of the electoral agency but also part of the joint work of institutions and agencies to build public political awareness.

**Table 2.** List of MoUs and collaborations with agencies and institutions in Cirebon Regency

<b>Institutions</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>
Kementerian Agama Kabupaten Cirebon	19 September 2025	MoU
Kantor Cabang Dinas Pendidikan (Kcd) Wilayah X Provinsi Jawa Barat	23 September 2025	MoU
Dinas Pendidikan Kabupaten Cirebon	6 Oktober 2025	MoU

*Source: KPU Kabupaten Cirebon.*

The research data show that the implementation of voter political education by the Cirebon Regency General Election Commission (KPU) is clearly evident through collaborative work with educational institutions and agencies at the regency level. This practice confirms that voter political education is not only carried out as technical election socialization, but also as a structured effort to build democratic awareness from an early age. One of the main findings is the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the Cirebon Regency KPU and the Cirebon Regency Ministry of Religious Affairs, the Cirebon Regency Education Office, and the West Java Province Region X Education Office Branch (KCD), which aims to increase the capacity, participation, and democratic awareness of the community, especially first-time voters. This collaboration uses formal educational spaces, such as madrasas and secondary schools, as mediums for electoral democracy education.

From a socio-legal perspective, the Cirebon Regency KPU implements political education through various activities, including face-to-face socialization in schools, mentoring the election of student council presidents as a simulation of democracy, and utilizing the Election Smart House as a center for learning about democracy. These findings show that first-time voters are positioned as strategic subjects in long-term democratic development. These activities demonstrate how the legal mandate of voter education is translated into social practice (law in action), while also strengthening the Cirebon Regency KPU's role as a constitutional actor in advancing constitutional democracy at the regional level.

***Implementation of Political Education by the Cirebon Regency KPU***

The results of the study show that the Cirebon Regency KPU actively carries out its mandate of voter political education through various educational, participatory, and adaptive activities that are tailored to the local social context. Empirical data sourced from official documents and reports of the Cirebon Regency KPU show that voter political education is not practiced narrowly as technical election socialization, but rather developed as a program oriented towards shaping public political awareness. The forms of these activities are shown in the following table.

**Table 3.** Political Education Activities of the Cirebon Regency KPU

Target	Date	Activity
SMPN 1 Dukupuntang	9 Oktober 2025	Socialization and Education Related to the Selection Process of OSIS Administrators and OSIS Chairpersons as a Form of Democracy Education for Students
SMPN 1 Plumbon	13 Oktober 2025	The Importance of Participation in the Early Implementation of Democracy
SMPN 1 Astanajapura	15 Oktober 2025	Socialization and Education Related to the Election Process for OSIS Administrators and OSIS Chairpersons
SMPN 3 Plered	20 Oktober 2025	Socialization for the Election of the Student Council President and Technical Guidance for the Election Committee
	23 Oktober 2025	Witnessing the General Election for the Student Council President and Vice President, Held at SMPN 3 Plered, Cirebon Regency, with a total of 465 students registered to vote, divided into 2 polling stations. Polling Station 1 has 230 students, and Polling Station 2 has 235 students from grades 7, 8, and 9.
SMPN 1 Kedawung	22 Oktober 2025	Education on the Implementation of Elections for Students Related to the Election of the Student Council President at SMPN 1 Kedawung
SMPN 2 Losari	22 Oktober 2025	Procedures for Electing the Head and Deputy Head of the Student Council in the Context of Democracy at School
SMPN 1 Pabedilan	22 Oktober 2025	Democracy Related to Socialization Activities and Procedures for Electing the

<b>Target</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity</b>
		Head and Deputy Head of the Student Council at SMPN 1 Pabedilan
SMPN 2 Plered	25 Oktober 2025	Campaign to Promote the Election of the OSIS Chair and Vice Chair Candidates at SMPN 2 Plered, Cirebon Regency
SMPN 2 Plered	1 Nopember 2025	Providing Socialization and Education on the Election of the OSIS Chair and Vice Chair at SMPN 2 Plered, Cirebon Regency, and Observing the OSIS Election Voting at one Polling Station
SMPN 1 Plered	3 Nopember 2025	Filling in the Ceremony Advisor's Instructions and Providing Guidance on Socialization Regarding KPPS Technical Guidance to Students of SMPN 1 Plered, Cirebon Regency
	4 Nopember 2025	Witnessing the General Election Activities in the Election of the OSIS Chair and Vice Chair Held at SMPN 1 Plered, Cirebon Regency.
SMPN 1 Weru	7 Nopember 2025	Socialization and Technical Guidance on KPPS Tasks for the Student Council at SMPN 1 Weru, Cirebon Regency
SMPN 2 Pabedilan	10 Nopember 2025	Providing Socialization and Education on Early Awareness of Democracy at SMPN 2 Pabedilan, Cirebon Regency
SMPN 2 Jamblang	15 Nopember 2025	Providing Socialization and Education on Early Awareness of Democracy at SMPN 2 Pabedilan, Cirebon Regency
SMPN 1 Pasaleman	17 Nopember 2025	Speaker in the context of socialization activities for the election of the Student Council Chair at SMPN 1 Pasaleman, Cirebon Regency
SMPN 2 Susukanlebak	26 Nopember 2025	Providing socialization on elections and democratic education for students of SMPN2 Susukanlebak
SMPN 1 Kapetakan	26 Nopember 2025	Providing Guidance and Direction on the Procedures for Electing Student Council Officers
	29 Nopember 2025	Implementation of Student Council Officer Elections
MTsN 11 Cirebon	30 Oktober 2025	Delivery of KPPS Technical Guidance at MTsN 11 Cirebon, Cirebon Regency
MTS Miftahul Ulum	30-31 Oktober 2025	Delivery of Material in the Context of Basic School Leadership Training at MTs Miftahul Ulum, Cirebon Regency
MTsN 8 Cirebon	6 Nopember 2025	Delivery of BIMTEK KPPS at MTsN 8 Cirebon, Cirebon Regency

Target	Date	Activity
MTsN 4 Cirebon	13 Nopember 2025	Socialization of the OSIS Chairperson Election and Voting for the OSIS Chairperson and Vice Chairperson
MTsN 12 Cirebon	29 Nopember 2025	Technical Aspects of Student Council Elections at MTsN 12 Cirebon
MTs Al Islah Bobos	29 Nopember 2025	Holding Simultaneous School-Level Elections (Student Council) at MTs Al Islah Bobos
SLBN Pangeran Cakrabuana	20 Nopember 2025	Resource Person for Election Socialization for Voters with Disabilities
SMKN 1 Kedawung	7 Nopember 2025	Becoming a Panel Judge in the Debate for the Election of the Chair and Vice Chair of MPK and OSIS for 2025/2026 at SMKN 1 Kedawung, Cirebon Regency
	19 Desember 2025	LDKS activity for SMKN 1 Kedawung Cirebon Regency, held at the Cirebon Regency KPU
MAN 1 Cirebon	8 September 2025	Socialization and Education Presentation at MAN 1 Cirebon with the theme: The Voice of Democracy
Institut Pesantren Babakan Cirebon (IPEBA)	21 September 2025	Introduction to Political Dynamics and Democracy
HIMATIK - IPB Cirebon	4 Desember 2025	Seminar on Character Development for PTIK IPB Cirebon Students, Theme: Integrity & Resilient Innovation: Building Resilient Students in the Digital Age
GMNI Cirebon Raya	15 Agustus 2025	IKA GMNI Cirebon Raya Declaration
NASDEM	20 Oktober 2025	Speaker at the Political Education Agenda Held by the Cirebon Regency DPD Nasdem
IKA PMIII Cirebon Raya	2 Nopember 2025	Inauguration of the Cirebon Raya IKA PMII Branch Management
PDPM-PDNA Kab. Cirebon	15 Nopember 2025	Joint Inauguration of PDPM - PDNA Cirebon Regency and Talk Show on Young Statesmen and Stateswomen
TVRI Jawa Barat	20 Nopember 2025	Sampurasun News on the theme: KPU Goes To School
Yayasan FAHMINA	21 Nopember 2025	Political Participation for Young People
PKBI Kab. Cirebon	22 Nopember 2025	Delivering material on the dynamics of democracy in Cirebon Regency.
HMSPI-UIN Cirebon	24 Nopember 2025	Attending the History of Moderation Seminar, Theme: "An Age of Tolerance, Moderation in the Context of History"
KNPI Kabupaten Cirebon	29 Nopember 2025	Regional Leadership Meeting (RAPIMDA)
Pemerintah Kabupaten Cirebon - Badan	2 Desember 2025	KNPI) and strengthening ties between the DPD KNPI Cirebon Regency administrators

Target	Date	Activity
Kesatuan Bangsa dan Politik		with the theme: The Strategic Role of Youth in the Context of an Advanced Indonesia
IPNU-IPPNU Kabupaten Cirebon	14 Desember 2025	Speaker: Socialization of Strengthening Political Education in Cirebon Regency in 2025
DPRD JABAR	20 Desember 2025	Inauguration of PC IPNU-IPPNU Cirebon Regency, with the theme: "Manunggaling Kawruh Digdaya lan Kabudayaan"
Partai GOLKAR Kabupaten Cirebon	27 Desember 2025	Delivering material: The Importance of Democracy Education among First-Time Voters

Source: KPU Kabupaten Cirebon.

The dominant form of political education conducted by the Cirebon Regency KPU is face-to-face socialization targeting first-time voters, particularly students in the Cirebon regency. These activities are carried out through direct meetings with high school and university students, using materials that introduce elections, outline the rights and obligations of voters, and highlight the basic values of democracy. This outreach focuses not only on procedural aspects but also integrates normative dimensions regarding the importance of political participation with integrity.

The implementation of voter education by the Cirebon Regency KPU was also marked by institutional collaboration, particularly with the Cirebon Regency Education Office. This collaboration enabled voter education activities to be integrated into the formal education environment, so that political education was not separated from the civic learning process. This collaboration shows that the Cirebon Regency KPU does not act as a single actor, but as part of an institutional network in building citizens' political awareness. In addition to the school environment, the Cirebon Regency KPU also implements political education through discussions and dialogues with youth organizations. These activities take the form of discussion forums on electoral and democratic issues, providing space for young people to participate as political subjects. These discussions demonstrate a deliberative approach to political education, in which voters are not only recipients of information but also actors in the exchange of ideas. The results of the next study show that the Cirebon Regency KPU also develops voter political education through digital platforms. The use of social media and the organization of podcast activities are part of an adaptive strategy to reach young voters. The content delivered is not only informative but also educational, emphasizing the importance of political awareness and democratic participation. The implementation of voter political education by the Cirebon Regency KPU shows diverse approaches, including face-to-face, collaborative, and digital approaches. This variation in methods shows that voter political education is not practiced uniformly, but is tailored to the characteristics of the target audience and the local social context. These results indicate that, from a law-in-action perspective, the legal mandate for voter political education is translated into concrete, adaptive, and sustainable institutional practices.

Research findings on the role of the General Election Commission (KPU) of Cirebon Regency in voter political education reveal dynamics in the legal norms governing the KPU's authority and in the evolving implementation practices at the regional level. Compared with the normative framework outlined in the previous section, the KPU of Cirebon Regency appears to carry out not only administrative functions related to elections but also to articulate its educational role as part of its constitutional mandate to realize people's sovereignty. This aligns with Asshiddiqie's view, which emphasizes that constitutional democracy requires not only valid

electoral procedures but also citizens who are aware of their rights and obligations within the state system (Asshiddiqie et al., 2006).

The implementation of voter political education by the Cirebon Regency KPU is an effort to bridge the gap between law in the books and law in action. Normatively, Law Number 7 of 2017 and KPU Regulations (PKPU) provide a strong basis for the KPU to carry out voter education. Friedman argues that the effectiveness of law depends heavily on the structure, substance, and culture that accompany it (Ahadi, 2022). The findings in this study show that the Cirebon Regency KPU is trying to build a democratic legal culture through political education targeting first-time voters so that legal norms do not stop at the written level but are internalized in social practice. Institutional cooperation among the Cirebon Regency KPU, the Cirebon Regency Ministry of Religious Affairs, and the Education Office shows that voter political education is not narrowly understood as a technical electoral matter but rather as part of the process of forming citizens with constitutional awareness. This approach aligns with the idea of civic education, which emphasizes integrating democratic values into formal and non-formal education. In fact, one study recommends that democratic education be given greater critical focus in both curricular and extracurricular settings by discussing issues of social and global injustice (Angyagre, 2025). Collaborative activities between educational institutions and the Cirebon Regency KPU also expand the reach of political education to segments of society with strong social and cultural influence.

In addition, findings regarding the use of face-to-face methods in schools and democracy simulations through student council elections, as well as the use of Smart Election Houses, indicate a diversification of political education strategies. This practice confirms Zarkasyi's research, which states that effective voter education must be participatory and contextual in order to substantially improve political literacy, rather than merely procedural knowledge (Zarkasi & Rizal, 2020). This is also in line with the concept of the Democratic Education School Experience Framework, initiated by De Groot and Lo, which focuses on providing educational opportunities for students to learn and practice democratic citizenship skills at school (de Groot & Lo, 2021). Based on the results of observations, the Cirebon Regency KPU strives to adjust political education methods to the characteristics of the target audience, especially first-time voters who are still in the process of forming political attitudes.

This political education for voters also needs to be read critically. Democracy requires meaningful participation, not just attending the polling station. The research findings show that the political education activities carried out by the Cirebon Regency KPU have the potential to encourage more conscious and reflective participation, but their long-term effectiveness still depends heavily on the program's sustainability and integration with broader civic education policies. In other words, the KPU's political education for voters cannot yet stand alone as the main instrument for strengthening constitutional democracy.

This study also needs to situate the role of the Cirebon Regency KPU within the framework of central-regional relations. As a national, permanent, and independent institution, the KPU has a hierarchical structure that requires the Regency KPU to implement policies and guidelines from the Indonesian KPU. The findings of this study show that the Cirebon Regency KPU's discretion lies in the implementation aspect, particularly in determining the form of activities, local partners, and political education media. This aligns with the concept of administrative discretion in administrative law, which allows public officials to adjust policies to local social conditions, so long as they do not conflict with higher norms (Taufiqurokhman, 2014).

Political education for voters by the Cirebon Regency KPU is part of efforts to strengthen the KPU's institutional legitimacy. In the literature on public trust in electoral institutions, transparency, accountability, and community closeness are important factors in building such

trust (Aziz et al., 2026). Through dialogical and collaborative political education activities, the Cirebon Regency KPU not only conveys information but also builds social relationships with voters. These relationships have the potential to strengthen the public's perception that the KPU is an institution that serves democracy's interests, not merely a technical election administrator. The research findings also indicate the limitations of the empirical data available in official documents, particularly in measuring the impact of political education on voting behavior. This aligns with criticism in the socio-legal literature that many legal and political education programs are considered successful normatively but lack in-depth empirical evaluation. This limitation does not necessarily weaken the role of the Cirebon Regency KPU, but it shows that there is room for improvement in the monitoring and evaluation of voter education programs to be more data- and evidence-based.

Within the framework of constitutional democracy, the Cirebon Regency KPU plays a role in voter political education. This can be understood as part of efforts to maintain continuity between democratic procedures and constitutional values. Political education for voters serves as a means of internalizing the principles of people's sovereignty, equal rights, and the constitution's guarantee of political participation. Thus, the practices found in this study reinforce the argument that strengthening constitutional democracy depends not only on institutional design but also on the social processes that shape citizens' political awareness. Within the scope of Cirebon Regency, the KPU appears as an important actor that connects legal norms with social reality, although the effectiveness of this role remains influenced by broader structural and cultural factors.

#### **D. Conclusion**

This study shows that the role of the General Election Commission (KPU) of Cirebon Regency in voter political education is an important manifestation of the implementation of constitutional mandates and electoral laws in the context of democracy in the region. The results of the study confirm that the normative framework governing voter political education has provided an adequate legal basis for the KPU to carry out its educational functions, both through legislation and internal technical regulations. At the implementation stage, the research findings show that the KPU of Cirebon Regency translates this mandate into adaptive and collaborative political education practices, particularly by involving educational institutions and youth organizations as strategic partners.

The main implication of these findings is that voter political education does not merely serve as an instrument for increasing short-term electoral participation, but also as a means of shaping citizens' constitutional awareness. Thus, the KPU's role in voter political education contributes directly to strengthening constitutional democracy through the internalization of democratic values, the rule of law, and responsible participation. This study enriches the body of knowledge on electoral law by presenting a socio-legal perspective that links legal norms and institutional practices at the regional level, a topic that has received relatively little attention in the literature. As a contribution to knowledge, this study emphasizes the importance of analyzing law in action in assessing the effectiveness of electoral institutions. Future research could expand the scope by conducting comparative studies between regions or integrating broader field data to assess the impact of voter political education on electoral behavior and the quality of democratic participation.

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