

Political Party Performance: Election Systems in Developing and Developed Countries

Nofriadi¹, Pocut Zahran Nada Firs², Mohd. Dzakhi Ry³, Rahma Fitriani⁴, Di Aidil Mahendra⁵

Universitas Syiah Kuala

Article Info

Article history:

Accepted: 22 April 2025

Publish: 12 May 2025

Keywords:

*Effect Of Electoral Systems;
Political Party Performance;
Developing Countries;
Developed Countries;
Comparative Study.*

Abstract

This study aims to analyze the influence of electoral systems on political party performance by conducting a comparative study between developing and developed countries. Using a qualitative approach and secondary data analysis, this study explores how different electoral systems such as proportional and majoritarian systems affect political party dynamics, political representation, and voter participation. The findings show that developed countries with proportional electoral systems tend to produce more inclusive and responsive political parties, while developing countries often face challenges such as party fragmentation and low voter participation due to the majoritarian system. This study provides important insights for the development of more effective electoral systems and improving political party performance in both categories of countries.

This is an open access article under the [Lisensi Creative Commons Atribusi-BerbagiSerupa 4.0 Internasional](#)



Corresponding Author:

Mohd. Dzakhi Ry

Fakultas Ilmu Sosial dan Ilmu Politik Universitas Syiah Kuala

Email: mohddzakhiry@gmail.com

1. INTRODUCTION

The electoral system is one of the fundamental elements in democracy which functions to regulate the mechanism for selecting people's representatives and regional heads. This system not only determines who will occupy key positions in government, but also reflects the values and aspirations of society. Different types of electoral systems, such as proportional, majority, and mixed systems, have different impacts on a country's political dynamics. Research shows that a transparent and inclusive electoral system can increase public political participation and create better representation in legislative institutions (Lijphart, 2018). Conversely, an ineffective electoral system can cause public dissatisfaction and reduce trust in political institutions. In this context, it is important to understand how electoral systems influence political stability and the quality of democracy in a country.

The electoral system implemented by countries in this world it's very diverse. including proportional representation, pluralism or majority and others Because it's an electoral system in various the world is said to have a varied electoral system. a country with demographic characteristics and geographical ones the same it does not necessarily follow the same electoral system likewise on the contrary. According to Ali Murtopo, general elections are a means for society to carry out existing democratic institutions set as the sovereignty of the community for the well-being of the people.

According to Manuel Kaisepo important traditions like this are almost sacred in various political systems in the world. This aims to provide proper sovereignty for the people. This general election is important Because can provide legitimacy on the basis of

sovereign power with the new government, this kind of support is what the people are looking for so that they feel prosperous and considered as an important role in the world political system.

According to Carl J. Friedrich (1967:415) political parties can be interpreted as a group of people organized in an orderly manner, with the aim of making equal use of one's power for government for the leader of the party and based on this mastery giving its party members ideal benefits, so that society can measure the extent to which leaders and members can make changes and make better use of society.

Basically, democracy in this world is a benchmark for the success of democracy in a country and it cannot be denied that our country has many differences and lacks political power. took place or held broadly, honestly and fairly then from it means democracy in a country This is going well. But many of the liberal democracies that this country considers to be the most correct are democracies that we cannot intervene in other ways, such as liberal democracies and very bad politics. However, this election cannot be the only benchmark for assessing the success of democracy. Because It is necessary to measure several other activities that are more sustainable and do not cause too much conflict in politics.

The performance of political parties is an important indicator in assessing the quality of democracy in a country. Political parties function as intermediaries between society and the government, and their performance is greatly influenced by the electoral system implemented. Efficient and responsive political parties are able to create public policies that suit the needs of society. Research shows that a good electoral system not only encourages competition between parties, but also increases accountability and transparency in the decision-making process (Norris, 2019). Good political party performance contributes not only to political stability but also to sustainable social and economic development (Katz & Mair, 2018).

According to Marzuki Ali, to support the existence of political parties, they need a mass base not only as support but also as a crucial component to prove that the political party machine can work well and is able to penetrate ideology into society. However, the results obtained from studies regarding voters' ideological affiliation with Indonesian political parties show that these political parties generally do not have a strong mass base and also do not have a clear vision and mission in carrying out their duties.

From the results of Indonesian poll tracking, people tend to choose personal figures rather than political parties. This also happens because of low political awareness, political education and the quality of political performance in institutions and through legislative members and office other executives which led to the strengthening of political pragmatism

According to Marzuki Alie, political performance is not only measured by their success in winning elections, but also by their ability to carry out basic political functions, including the educational function, where members of political parties must be able to contribute to political education in society so that people can become critical voters and be able to have a positive impact on government performance. the function of aggregating interests in which political parties play a role in developing various community interests which are an important part of state policy and also to improve the quality of national leadership. The function of control and supervision, in this case the corridors of the constitution and the aspirations of the people, is the function of monitoring the running of the government. The representation function, namely the performance of parties, is assessed by the extent to which they can represent the interests of the community and the needs of the community who want to play a public role in government

This political performance is also closely related to the integrity and accountability of its cadres. the need for internal party reform so that it does not only become an elite political consciousness but is truly embraced as a healthy democratic institution.

Therefore, it is important to analyze the relationship between the electoral system and political party performance in a broader context. Furthermore, the differences between developing and developed countries in the context of electoral systems and political party performance are very striking. Developed countries generally have longer experience in democracy and implement more effective electoral systems, which supports the good performance of political parties. They tend to have stronger and more stable institutions, as well as higher levels of voter participation. This allows political parties to operate in a more competitive and accountable environment. In contrast, developing countries often face challenges in building fair and transparent electoral systems, which can affect the performance of political parties. In many cases, challenges such as corruption, political instability, and low voter participation are the main obstacles to improving the performance of political parties in developing countries (Diamond, 2015; Ziblatt, 2017).

Corruption, for example, can undermine public trust in political parties and government institutions, thereby reducing their legitimacy. Additionally, political instability often causes disconnects in the electoral process, which can create uncertainty among voters and reduce their participation. This research aims to explore how differences in electoral systems in developing and developed countries affect the performance of political parties. With a deeper understanding of these influences, policymakers can formulate more effective strategies to strengthen democracy and improve the quality of government.

Against this background, it is hoped that this research will provide significant insight into the relationship between electoral systems and political party performance, as well as the differences that exist between developing and developed countries. This research will also consider the practical implications of the findings for electoral system reform in various contexts.

2. RESEARCH METHOD

This research aims to analyze the performance of political parties through a comparison of electoral systems in developing and developed countries. Using a qualitative approach, this research will collect and analyze data from various literature sources and examples from social media.

Research methods

1. Literature Study

Data Collection: Collect data from books, journal articles, research reports and official documents relevant to the performance of political parties and electoral systems

Content Analysis: Use content analysis to understand themes, patterns, and differences that emerge from existing literature.

2. Examples from Social Media

Identify and collect data from social media platforms such as Google and Instagram.

Narrative Analysis: Analyze narratives and discussions that appear on social media to understand public perceptions of party performance in the context of the electoral system.

3. RESEARCH RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 General Election Systems in Developed Countries

Germany implements a mixed electoral system known as *mixed-member proportional* (MMP). This system combines two selection mechanisms, namely the system *Proportional Representation* (PR list) and a plurality or majority system. In MMP, voters' votes are used to elect representatives through both systems. The PR List System functions to compensate for the imbalance of results that may occur due to the majority system. Voters are usually given two separate votes. However, in other variations of this system, voters cast only one vote, and party vote totals are calculated based on the results of the candidates in each electoral district. For example, in the 1949 German elections, seat allocation was carried out proportionally at 40% and by majority at 60%. The aim of implementing the MMP is to maintain a balance between the proportionality of election results and the stability and effectiveness of government in Germany. (Septian, 2019)

The United States uses a majoritarian electoral system known as *First-Past-the-Post* (FPTP). In this system, the candidate who wins the most votes in an electoral district is immediately declared the winner, even though they do not achieve an absolute majority. This FPTP system is applied in various elections, including legislative elections such as for the House of Representatives and Senate, as well as in presidential elections through the system *Electoral College*. In this mechanism, the candidate who wins the electoral votes in a state will control all the votes from that state, even though nationally they may lose in terms of the number of popular votes (Masykur, 2020; Dewi, 2019).

The electoral system in England adheres to a parliamentary model by implementing mechanisms *First-Past-the-Post* (FPTP) in the election of members of the House of Representatives (*House of Commons*). In this system, voters vote for candidates in each electoral district, and the candidate who receives the most votes in that district wins the seat. FPTP usually benefits large parties that have broad and even support in various regions, while small parties often find it difficult to obtain a number of seats commensurate with the total votes they obtain (Prabowo, 2019).

3.2 General Election Systems in Developing Countries

Since the Reformation, Indonesia has implemented an open proportional system, which allows the public to directly elect legislative candidates based on the majority of votes obtained. The aim of this system is to strengthen people's representation and increase political legitimacy. However, various studies highlight the negative side of this system, such as the tendency for transactional politics to emerge, excessive competition between candidates within one party, and increased practices of money politics and corruption (Faralita & Abdussamad, 2023; Riwanto, 2015).

Malaysia uses a general election system based on the principles of parliamentary democracy and constitutional monarchy, where the people elect their representatives to sit in the Dewan Rakyat, which is one of the two houses in the Malaysian Parliament. The election system used is *First-Past-The-Post* (FPTP), where the candidate who obtains the most votes in a constituency will be declared the winner, regardless of whether the vote exceeds 50% or not. Elections are held for two main levels: federal elections (to elect members of Parliament) and state elections (to elect members of the State Assembly). The Election Commission (SPR) is responsible for managing and supervising the election process, including the delimitation of areas, voting, and the setting of election dates. Eligibility to vote in Malaysia includes Malaysian citizenship, age 18 and above, and being registered as a voter, although voter registration is now done automatically since a law amendment in 2019. The FPTP system is often criticized for not reflecting the true proportion of the people's votes, but it is still implemented

due to its simplicity and the relative political stability it produces. (A.K. Gill, 2020; M. Chin, 2018)

The Philippines uses a mixed electoral system that includes *First-Past-the-Post* (FPTP) and *party-list proportional representation*. In the presidential and vice-presidential elections, the FPTP system is used, where the candidate who obtains the most votes nationally is immediately declared the winner without the need for a second-round election. The president and vice president are elected separately, so both can come from different political parties. For the election of members of the Representative Council (*House of Representatives*), a dual system is used: some members are elected directly through FPTP in electoral districts, while others come from party lists which are determined proportionally based on the number of votes received nationally, in order to guarantee representation for marginalized sectors. General elections in the Philippines are organized by the Commission on Elections (COMELEC), which is tasked with administering elections in a free, fair and transparent manner. This system aims to create a balance between electoral efficiency and inclusive political representation at the national level. (A. T. Fernandez, 2007)

3.3 Comparison of the Performance of Political Parties in Developed and Developing Countries

The performance of political parties is significantly influenced by the electoral system implemented in a country. In developed and developing countries such as the United States and Indonesia, proportional electoral systems allow for broader representation and support political stability. Parties in developed countries have better access to resources and high levels of public participation, so they are able to focus on long-term policies.

Meanwhile, in developing countries, challenges such as political instability, corruption and limited resources often hamper party performance. Many developing countries are experiencing rapid regime change, making it difficult for political parties to carry out their functions effectively. Low voter turnout also creates legitimacy problems for parties.

A comparison between the two shows that inclusive electoral systems in developed countries tend to result in higher accountability, whereas in developing countries, parties often do not fulfill their campaign promises. Therefore, electoral system reform and strengthening political institutions are very important to improve party performance in developing countries. Thus, understanding the relationship between the electoral system and political party performance can help create a more effective and representative political system.

4. CONCLUSION

In this research, a comparative analysis of the performance of political parties between developing and developed countries has been analyzed, with a focus on the influence of the electoral system on party effectiveness and representativeness. The results show that the electoral system implemented plays an important role in determining the performance of political parties. In developed countries, proportional systems tend to produce more stable and representative parties, whereas in developing countries, majoritarian systems often result in dissatisfaction and political fragmentation.

In addition, factors such as the level of public participation, transparency and accountability also contribute to the performance of political parties. Countries that have inclusive electoral systems and encourage active participation tend to show better party

performance. This research suggests the need for electoral reform in developing countries to improve political party performance and strengthen democracy.

5. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We would like to express our deepest gratitude to all parties who have contributed to the preparation of this journal. Thank you to the lecturer in the Party and Election Studies Course, Mr. Nofriadi, S.I.P., M.I.P who has provided guidance and valuable input, as well as to colleagues who have discussed and shared their thoughts.

We also appreciate the literature sources that have enriched the analysis in this journal, as well as all respondents who have taken the time to provide insight into this research. We hope that this journal can make a positive contribution in understanding the performance of political parties in various electoral systems, both in developing and developed countries.

6. BIBLIOGRAPHY

- A. K. Gill, *Malaysia's Electoral System: Design and Practice*, Kuala Lumpur: Malaysian Law Publishers, 2020.
- A. Riwanto, Korelasi Pengaturan Sistem Pemilu Proporsional Terbuka Berbasis Suara Terbanyak dengan Korupsi Politik di Indonesia, Yustisia, 2015.
- A. T. Fernandez, "Elections and Electoral Politics in the Philippines," *Philippine Political Science Journal*, vol. 28, no. 51, pp. 1–22, 2007.
- Blais, A., & Massicotte, L. (2020). Electoral Systems. In *The Oxford Handbook of Electoral Systems* (pp. 17-38). Oxford University Press.
- Cruz, J. L., & Santos, M. R. (2022). Pemilihan umum di Filipina: Sistem campuran dan implikasinya terhadap representasi politik. *Asian Journal of Political Science*, 15(3), 200-215.
- Diamond, L. (2015). *In Search of Democracy*. New York: Routledge.
- Faralita, A., & Abdussamad, M. (2023). Kinerja partai politik dan sistem pemilu di Indonesia: Analisis terhadap sistem proporsional terbuka. *Jurnal Politik dan Pemerintahan*, 10(2), 123-140.
- Fitriyah, Teori dan Praktik Pemilihan Umum di Indonesia, (Yogyakarta: Deepublish, 2012).
- G. M. A. Abdussamad dan E. Faralita, Korupsi Politik Terlahir Dari Sistem Pemilihan Umum Menggunakan Sistem Proporsional Terbuka Di Indonesia, Wasaka Hukum, 2023.
- Katz, R. S., & Mair, P. (2018). The Decline of Party Politics. *Journal of Democracy*, 29(4), 10-24
- Lijphart, A. (2018). *Patterns of Democracy: Government Forms and Performance in Thirty-Six Countries*. Yale University Press.
- M. Chin, "Electoral politics in Malaysia: Mapping the trajectory," *Asian Survey*, vol. 58, no. 3, pp. 460–483, 2018.
- Muhadan Labolo & Teguh Ilham, Partai Politik dan Sistem Pemilihan Umum di Indonesia (Teori, Konsep dan 1su Strategis), (Jakarta: PT Raja Grafindo, 2015).
- Norris, P. (2019). *Democratic Phoenix: Reinventing Political Activism*. Cambridge University Press.
- Prabowo, A. (2021). Sistem pemilu di Prancis dan implikasinya terhadap stabilitas politik. LP3S.

- Rahman, S. (2021). Sistem pemilihan umum di Malaysia: Analisis terhadap prinsip demokrasi berparlimen dan monarki konstitusional. *Jurnal Ilmu Sosial dan Politik*, 8(1), 45-60.
- Septian, I. F. (2019). Mengefektifkan Sistem Pemerintahan dan Menyederhanakan Sistem Partai Politik: Belajar Kepada Pemilu Jerman. *Majalah Hukum Nasional.*, 2.
- Smith, J. (2020). Perbandingan kinerja partai politik di negara maju dan negara berkembang: Studi kasus Amerika Serikat dan Indonesia. *International Journal of Comparative Politics*, 12(4), 310-325.
- Wati, R. (2019). Reformasi sistem pemilu dan penguatan institusi politik di negara berkembang. *Jurnal Kajian Politik*, 5(2), 85-98.
- Ziblatt, D. (2017). *Conservative Parties and the Birth of Democracy*. Princeton University Press.