POLITICAL PARTY VERIFICATION: A COMPARISON BETWEEN LAW NUMBER 8 OF 2012 AND LAW NUMBER 7 OF 2017 ON GENERAL ELECTION

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POLITICAL PARTY VERIFICATION: A COMPARISON BETWEEN LAW NUMBER 8 OF 2012 AND LAW NUMBER 7 OF 2017 ON GENERAL ELECTION

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POLITICAL PARTY VERIFICATION:
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ABSTRACT

In the general elections, every political party must fulfill the requirements to follow the elections which is regulated by law. As we know, the Law regarding the general elections are changed on every election. On general election of 2014, the requirements of political party participant candidates was regulated by Law Number 8 of 2012, while in the general election 2019, it was regulated by Law Number 7 of 2017. In terms of determining which political parties deserve to join the general election, every single political party has to pass the verification stage as political party participants. This research aims to understand the regulation regarding the political party verification held in the general election of 2014 and 2019. Furthermore, this research also aims to analyze the similarities and differences of political party verification regulated in Law Number 8 of 2012 and Law number 7 of 2017. By using normative legal research, it is found that the regulation regarding the political party verification based on Law Number 8 of 2012 and Law Number 7 of 2017 were relatively the same. So, there were no significant differences. On the other hand, this law became an issue because it contains a provision that gives privilege for certain political parties.

Keywords: General Election, Political Party, Verification
1. INTRODUCTION

In the 2014 elections, the requirement for participation of political party was getting stricter. Law Number 2 of 2011 on Political Party requires political party to establish branch office in 100 percent of total province in Indonesia, 75 percent of total regency/municipality, and 50 percent of total sub-district in the regencies/municipalities in the provinces where they establish the branch office. Every political party that seeks to participate in the 2014 elections has to pass the verification process by the General Election Commission. The Constitutional Court states that if there is any change in the requirement, all political party must obey the new regulation.

In line with the equality before the law principle. The election management bodies should never treat new parties differently from old parties (those that were participating in the 2009 elections). If a party is imposed with a certain requirement, that requirement should also be imposed to other parties as well. There were 12 national parties and 3 Aceh’s local parties considered as eligible to participate in the 2014 elections, and there were 22 ineligible parties. Ten out of those twelve parties won at least one seat in the parliament.

Meanwhile, the requirement for participation in the 2019 elections become stricter than before. This is because of the need to improve the

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1 Political Party Act 2011 (Undang – Undang Nomor 2 tahun 2011 tentang perubahan atas Undang – Undang Nomor 2 tahun 2008 tentang Partai Politik)
2 The Court mentioned the following Constitutional provisions: Article 27(1) granted citizens the right to equality before the law and in government, Article 28 D (1) to equality before the law, and Article 28 I (2) freedom and protection from discriminatory treatment.
political party system and to make sure that the participating parties fulfill all the requirements to compete in the election. One of the tasks of political party is to provide political education to the public. The political party that fails to meet the legal requirements should be the one that is unable to deliver such task properly. The requirements for political party must establish branch office in 100 percent province, 75 regency/municipality, and 50 percent sub-district in the regency/municipality in the province where they establish the branch office.\(^3\) Related to the issue, Article 173 (1) Law Number 7 of 2017 on general elections states that The arrangement of the political parties that has passed the verification process and wishing to join the General Election to be done by the Commission for the General Election.\(^4\) Based on this article, all new political parties have to be verified and should have the qualification of fine before joining the General Election in 2019. The verification process is done by the Commission for the General Election.

The general election commission should be convinced that the respective political party is really qualified and is able to join the General Election. The political party that does not pass the required qualification standard should not be allowed to join the general election.\(^5\) This procedure

\(^3\) Djohan Rady A Comparison of Requirements for Political Party in Elections of 1999 to 2014, http://rumahpemilu.org viewed on November 12, 2017 at 12:12 a.m

\(^4\) See The Translation of Law Number 7 Year 2017 Article 173 about General Election

\(^5\) A general election is an election in which all or most members of a given political body are chosen. These are usually held for a nation’s primary legislative body, as distinguished from by elections and local elections
have been applied in the general election of 2014 and it will be applied to
the new political parties which want to join the general election of 2019. However, for the existing political parties that had joined the general
election in 2014, they could register directly to join the general election in
2019 using the result of the political verification of 2014. From the
explanation above, the researcher is interested in examining the topic of
“The Analysis of Political Party Verification: A Comparative Study
between Law Number 8 of 2012 and Law Number 7 of 2017 on General
Elections.

II. PROBLEM FORMULATION

How is the regulation on political party verification in the general
election 2014 and 2019?

III. RESEARCH METHOD

A. Type of Research

The type of this research is a normative legal research. Normative
legal research is the legal research which uses law as the foundation. It is
related to the principle, norm, and rules from legislation, verdict, treaties,
and doctrine.\(^6\) Besides that, according to Soerjono Soekanto the normative
legal research consist of research related to the principle of law, systematic
of law, history of law, and comparative law.\(^7\) This research aims to study

the regulations in practice related to political party verification in the general elections.

B. Type of Data

The data used in this research are secondary data. The secondary data consist of primary legal material, secondary legal material, and tertiary legal material. The detail of data is explained as follows:

1. Primary legal material consists of regulations as follows:
   a) The 1945 Constitution;
   b) Law Number 11 of 2011 on Political Party
   c) Law Number 8 of 2012 on General Election
   d) Law Number 7 of 2017 on General Election

2. Secondary legal material consists of several documents related to the primary legal materials as follows:
   a) Books;
   b) Scientific journals;
   c) Other legal documents related to the issue;
   d) Trusted internet sites; and
   e) Other non-legal documents related to this research.

3. Tertiary legal material, as follows:
   a) Black’s law dictionary;
   b) English dictionary; and
c) Indonesia dictionary

C. Method of Collecting Data

The method of collecting data in this research were done through library research by literature learning, reading, viewing or searching through the internet. The collection method were conducted by reading, analysing, and finally trying to make conclusions from related documents, namely law books, legal journals, and others related to the Political Party verification.

D. Data Analysis

This research used descriptive qualitative analysis. Descriptive method is the method of analysis to select the data that describes the actual situation on the ground. This analysis applied the inductive way of thinking which involved concluding the results of the research from specific cases to a more the general point of view. This research was analyzed based on constitution referred to the legal norms contained in legislation and judicial decisions and other theories which are related to verification of political party.

IV. RESULT AND DISCUSSIONS

A. The Regulation of Political Party Verification in the General Election 2014

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In the 2014 election, the House of Representatives\(^9\) and the president\(^10\) had prepared rules regarding general elections for legislative members. The Law Number 10 of 2008 which previously regulated the 2009 General Election, was replaced by the Law Number 8 of 2012 concerning the General Election of members of the people’s Legislative Assembly, Regional Representative Council, and Regional People’s Legislative Assembly.

The requirements for the establishment of political parties are regulated in Article 2, 3, 4 and 5 of the Law Number 2 of 2011. The requirements that are stipulated in article 2 are political party which is established and formed by at least 30 (thirty) Indonesian citizens who are 21 (twenty one) years old or married from each province. Political parties must fulfill these provisions:

1. Political parties are registered by at least 50 (fifty) founders who represent all the founders of political parties by notarial deed.
2. Founders and administrators of political parties are prohibited from serving as members of other political parties.

Besides fulfilling the requirements for the establishment of a political party in Article 2 of Act Number 2 of 2011, the political parties

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\(^9\) House of Representative (Indonesian: DPR) is The People Representative council alternatively translatable as the House of Representatives or as the House of People Representative is one of two elected national legislative assemblies in Indonesia.

\(^10\) The President is a common title for the head of state in most republics. In politics, president is a title given to leaders of republican states.
must fulfill the requirements contained in article 3 which regulates on how to obtain a legal entity by, first the political parties must be registered with the ministry.\textsuperscript{11}

Then, for the requirements of political parties in participating in the general election in 2014 is regulated in article 8, 9 and 10 of the Law Number 8 of 2012 which states that first, the political party which participated in the last election that meets the threshold of vote acquisition from the number of legitimate votes nationally is determined as a political party participating in the next election. Second, political parties that do not meet the threshold of vote acquisition in previous elections or new political parties can become election participants after fulfilling the requirements below:

1. Having Legal status in accordance with the Law on political parties;

2. Having management in all provinces;

3. Having management in 75\% (seventy five percent) of the number of districts/cities in the province concerned.

4. Having management in 50\% (fifty percent) of the number of sub-districts in the relevant regency/city;

5. Including at least 30\% (thirty percent) women’s representation

\textsuperscript{11} A ministry is a governmental organization, headed by a minister that is meant to manage a specific sector of public administration. Ministries have at numbers and names of ministries.
in the management of central level political parties;

6. Having a member of at least 1,000 (one thousand) people or 1/1000 (one thousandth) of the total population in the management of a political party as referred to in letter c as evidenced by the ownership of a member card;

7. Having a permanent office for management at the central, provincial and district/city levels until the final stages of the election;

8. Submitting names, symbols and signs of political parties to the KPU;

9. Submitting the election campaign fund account numbers on behalf of political parties to KPU.12

Meanwhile, the requirements of political parties which are stipulated in article 9 are as follows. First, KPU carries out administrative research and determines the validity of the requirements as referred to in Article 8. Second, provisions concerning the procedures for administrative research and determination of the validity of the requirements as referred to in paragraph (1) shall be regulated by KPU regulations.13

Besides that, political parties must also fulfill the requirements of a political party participating in article 10 of the Law Number 8 of 2012 on

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12 Law Number 2 of 2011 on political party
general election. The name, symbol, and / or image of the political party as referred to in Article 8 paragraph (2) letter h is prohibited the same as:

1. Flag or emblem of the Republic of Indonesia;
2. Symbol of state institutions or government symbols;
3. Names, flags or symbols of other countries or international institutions / agencies;
4. Names, flags, or symbols of separatist movement organizations or banned organizations;
5. Name or picture of someone; or
6. Something that has similarities in principle or in its entirety with names, symbols, and / or signs of other political parties.

The registration of political parties as candidates for election participants was regulated in article 14 and 15 of the Law Number 8 of 2012 on general election. First, political parties can become Election Participants by submitting registration to become candidates for Election Participants to the KPU. Second, registration as referred to the paragraph (1) shall be submitted with a letter signed by the general chairman and secretary general or other names in the central management of political parties. Third, registration as referred to paragraph (2) is completed with complete requirements documents. Fourth, the schedule for registration of Election Contesting Political Parties is determined by the KPU no later than 20 (twenty) months before the polling day.
Besides fulfilling the requirements which are stipulated in Article 15 of Law Number 8 of 2012, political parties must follow a stage of registration and verification of the general election.\textsuperscript{14} The verification is a process of examination to fulfill the requirements of political parties in participating in the elections. The process is intended to encourage political parties to prove their ability to become participants in the election. First, KPU verifies the completeness and correctness of the requirements as referred to in Article 15 on political parties as referred to in Article 8 paragraph (2). Second, verification as referred to in paragraph (1) must be completed no later than 15 (fifteen) months before polling day. Third, further provisions regarding the implementation and time of verification as referred to in paragraph (1) and paragraph (2) are regulated by KPU regulations.

The determination of political parties as election participants was stipulated in article 17 of the Law Number 8 of 2012 on General Election. First, a political party as referred to in Article 8 paragraph (1) shall be determined as an election contestant by attaching the required documents as referred to in Article 15 letter a, letter b, letter c, letter d, letter e, letter g, and letter h and a letter of statement from KPU that the party has met the threshold of vote acquisition for the DPR RI out of the total number of legal votes.

\textsuperscript{14} Article 16 of Law Number 8 of 2012
votes of the national scale in the previous election and seat acquisition in the DPR, Provincial DPRDs, and Regency/ Municipal DPRDs.

Second, political parties for election contestants who pass the verification as referred to in article 16 are registered as election contestants by the KPU. Third, the determination of political parties as election contestants is carried out in the KPU plenary session. Fourth, determination of serial numbers of political parties as election contestants is carried out by lot in an open plenary session of KPU and attended by representatives of all Election Contesting Political Parties. Fifth, the results of the stipulation as referred to in paragraph (3) and paragraph (4) shall be announced by the KPU.

Legally, there is a contradiction between the Law Number 10 of 2008 and Law Number 8 of 2012. That is, as seen in article 8 paragraph (2) of Law Number 10 of 2008, it states that political parties participating in the previous election can be an election participant in the next election. By reviewing this formula, all political parties that participated in the 2009 general election automatically become participants in the 2014 elections. While political parties that have participated in the 2009 elections but did not meet the threshold, they cannot be determined as participants in the 2014 general elections.¹⁵

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B. The Regulation of Political Party Verification on General Election of 2019

In facing the general elections in 2019, the House of Representatives and the President have prepared rules regarding general elections for legislative members. The Law Number 8 of 2012 which previously regulated the 2014 general election, was replaced by the Law Number 7 of 2017 concerning General Elections of Members of the People's Legislative Assembly, Regional Representative Council, and Regional People's Legislative Assembly, as well as the Law Number 2 Year 2011 concerning Political Parties.

The requirements of political parties are regulated in Article 172, 173, 174, and 175 of Law Number 7 of 2017. Article 172 states that general election participants for general election of DPR member, provincial DPRD members, and regional DPRD are political parties. Meanwhile, Article 173 states that political parties as the general election participant are the political parties that have been determined/passed the verification by the KPU and also fulfill these requirements:

1. Has legal status in accordance with the Law on political parties;
2. Has management in all provinces;
3. Has management in 75% (seventy five percent) of the number of districts/cities in the province concerned;
4. Has management in 50% (fifty percent) of the number of sub-district in the district province concerned;
5. Include at least 30% (thirty percent) representation of women in the management of central level political parties;

6. Have a members of at least 1,000 (one thousand) people or 1/1000 (one thousandth) of the total population in the management of political parties as referred to letter c which is proven ownership of a member sign card;

7. Have a permanents office for the management of the central, provincial and district/city levels until the final stages of the election;

8. Submitting names, symbols and signs of political parties to the KPU; and

9. Submit the election funds account number on behalf of political parties to the KPU.\textsuperscript{16}

Political parties that have passed verification with the conditions will not be re-verified and will be determined as the participant of general election. Meanwhile, in article 174 it is stipulated that KPU conducts research on the validity of administration and stipulation of requirements as referred to in article 173. The administrative research and determination of the validity of the requirements by the KPU are published through the mass media. The provisions concerning the procedures for administrative

research and the determination of the validity of the requirements shall be regulated by the KPU regulation.

The registration of political parties as general election participants is governed in the articles 176 and 177 of Law Number 7 of 2017 on General Election. The Article 176 stated that political parties can become the general election participants by submitting registration to be the candidates for general election participants to the KPU. The registration is submitted with a signed letter by the general chairman and secretary general or other names in the management of the political party central board, and attaching the complete requirements document. The schedule of registration for political parties as the general election participant is determined by the KPU to be no more than 18 (eighteen) months before the polling day.

The verification of political party candidates for election participants is governed in the Article 178 of the Law Number 7 of 2017 of general election. The Article 178 states that the KPU carries out administrative research and determines the validity of the requirements as referred to in Article 173 paragraph (2) to the political party that follows verification with the requirements document as referred to in Article 177. Verification as referred to in paragraph (1) must be completed no later than 14 (fourteen) months before polling day. Further provisions regarding the implementation and time of verification as referred to in paragraph (1) and paragraph (2) are regulated by KPU regulations. Provisions regarding the procedures for administrative research and the determination of the validity of the
requirements referred to in paragraph (1) shall be regulated by KPU regulations.

The determination of political parties as election participants is governed in Article 179 of the Law Number 7 of 2017 on General Election. The Article 179 states that political parties for election contestants that pass verification as referred to in Article 173 paragraph (1) and Article 178 shall be determined as election contestants by the KPU. Determination of a political party as an election board is conducted in KPU plenary session no later than 14 (fourteen) months before the polling day. Determination of the political party number as participant in the election shall be made by lottery in an open KPU plenary session attended by representatives of contesting political parties. The results of the determination as referred to in paragraph (2) and paragraph (3) shall be announced by the KPU.

The Bill on the DPR RI election which states that old political parties (2014 election participants) do not need to be verified as a condition to become political parties participating in the 2019 election get strong protests, especially from the new political parties. One of the new political parties that oppose this provision is the Indonesian unity party (Perindo Party).

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Perindo Central Executive Board (DPP) Ahmad Rofiq\(^\text{18}\) said that budget efficiency cannot be used as an excuse so that political parties participating in the 2014 Election no need to be verified. According to him, there is no correlation between democracy in electoral participation and costs. The purpose of verification is to see directly whether a political party still exists or not, which is a democratic substance.\(^\text{19}\)

Furthermore, the Perindo Party stated that the government and the House of Representatives made rules that did not fulfill the principle of justice, even though the election act should have been made equal for all political parties that have no privileges. As it is known, Article 173 paragraph (1) of the Law Number 7 of 2017 concerning General Elections regulates that political parties participating in the election are stipulated or declared to have passed verification by the KPU. However, in Article 173 paragraph (3) it is stated that political parties that have passed verification with the prescribed conditions do not need to be re-verified and immediately determined as political parties participating in the election. With this provision, the new political parties that have been incorporated are required

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\(^{18}\) Achmad Rofiq is the General Secretary of Perindo Party. he also served as an independent commissioner of PT. MNC Sky vision, besides that, he also serves as commissioner of PT. Varaz Utama Cargo Tour. Ahmad Rofiq received a Bachelor's degree from the Faculty of Electrical Engineering at the University of Muhammadiyah Malang in 2001.

to participate in verification to become participants in the 2019 election, while political parties participating in the 2014 election are not required.²⁰

C. The Differences and Similarities of Political Party Verification between The Law Number 8 of 2012 and Law Number 7 of 2017

For the election of members of the DPR, DPD and DPRD in 2014 and 2019, there are differences and similarities between the two electoral verification processes in terms of the system or implementation mechanism both from the initial stage of verification of political parties to the process of organizing the election, which is based on Law Number 8 of 2012 regarding elections and Law Number 7 of 2017 on the same subject.

To make it easier to find and see the differences and similarities between the verification systems of political parties in elections in two different era in the two systems are shown in the following Comparison

Table 1. Comparison of Political Party Verification Systems (from a different perspective)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Main Issue</th>
<th>Law Number 8 of 2012</th>
<th>Law Number 7 of 2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>The Registration of Political Party</th>
<th>Schedule and deadline specified in Article 14 paragraph (4) stipulates that the schedule for registration of Election Contesting Political Parties is determined by the KPU no later than 20 months before polling day.</th>
<th>Regarding the registration time schedule, Article 176 paragraph (4), states that the schedule for registration of political parties participating in the election is determined by the KPU no later than 18 months before polling day.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Verification of Political Parties Candidates for Election participants</td>
<td>Article 16 paragraph (1) must be completed before polling day at the latest 15 (fifteen) months.</td>
<td>Article 178 paragraph (2) must be completed no later than 14 (fourteen) months before polling day. In Addition, Provisions regarding the procedures for administration determination of the validity of the</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### 3. The Requirements of Political Parties

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Article 8 paragraph (1) states that the political parties that are the participant of general election in the last election and that meet the threshold of vote acquisition from the number of valid votes nationally are designated as political parties participating in the next election.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Article 173 paragraph (3) states that have passed verification with the conditions will not be re-verified and will be determined as the participant of general election.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Law Number 8 of 2012 and Law Number 7 of 2017

Therefore, it can be seen that there are some differences from the verification mechanism used in the stages and process of an election. First, in terms of the registration of political party is already mentioned in Article 14 paragraph 4 Law Number 8 of 2012 stipulated that the schedule of
registration political party on general election determined by KPU no later than 20 months before polling day. While, Article 176 Paragraph 4 Law Number 7 of 2017 regarding the registration schedule of political parties no later than 18 months. This is due to the consideration of effectiveness and efficiency in the administration of elections.

Second, in terms of verification of political party candidates for election there are differences in the previous laws with new ones. Article 16 (1) Law Number 8 of 2012 states that the verification process of political parties is no later than 15 months before the voting day. While, in Article 178 (2) Law Number 7 of 2017 states that the verification process for political parties is no more than 14 months.

Third, The Requirement as political party participants on 2014 general election that regulated in Law Number 8 of 2012. In Article 8 paragraph 1 states that the political parties which participated in the previous election that meets the threshold of vote acquisition from the national legitimate vote is determined as the political parties participant for the next election. On that regulation, it emphasize that the political party participant doesn’t need for following the verification is the political parties participant that meets the threshold of vote acquisition. Besides that, on General Election of 2019 that regulated by Law Number 7 of 2017, in article 173 paragraph 3 states that political parties as the General election participant are the political parties that have been determined/passed the verification by
the General Election Commission. This provision is very different with the previous provision. In the latest General Election Law, it does not give privileges to the political party participant of the previous General Election on the basis of threshold of vote acquisition. Nevertheless, these both provision are already reviewed by the Constitutional Court and decided that these provision are contradictory with Indonesian 1945 Constitution and stated doesn’t have legal binding force. So, this provision does not have impact to the General election implementation either on 2014 or 2019 general election considering that those provision is not applicable and all the political parties will be verified by the General Election Commission to be stated as political party participants for the next election.

**Table 2. Comparison of Political Party Verification Systems (from a similar perspective)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Main Issue</th>
<th>Law Number 8 of 2012</th>
<th>Law Number 7 of 2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>The Registration of Political Party</td>
<td>Article 14 paragraph (1) and (2) (3) about the registration</td>
<td>Article 176 paragraph (1) and (2) (3) about the registration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Verification of Political Party Candidates for Elections Participants</td>
<td>Article 16 paragraph (2) and (3) about the verification</td>
<td>Article 178 paragraph (1), (3). And also there is additional paragraph (4) Provision</td>
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<td>2.</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Determination of Political Parties as election participants</th>
<th>Article 17 paragraph (1) and (2) (3) (4). And also there is additional paragraph (5)</th>
<th>Article 179 paragraph (1) and (2) (3) (4) about political parties as election participants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Supervision in the implementation of Verification of Political Parties Candidates for Election Participants</th>
<th>Article 18 paragraph (1) and (2) (3) about its supervision</th>
<th>Article 180 paragraph (1) and (2) (3) about its supervision</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
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Source: Law Number 8 of 2012 and Law Number 7 of 2017
V. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

A. Conclusion

Based on the discussion above, it may arrive at conclusion that the regulation of political party verification in the general elections according to Law Number 7 of 2017 and Law Number 8 of 2012 are similar. The registration and verification of political party is already suitable with the prevailing law. Political parties are required to submit document requirements, then proceed to the administrative and factual verification stage. So that the verification does not have significant problems, despite the changes that occurred after the decision of the constitutional court.

The political party verification between the both laws are relatively same. The difference is only the registration schedule and the verification process of political parties that qualify as election participants. This is due to the considerations of effectiveness and efficiency in the administration of elections. Article 16 (1) Law Number 8 of 2012 the verification process of political parties is no later than 15 months before the voting day. While, in Article 178 (2) Law Number 7 of 2017 states that the verification process of political parties is no later than 14 months before the voting day. So that the verification process of political parties in the 2019 elections has increased based on the principle of effectiveness and efficiency.

B. Recommendations

Based on the problem that has been discussed, it can be proposed 2 recommendation for the President Republic of Indonesia and the House of
Representative (DPR) for the upcoming general elections, as follows: first, there should be a consistent regulation which regulates about the political party verification without discriminate one and another parties that in the verification process there are categorized into two, the parties which need to be verified or not. Second, the General Election Commission should have longer time to process the political party verification in order to enhance the quality of verification and its result.
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