



The Need for Political and Electoral Reform

From the Lens of the 2025 Synchronized National and Local Elections



Electoral Politics in the Philippines



- Patronage and Dominance of Family Dynasties
 - Raises Cost of Getting Elected
 - Limits electoral choices
- Unmitigated Influence of Money
- Unchecked Violent incidents areas
- Weak Political Parties
 - Candidate-centric, rather than program-focused politics
- Dysfunctional Information Environment
- Unresponsive Election Legal Framework
- Electoral outcomes do not translate to better governance
- Trust Deficit in the Electoral Process
- As a result, there is disconnect between elections and governance

Areas of Legislative Reforms



Political Party Development Law

Revisit the Law on Party-List System of Representation



Updating Laws on Candidacies, Campaign, and Campaign Finance Laws



Election Administration and the Use of Technology

Building trust in the electoral process
Addressing Possible Cyberattacks
Addressing Possible Foreign Influence Operation



Streamline Laws on Election Accountability



Update and Recodify Election Laws (New Election Code)



Administrative Reforms

- Significant COMELEC innovations for the 2025
 - Passed regulations that facilitate the process of holding those who commit vote-buying, vote-selling, and abuse of state resources accountable
 - Prohibits the use of environmentally harmful materials for campaigns
 - Prohibits discrimination against any person during the election period
 - Adopted measures to circumvent the rules on the substitution of candidates and nominees
 - More engaging with stakeholders
- Areas for Further Reform at the Administrative Level
 - Campaign Finance Regulation
 - Election Offense investigation and prosecution
 - Handling and deciding election disputes
 - Ballot Design
 - Managing technology-laden elections.

Electoral Reforms in the Constitution

- Revisit the Design of the Philippine Electoral System
 - The current system incentivizes personality-oriented politics, not programmatic politics
 - Revisit the mandate that elections are to be held simultaneously
 - Reserved seats in the House of Representative
 - BARMM design to be adopted nationally

Challenges to Reform

Congress has no appetite for political and electoral reform measures.

Electoral Monitoring Organizations (EMOs) and Electoral Reform CSOs suffer from a lack of funds to pursue their reform advocacies

There is no consensus on reform direction among CSOs

Thank you!