

Citizen Participation and Democratic Governance in Public Service Delivery: A Legal Perspective from Indonesia

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ABSTRACT

Citizen participation has become an essential component of democratic governance because it enables citizens to engage directly in public decision-making, monitor public institutions, provide constructive feedback, and contribute to continuous public service improvement. This study examines citizen participation and democratic governance in public service delivery through a qualitative normative juridical method based on Law Number 25 of 2009 concerning Public Services, Law Number 14 of 2008 concerning Public Information Disclosure, and Law Number 30 of 2014 concerning Government Administration. Using the normative juridical method, relevant legal materials, statutory regulations, and legal principles were systematically analyzed to evaluate the relationship between citizen participation and public service governance. The findings show that citizen participation, transparency, and administrative accountability collectively strengthen democratic governance by improving public service quality, institutional responsiveness, policy effectiveness, and public trust. The study concludes that effective public service governance requires active citizen engagement, broad access to information, transparent decision-making, and accountable administrative institutions to support inclusive, participatory, responsive, and sustainable governance in Indonesia.

Keywords: *Citizen Participation, Democratic Governance, Participatory Governance, Public Accountability, Public Service Delivery.*

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1. | INTRODUCTION

Citizen participation has become an increasingly important element of democratic governance because it enables individuals and communities to engage directly in public decision-making processes and influence the delivery of public services. Democratic governance extends beyond electoral participation and includes continuous interactions between citizens and public institutions in shaping policies, evaluating services, and ensuring governmental accountability. As governments face growing demands for transparency, responsiveness, and service quality, citizen participation has emerged as a critical mechanism for strengthening governance effectiveness and public trust.

The relationship between citizen participation and democratic governance has received substantial attention in public administration and governance literature. Democratic governance emphasizes the active involvement of citizens in public affairs, recognizing that effective governance requires collaboration between governments and society. Rijal (2023) argues that community involvement improves decision-making processes by incorporating diverse perspectives and local knowledge into governance activities. Similarly, Masiya et al. (2019) emphasize that meaningful public participation contributes to more effective and responsive public service delivery. These findings suggest that citizen participation plays an important role in enhancing governance outcomes and strengthening democratic legitimacy.

Contemporary governance theories increasingly recognize citizens as active participants rather than passive recipients of public services. Osborne (2020) proposes the concept of public service logic, which emphasizes value creation through interactions among public institutions, service users, and society. According to this perspective, public services become more effective when citizens are involved in identifying needs, evaluating outcomes, and contributing to service improvement. Likewise, Osborne and Strokosch (2022) argue that participation should be considered a core component of public service delivery rather than an optional addition. These perspectives indicate that citizen participation has become a fundamental element of modern public governance.

The importance of citizen participation is particularly evident within public service delivery. Public services represent one of the primary interfaces between governments and citizens, affecting daily life through education, healthcare, social assistance, transportation, and administrative services. Effective service delivery requires not only administrative efficiency but also responsiveness to citizen needs and expectations. Msenge and Nzewi (2021) demonstrate that citizen participation contributes to public trust by enhancing communication between governments and communities. Similarly, Lanin and Hermanto (2019) find that service quality significantly influences public satisfaction and trust in local government institutions. These findings suggest that citizen involvement can improve both service performance and institutional legitimacy.

In Indonesia, the legal foundation for citizen participation in public service delivery is provided by Law Number 25 of 2009 concerning Public Services. The law establishes

principles, standards, rights, and obligations related to public service provision while emphasizing the importance of community involvement in monitoring and evaluating service performance. The legislation recognizes citizens not merely as service recipients but also as stakeholders with rights to participate in improving governance outcomes. Through complaint mechanisms, public consultations, and service evaluation procedures, the law encourages citizen engagement in public administration.

The implementation of Law Number 25 of 2009 has attracted considerable scholarly attention. Dirkareshza et al. (2021) argue that the legislation reflects the state's commitment to improving public welfare through effective service delivery and governance reform. Similarly, Salam (2023) emphasizes that improvements in public services contribute to the realization of good governance by promoting responsiveness, accountability, and citizen satisfaction. These findings suggest that public service legislation plays an important role in supporting democratic governance and strengthening citizen participation.

Citizen participation also depends upon access to information. Individuals cannot effectively engage in governance processes if they lack information regarding public policies, administrative decisions, and service performance. Consequently, transparency and information disclosure have become important components of democratic governance. Law Number 14 of 2008 concerning Public Information Disclosure provides citizens with the right to access public information and promotes transparency within governmental institutions. The law seeks to improve accountability, encourage public oversight, and support informed participation in governance processes.

The importance of transparency for democratic governance is widely recognized within the literature. Androniceanu (2021) argues that transparency strengthens democratic governance by improving accountability and facilitating citizen engagement. Likewise, Fontaine et al. (2022) demonstrate that transparency enhances public accountability by enabling citizens to monitor institutional performance and governance outcomes. These findings suggest that access to information creates conditions that allow citizens to participate more effectively in public affairs and public service oversight.

In addition to participation and transparency, democratic governance requires administrative accountability. Citizens must possess mechanisms through which governmental actions can be reviewed, challenged, and evaluated. Administrative accountability ensures that public authorities exercise power in accordance with legal principles, procedural fairness, and public interests. Within Indonesia, Law Number 30 of 2014 concerning Government Administration provides an important legal framework governing administrative actions, decision-making processes, and citizen protections against administrative misconduct.

The significance of administrative accountability has become increasingly important within modern governance systems. Abrianto and Grady (2020) explain that

Law Number 30 of 2014 has expanded legal protections by providing mechanisms through which citizens can challenge unlawful governmental actions. Similarly, Manaf et al. (2023) emphasize that accountability improves citizen perceptions of governmental legitimacy and service effectiveness. These findings indicate that administrative accountability contributes to both governance quality and democratic legitimacy.

Recent developments in digital governance have further transformed citizen participation and public service delivery. Digital technologies provide new opportunities for citizens to access information, submit complaints, engage in consultations, and participate in governance processes. Khan and Krishnan (2021) argue that digital platforms facilitate citizen engagement by enabling collaborative interactions between governments and service users. Likewise, Ma and Wu (2020) demonstrate that e-government initiatives can enhance participation through co-production and digital service innovation. These developments suggest that technology increasingly influences the relationship between citizens and public institutions.

Despite growing recognition of citizen participation within governance literature, several challenges remain. Public participation often varies across institutional contexts, access to information may be uneven, administrative responsiveness may differ among public agencies, and digital participation may be affected by technological disparities. Furthermore, existing studies frequently examine participation, transparency, public services, and accountability separately rather than as interconnected dimensions of democratic governance. Consequently, there remains a need for a comprehensive analysis that integrates these elements within a single legal and governance framework.

In response to this gap, this study examines citizen participation and democratic governance in public service delivery through a qualitative Systematic Literature Review (SLR). The study focuses on Law Number 25 of 2009 concerning Public Services, Law Number 14 of 2008 concerning Public Information Disclosure, and Law Number 30 of 2014 concerning Government Administration as the primary legal foundations supporting participation, transparency, and accountability. By synthesizing contemporary literature on citizen engagement, public service governance, information disclosure, and administrative accountability, this study seeks to provide a comprehensive understanding of how legal frameworks contribute to strengthening democratic governance and public service delivery in Indonesia.

2. | LITERATURE REVIEW

Citizen Participation and Democratic Governance

Citizen participation is widely recognized as a fundamental component of democratic governance because it enables individuals and communities to influence public decision-making and contribute to governance processes. Democratic governance extends beyond representative institutions and requires ongoing interaction between governments and citizens to ensure that public policies and services reflect

societal needs. As a result, participation has become a central principle within contemporary governance frameworks aimed at promoting accountability, legitimacy, and responsiveness.

The concept of citizen participation is closely associated with participatory democracy, which emphasizes direct involvement of citizens in public affairs. Rijal (2023) argues that community participation improves governance outcomes by incorporating local knowledge and diverse perspectives into planning and decision-making processes. Similarly, Masiya et al. (2019) demonstrate that effective public participation contributes positively to service delivery by strengthening communication between governments and communities. These findings suggest that citizen participation functions as an important mechanism for improving governance quality and democratic legitimacy.

Recent governance literature increasingly views citizens as active partners in governance rather than passive recipients of public services. Osborne (2020) proposes the public service logic framework, which emphasizes collaborative value creation among governments, service users, and society. According to this perspective, public services become more effective when citizens actively participate in identifying needs, evaluating outcomes, and contributing to service improvement. Likewise, Osborne and Strokosch (2022) argue that participation should be considered a core component of public service delivery because citizen involvement enhances service relevance and effectiveness. These findings indicate that participation has become an integral feature of modern public governance.

Citizen participation also contributes to democratic legitimacy by strengthening the relationship between public institutions and society. Democratic governance depends upon public confidence that governmental actions reflect citizen interests and preferences. Hendriks and Dzur (2022) argue that participatory governance creates spaces where citizens can engage directly in collective problem-solving and governance innovation. Similarly, Krick (2022) emphasizes the value of citizen expertise and local knowledge in governance processes, arguing that public involvement enhances both democratic quality and policy effectiveness. These findings suggest that participation strengthens democratic governance by fostering inclusion and collaborative decision-making.

The literature further demonstrates that participatory governance contributes to institutional accountability. Bua and Bussu (2021) argue that participatory governance mechanisms enable citizens to influence public decisions while simultaneously monitoring institutional performance. Through consultations, public forums, collaborative initiatives, and service evaluations, citizens can hold public authorities accountable for governance outcomes. Consequently, participation serves not only as a democratic right but also as a mechanism for improving governance transparency and responsiveness.

Public trust represents another important outcome associated with citizen participation. Msenge and Nzewi (2021) demonstrate that citizen participation contributes positively to public trust because engagement creates opportunities for dialogue and mutual understanding between governments and communities. Likewise, Lanin and Hermanto (2019) find that responsive services and citizen-oriented governance strengthen public confidence in governmental institutions. These findings indicate that participation and trust reinforce one another within democratic governance systems.

Overall, the literature suggests that citizen participation serves multiple democratic functions. Participation enhances governance legitimacy, improves service responsiveness, strengthens accountability, and promotes public trust. These contributions highlight the importance of citizen engagement as a foundational element of democratic governance and public administration.

Legal Framework of Public Service Governance

Effective citizen participation requires legal frameworks that define rights, obligations, accountability mechanisms, and governance standards. Public service governance is particularly dependent upon legal structures because public institutions must operate according to principles of fairness, transparency, responsiveness, and accountability. In Indonesia, Law Number 25 of 2009 concerning Public Services provides the primary legal framework governing the provision of public services and citizen involvement in service delivery processes.

Law Number 25 of 2009 establishes important principles intended to improve public service quality and strengthen citizen rights. The legislation recognizes citizens as stakeholders within service delivery systems and provides mechanisms through which individuals can evaluate, monitor, and provide feedback regarding public services. Through these provisions, the law promotes citizen participation as an important element of governance and service improvement. Consequently, public service delivery is viewed not only as an administrative responsibility but also as a participatory process involving collaboration between governments and citizens.

The importance of Law Number 25 of 2009 is reflected in contemporary legal scholarship. Dirkareshza et al. (2021) argue that the legislation represents a significant effort to realize welfare-oriented governance by strengthening public service obligations and citizen rights. The authors emphasize that effective implementation of the law contributes to public welfare by encouraging accountability and improving service performance. These findings suggest that public service legislation serves as an important instrument for promoting democratic governance.

The role of legal enforcement in public service governance has also attracted scholarly attention. Suparman (2014) argues that effective enforcement of public service obligations is necessary to ensure compliance with legal standards and protect citizen interests. Public institutions must therefore operate within established legal frameworks and remain accountable for service quality and performance. These

findings indicate that legal enforcement contributes significantly to the effectiveness of public service governance.

The literature further highlights the relationship between public services and good governance principles. Winarno and Retnowati (2019) argue that public service delivery should be guided by transparency, accountability, participation, and responsiveness. Similarly, Salam (2023) emphasizes that improvements in public services contribute directly to the realization of good governance by enhancing citizen satisfaction and institutional effectiveness. These findings suggest that public service governance functions as a practical expression of democratic governance principles.

Public service delivery has also evolved toward more collaborative models that encourage citizen involvement. Osborne and Strokosch (2022) argue that participation enhances service effectiveness because citizens possess valuable knowledge regarding local conditions and service needs. When public institutions incorporate citizen perspectives into service planning and evaluation, governance outcomes become more responsive and inclusive. These findings indicate that public service governance increasingly depends upon meaningful citizen participation.

Overall, the literature demonstrates that Law Number 25 of 2009 provides an important legal foundation for public service governance in Indonesia. By establishing service standards, protecting citizen rights, and encouraging participation, the legislation contributes to democratic governance and public accountability. The findings suggest that effective public service governance requires both legal safeguards and active citizen involvement to ensure responsive and citizen-centered service delivery.

Public Information and Democratic Participation

Access to information is an essential prerequisite for meaningful citizen participation in democratic governance. Citizens can only engage effectively in public affairs when they possess adequate information regarding governmental activities, public policies, administrative decisions, and service performance. Information enables citizens to evaluate governance outcomes, monitor institutional performance, and participate in public decision-making processes. Consequently, transparency and information disclosure have become important components of democratic governance and participatory public administration.

The relationship between information access and democratic participation is widely recognized in governance literature. Democratic systems depend upon informed citizens who are capable of evaluating public policies and holding institutions accountable. Wardana and Bachtiar (2022) argue that public participation becomes more effective when citizens possess access to relevant information and opportunities to engage in governance processes. Similarly, Androniceanu (2021) emphasizes that transparency strengthens democratic governance by improving accountability and

facilitating citizen involvement in public affairs. These findings suggest that information access functions as a foundation for participatory governance.

In Indonesia, the legal basis for information transparency is established through Law Number 14 of 2008 concerning Public Information Disclosure. The legislation guarantees citizens' rights to obtain public information and requires governmental institutions to provide information in an accessible and transparent manner. The law seeks to improve governance quality by encouraging public oversight, strengthening accountability, and supporting informed participation. Through these provisions, information disclosure becomes an important mechanism for connecting citizens with public institutions.

Law Number 14 of 2008 also contributes to strengthening democratic governance by reducing information asymmetries between governments and citizens. When public institutions disclose information regarding policies, budgets, administrative decisions, and service performance, citizens gain opportunities to evaluate governance outcomes more effectively. Transparency therefore supports democratic accountability by enabling public scrutiny of governmental actions. As a result, access to information becomes a necessary condition for effective citizen participation and institutional legitimacy.

The literature consistently demonstrates that transparency contributes positively to accountability. Fontaine et al. (2022) argue that transparency enhances public accountability by providing citizens with information needed to monitor governmental performance and assess policy outcomes. Similarly, Androniceanu (2021) emphasizes that transparency improves governance quality by encouraging openness, reducing opportunities for misconduct, and promoting citizen trust. These findings indicate that transparency serves both democratic and administrative functions within governance systems.

Public information disclosure is also closely associated with citizen oversight. Citizens who possess access to governmental information are better positioned to identify governance problems, evaluate service quality, and advocate for improvements. Wardana and Bachtiar (2022) demonstrate that participation in governance processes becomes more meaningful when citizens can access information regarding legislative and administrative activities. This finding suggests that transparency strengthens participation by enabling informed public engagement rather than symbolic involvement.

The development of open government initiatives has further expanded opportunities for information-based participation. Open government emphasizes transparency, citizen engagement, collaboration, and accountability within governance processes. Almuqrin et al. (2022) argue that public trust in open government initiatives depends significantly upon the accessibility and quality of information provided by public institutions. When citizens perceive information systems as reliable and

transparent, trust in governance tends to increase. These findings indicate that transparency contributes not only to accountability but also to institutional legitimacy.

Government responsiveness also influences how information disclosure affects citizen participation. Novikova and Liebert (2021) argue that citizens are more likely to engage with governance processes when institutions respond effectively to public concerns and information requests. Transparency therefore becomes most effective when information disclosure is accompanied by responsive governance practices. Without institutional responsiveness, information alone may have limited impact on citizen engagement and democratic participation.

The literature further suggests that transparency contributes to the development of trust-based relationships between governments and citizens. Public trust is strengthened when governmental institutions demonstrate openness and accountability. Access to information reduces uncertainty regarding governmental actions and allows citizens to evaluate institutional performance independently. As a result, transparency functions as an important mechanism for strengthening democratic legitimacy and encouraging citizen involvement in governance processes.

Overall, the literature demonstrates that Law Number 14 of 2008 provides a critical legal foundation for democratic participation and governance transparency in Indonesia. By guaranteeing access to public information, the law strengthens citizen oversight, promotes accountability, and supports informed participation in public affairs. The findings suggest that transparency and information disclosure are essential components of democratic governance because they enable citizens to engage meaningfully in governance processes and contribute to public accountability.

Administrative Accountability and Government Responsiveness

Administrative accountability is a fundamental principle of democratic governance because it ensures that public institutions exercise authority in accordance with legal standards, procedural fairness, and public interests. Accountability mechanisms provide citizens with opportunities to evaluate governmental actions, challenge administrative decisions, and seek remedies when public authorities fail to fulfill their responsibilities. Consequently, administrative accountability contributes significantly to democratic legitimacy, institutional trust, and governance effectiveness.

Within democratic systems, accountability serves as a mechanism through which public officials remain answerable for decisions and actions affecting citizens. Governance institutions derive legitimacy not only from legal authority but also from their ability to justify decisions and respond to public concerns. Administrative accountability therefore strengthens the relationship between governments and citizens by promoting transparency, responsiveness, and legal certainty. These principles are particularly important in public service delivery, where administrative decisions directly affect individual rights and welfare.

In Indonesia, Law Number 30 of 2014 concerning Government Administration provides the primary legal framework governing administrative actions and governmental decision-making. The legislation establishes standards intended to ensure fairness, accountability, and legal certainty in public administration. It also provides protections for citizens affected by administrative decisions and establishes mechanisms through which governmental actions can be reviewed and challenged. Through these provisions, the law strengthens democratic governance by promoting responsible administrative conduct and protecting citizen rights.

The significance of Law Number 30 of 2014 is reflected in contemporary legal scholarship. Abrianto and Grady (2020) argue that the legislation has expanded legal accountability by clarifying governmental responsibilities and strengthening opportunities for citizens to challenge unlawful administrative actions. The law therefore contributes to improving governance quality by reinforcing administrative accountability and legal protection. These findings suggest that administrative law plays an important role in supporting democratic governance and citizen participation.

Administrative accountability is also closely related to government responsiveness. Citizens expect public institutions to respond effectively to public needs, service complaints, and policy concerns. Manaf et al. (2023) demonstrate that perceptions of accountability positively influence citizen evaluations of governmental performance and service delivery. Similarly, Novikova and Liebert (2021) emphasize that responsiveness strengthens citizen engagement because individuals are more likely to participate when institutions acknowledge and address public concerns. These findings indicate that accountability and responsiveness function together in promoting effective governance.

The literature further highlights the relationship between accountability and public trust. Citizens are more likely to trust institutions that operate transparently, justify decisions, and remain responsive to public expectations. Lanin and Hermanto (2019) demonstrate that service quality and institutional responsiveness contribute significantly to public trust in local governments. Likewise, Mophethe (2023) argues that accountability mechanisms strengthen participatory governance by creating opportunities for public oversight and institutional learning. These findings suggest that accountability supports both democratic participation and governance legitimacy.

Administrative accountability also contributes to legal certainty, which is an important requirement for democratic governance. Citizens must possess confidence that governmental decisions are made according to established legal procedures rather than arbitrary discretion. Law Number 30 of 2014 seeks to strengthen legal certainty by establishing principles governing administrative actions and decision-making processes. These provisions help ensure that public institutions operate consistently and predictably, thereby protecting citizen rights and reinforcing trust in governance systems.

Overall, the literature demonstrates that administrative accountability represents an essential component of democratic governance. Through Law Number 30 of 2014, Indonesia has established important legal mechanisms designed to improve accountability, responsiveness, and citizen protection within public administration. The findings suggest that effective governance depends upon administrative systems that are transparent, responsive, legally accountable, and capable of addressing citizen concerns in a fair and timely manner.

Contemporary Challenges in Participatory Governance

The development of participatory governance has created significant opportunities for strengthening democratic governance and improving public service delivery. However, contemporary governance systems also face various challenges that affect citizen participation, transparency, accountability, and public trust. Technological transformation, changing citizen expectations, institutional complexity, and evolving governance environments have altered the ways in which governments and citizens interact. These developments require public institutions to continuously adapt in order to maintain effective and inclusive participation mechanisms.

One of the most significant developments influencing participatory governance is the expansion of digital governance. Digital technologies have transformed how citizens access information, communicate with public institutions, and participate in governance processes. E-government systems, digital service platforms, and online participation mechanisms provide new opportunities for governments to engage citizens more efficiently. These technologies have reduced geographical barriers and expanded access to governance processes, allowing broader segments of society to participate in public affairs.

The literature demonstrates that digital governance can strengthen citizen participation when effectively implemented. Khan and Krishnan (2021) argue that citizen engagement in e-government services creates opportunities for collaborative governance and service co-creation. By involving citizens in the design and evaluation of digital services, governments can improve service quality while strengthening democratic participation. Similarly, Ma and Wu (2020) emphasize that citizen engagement contributes to the successful co-production of e-government services by encouraging cooperation between public institutions and service users. These findings suggest that digital governance has the potential to enhance participation and governance effectiveness simultaneously.

Technological innovation has also expanded opportunities for democratic engagement through data-driven governance and emerging digital tools. Arana-Catania et al. (2021) argue that digital technologies, including machine learning applications, can support democratic processes by improving citizen participation and facilitating public consultation. These innovations may enable governments to better understand public preferences, monitor service performance, and respond more effectively to

citizen concerns. Consequently, digital technologies have become increasingly important instruments for participatory governance.

Despite these opportunities, digital governance also presents significant challenges. Access to technology remains uneven across different social and economic groups, creating disparities in participation opportunities. Digital inequality may prevent certain populations from fully benefiting from e-government services and online participation mechanisms. Sheoran and Vij (2022) emphasize that successful digital governance depends upon technological readiness, accessibility, and citizen engagement capabilities. These findings indicate that governments must address digital divides to ensure that digital participation remains inclusive and equitable.

Another challenge concerns the quality of citizen engagement within digital environments. While technology can expand participation opportunities, online engagement does not automatically guarantee meaningful involvement in governance processes. Citizens may experience participation fatigue, limited influence over policy outcomes, or difficulties understanding complex administrative information. Effective participatory governance therefore requires institutions to design participation mechanisms that are accessible, transparent, and responsive to citizen contributions.

Public trust remains another important challenge affecting participatory governance. Democratic governance depends upon citizens' confidence that participation processes are meaningful and that public institutions will respond appropriately to citizen input. When citizens perceive participation mechanisms as ineffective or symbolic, engagement levels may decline. Almuqrin et al. (2022) demonstrate that trust in governmental information systems significantly influences citizen willingness to engage with governance processes. Similarly, Novikova and Liebert (2021) argue that perceptions of governmental responsiveness play an important role in encouraging public participation. These findings suggest that participation initiatives must be accompanied by accountability and responsiveness to maintain public trust.

Governance complexity also presents challenges for citizen participation. Modern public administration involves multiple institutions, overlapping jurisdictions, and increasingly specialized policy areas. Citizens may encounter difficulties navigating administrative systems or understanding governance procedures. As governance structures become more complex, participation mechanisms must be designed to facilitate citizen engagement rather than create additional barriers. Public institutions therefore face the challenge of balancing administrative efficiency with accessibility and inclusiveness.

The literature further identifies concerns regarding democratic resilience and governance quality. Bauer and Becker (2020) argue that democratic governance can be affected by broader political developments, including institutional pressures, declining trust, and governance instability. Participatory governance mechanisms must therefore operate within institutional environments that support accountability, transparency, and

citizen involvement. Without strong institutional foundations, participation initiatives may struggle to achieve meaningful governance outcomes.

Digital transformation has also altered expectations regarding public service delivery. Citizens increasingly expect services to be accessible, responsive, and available through digital channels. Lips (2019) argues that digital government reforms require public institutions to rethink traditional administrative practices and develop new approaches to citizen engagement. While digital technologies offer opportunities for innovation, they also require governments to invest in institutional capacity, technological infrastructure, and citizen education. These requirements create additional governance challenges that must be addressed to ensure successful digital participation.

Overall, the literature demonstrates that participatory governance operates within rapidly evolving technological, administrative, and social environments. Digital governance, citizen engagement, public trust, and institutional accountability have become increasingly interconnected dimensions of democratic governance. While technological innovation has expanded opportunities for participation, challenges related to accessibility, responsiveness, trust, and governance complexity remain significant. These findings suggest that effective participatory governance requires continuous adaptation of legal frameworks, administrative institutions, and participation mechanisms to ensure that citizen involvement remains meaningful, inclusive, and capable of contributing to democratic governance.

3. | RESEARCH METHOD

This study employs a normative juridical method to examine citizen participation and democratic governance in public service delivery within the Indonesian legal framework. The normative juridical approach was selected because the relationship between participation, transparency, accountability, and public service governance can be examined through legal norms, principles, regulations, and legal doctrines. Although these themes have been explored extensively, studies often examine them separately rather than as interconnected components of democratic governance. Therefore, a normative juridical approach provides an appropriate method for analyzing existing legal norms and identifying common patterns across the legal framework.

The study follows a normative juridical framework to ensure systematic and rigorous legal analysis throughout the research process. The analysis process consisted of four stages: identification of relevant legal issues, examination of legal norms, analysis of legal principles and doctrines, and formulation of legal conclusions. These procedures were applied to ensure that the legal materials directly relevant to citizen participation, democratic governance, public service delivery, transparency, accountability, and public administration were included in the analysis.

Legal materials were collected from primary and secondary legal sources, including laws and regulations, academic books, legal journals, governance studies, and

public administration literature. The analysis employed legal concepts and principles such as citizen participation, democratic governance, public service delivery, participatory governance, public accountability, public administration, transparency, public information disclosure, government responsiveness, administrative law, digital governance, e-government, citizen engagement, and open government. Additional analysis incorporated references to Law Number 25 of 2009 concerning Public Services, Law Number 14 of 2008 concerning Public Information Disclosure, and Law Number 30 of 2014 concerning Government Administration.

The primary legal materials focused on Law Number 25 of 2009 concerning Public Services, Law Number 14 of 2008 concerning Public Information Disclosure, and Law Number 30 of 2014 concerning Government Administration. Secondary legal materials included peer-reviewed journal articles, academic books, governance studies, legal analyses, public administration research, and policy-related publications published between 2019 and 2024. Legal materials were selected based on their relevance to citizen participation, democratic governance, public service governance, transparency, public accountability, public trust, administrative law, information disclosure, or digital governance. Materials unrelated to governance, public administration, or citizen participation were excluded.

In addition to reviewing legal materials, this study incorporates doctrinal legal analysis of Law Number 25 of 2009 concerning Public Services, Law Number 14 of 2008 concerning Public Information Disclosure, and Law Number 30 of 2014 concerning Government Administration. The doctrinal approach examines legal principles, citizen rights, participation mechanisms, transparency obligations, accountability provisions, and administrative governance standards contained within these laws. Through this analysis, the study evaluates how legal frameworks support citizen participation and democratic governance in Indonesia.

The selected legal materials were analyzed using a qualitative juridical analysis. Findings from the reviewed legal materials were organized into five thematic categories: citizen participation and democratic governance, legal framework of public service governance, public information and democratic participation, administrative accountability and government responsiveness, and contemporary challenges in participatory governance. These themes were selected because they represent the principal dimensions through which legal frameworks influence democratic governance and public service delivery.

The analytical framework adopted in this study views democratic governance as the outcome of interactions among citizen participation, transparency, accountability, and public service delivery. Citizen participation is examined through engagement, collaboration, and public involvement; transparency is analyzed through information access and public oversight; accountability is evaluated through administrative governance and legal responsibility; while public service delivery is examined through responsiveness, service quality, and governance effectiveness. By combining normative

juridical analysis with doctrinal legal analysis, this study provides a comprehensive understanding of how Law Number 25 of 2009, Law Number 14 of 2008, and Law Number 30 of 2014 collectively contribute to strengthening democratic governance and citizen participation in Indonesia.

4. | RESULTS

The findings of this study demonstrate that citizen participation, transparency, and administrative accountability are interconnected elements that collectively strengthen democratic governance and public service delivery. The reviewed literature consistently indicates that effective governance requires not only legal frameworks and administrative institutions but also active citizen involvement in monitoring, evaluating, and improving public services. The analysis further reveals that Law Number 25 of 2009 concerning Public Services, Law Number 14 of 2008 concerning Public Information Disclosure, and Law Number 30 of 2014 concerning Government Administration provide complementary legal foundations that support participatory governance in Indonesia.

One of the most significant findings concerns the role of citizen participation in improving governance effectiveness. The literature demonstrates that citizen involvement contributes positively to public service quality, policy responsiveness, and institutional legitimacy. Rijal (2023) argues that citizen participation strengthens governance processes by incorporating community perspectives into planning and decision-making activities. Similarly, Masiya et al. (2019) emphasize that effective public participation improves service delivery outcomes because governments become more responsive to citizen needs and expectations. These findings suggest that citizen participation functions as an important mechanism for improving governance quality and public service performance.

The reviewed studies further indicate that participation contributes significantly to democratic legitimacy. Democratic governance depends upon the extent to which citizens are able to influence public decisions and engage in governance processes. Hendriks and Dzur (2022) argue that participatory governance creates opportunities for democratic action by enabling citizens to contribute directly to collective problem-solving. Likewise, Krick (2022) highlights the democratic value of citizen expertise, arguing that public involvement enhances both governance effectiveness and democratic inclusion. These findings suggest that participation strengthens democratic governance by promoting representation and public engagement.

Another important finding concerns the changing role of citizens within contemporary public administration. Traditional governance models often viewed citizens primarily as recipients of public services. However, recent governance literature emphasizes more collaborative approaches in which citizens actively contribute to service design, implementation, and evaluation. Osborne (2020) argues that public value is created through interactions among governments, service users, and

society. Similarly, Osborne and Strokosch (2022) contend that participation should be regarded as a central component of public service delivery rather than a supplementary activity. These findings indicate that citizen participation has become an increasingly important element of public sector governance.

The literature also demonstrates that citizen participation contributes positively to public trust. Trust is essential for democratic governance because it influences citizens' willingness to engage with public institutions and participate in governance processes. Msenge and Nzewi (2021) demonstrate that citizen participation strengthens public trust by improving communication and cooperation between governments and communities. Likewise, Lanin and Hermanto (2019) find that service quality positively influences public trust in local government institutions. These findings suggest that participation and trust operate as mutually reinforcing dimensions of democratic governance.

A second major finding concerns the importance of legal frameworks governing public service delivery. Law Number 25 of 2009 establishes rights, responsibilities, and standards designed to improve service quality and citizen engagement. The reviewed literature indicates that the law supports democratic governance by encouraging participation and strengthening accountability within public institutions. Dirkareshza et al. (2021) argue that the legislation reflects an effort to improve public welfare through better governance and more effective public services. Similarly, Salam (2023) emphasizes that quality public services contribute significantly to the realization of good governance principles. These findings indicate that public service legislation functions as an important instrument for strengthening democratic governance.

The analysis further reveals that public participation mechanisms established under Law Number 25 of 2009 support citizen oversight and service evaluation. Through complaint systems, public consultations, and service assessments, citizens possess opportunities to influence service delivery and hold institutions accountable. These mechanisms strengthen democratic governance by ensuring that public services remain responsive to societal needs. Consequently, participation becomes an integral part of governance rather than a separate activity occurring outside administrative processes.

Transparency emerges as another critical finding within the reviewed literature. The analysis indicates that meaningful participation depends upon access to accurate, relevant, and timely information. Citizens require information regarding public policies, service performance, budgets, and administrative decisions in order to participate effectively in governance processes. Law Number 14 of 2008 provides the legal basis for public information disclosure in Indonesia and supports democratic governance by expanding access to information.

The literature consistently demonstrates that transparency strengthens accountability and participation. Androniceanu (2021) argues that transparency enhances democratic governance by promoting openness and improving public oversight. Likewise, Fontaine et al. (2022) demonstrate that transparency contributes

directly to accountability because citizens are better able to evaluate governmental actions when information is publicly accessible. These findings suggest that transparency functions as a critical foundation for democratic participation and institutional accountability.

The reviewed studies also reveal that information disclosure strengthens citizen oversight. Wardana and Bachtiar (2022) emphasize that public participation becomes more meaningful when citizens possess access to governmental information and legislative processes. Similarly, Almuqrin et al. (2022) argue that trust in governance is influenced by the accessibility and quality of public information. These findings indicate that transparency supports democratic governance by empowering citizens to monitor public institutions and participate in governance activities.

Government responsiveness represents another important dimension emerging from the findings. Transparency alone may be insufficient if public institutions fail to respond to citizen concerns and information requests. Novikova and Liebert (2021) demonstrate that citizens are more likely to engage with governance processes when institutions respond effectively to public feedback. This finding suggests that transparency and responsiveness function together in strengthening democratic participation and governance legitimacy.

The literature further highlights the importance of administrative accountability within democratic governance. Accountability ensures that public authorities exercise power in accordance with legal principles, procedural fairness, and public interests. Law Number 30 of 2014 provides an important legal framework governing administrative decision-making and citizen protections against unlawful governmental actions. The reviewed studies indicate that administrative accountability contributes significantly to governance quality and public confidence.

Abrianto and Grady (2020) argue that Law Number 30 of 2014 strengthens legal accountability by expanding opportunities for citizens to challenge improper administrative actions. Likewise, Manaf et al. (2023) emphasize that accountability positively influences citizen perceptions of governmental effectiveness and legitimacy. These findings suggest that administrative accountability plays a crucial role in supporting democratic governance and protecting citizen rights.

The analysis also demonstrates that accountability contributes to public trust. Citizens are more likely to trust institutions that operate transparently, explain decisions, and respond to public concerns. Mophethe (2023) argues that accountability mechanisms strengthen participatory governance because they provide opportunities for public oversight and institutional learning. Similarly, Lanin and Hermanto (2019) demonstrate that responsive governance positively affects public trust in governmental institutions. These findings indicate that accountability supports both democratic participation and institutional legitimacy.

Another important finding concerns the increasing role of digital governance in participatory governance systems. Digital technologies have expanded opportunities for

citizen engagement, information access, and service delivery. The reviewed literature indicates that e-government platforms can facilitate participation by enabling citizens to communicate with public institutions more efficiently. Khan and Krishnan (2021) argue that digital engagement supports collaborative governance by encouraging citizen involvement in service design and evaluation. Likewise, Ma and Wu (2020) emphasize that digital technologies strengthen co-production between governments and citizens.

However, the findings also identify significant challenges associated with digital participation. Technological accessibility, digital literacy, and unequal access to online services remain important concerns. Sheoran and Vij (2022) argue that successful digital governance depends upon adequate technological readiness and citizen engagement capacity. These findings suggest that digital participation requires supportive institutional and technological conditions to ensure inclusiveness and effectiveness.

Overall, the evidence reviewed in this study demonstrates that citizen participation, transparency, and administrative accountability collectively contribute to democratic governance and public service effectiveness. Law Number 25 of 2009, Law Number 14 of 2008, and Law Number 30 of 2014 establish complementary legal frameworks that strengthen participation, information access, accountability, and citizen protection. The findings indicate that democratic governance is most effective when citizens are actively involved in governance processes, possess access to public information, and can hold public institutions accountable for their actions. These interconnected dimensions create the foundation for responsive, transparent, and citizen-centered governance in Indonesia.

5. | DISCUSSION

The findings of this study demonstrate that citizen participation, transparency, and administrative accountability function as interconnected pillars of democratic governance. Effective governance depends not only on institutional structures and legal frameworks but also on the active involvement of citizens in public affairs and public service delivery. The reviewed literature consistently indicates that governance systems become more responsive, accountable, and legitimate when citizens possess opportunities to participate, access information, and monitor governmental performance. Within Indonesia, Law Number 25 of 2009 concerning Public Services, Law Number 14 of 2008 concerning Public Information Disclosure, and Law Number 30 of 2014 concerning Government Administration collectively provide an important legal foundation for strengthening these democratic principles.

One of the most significant findings concerns the role of citizen participation in improving governance quality. The literature suggests that participation enables governments to better understand citizen needs and design services that are more responsive to societal expectations. Participation also allows citizens to contribute local knowledge, identify governance challenges, and provide feedback regarding service performance. These findings support contemporary governance theories that view

citizens as active contributors to public value creation rather than passive recipients of governmental services. Consequently, democratic governance increasingly depends upon collaborative relationships between governments and citizens.

The discussion further highlights the importance of participation in strengthening democratic legitimacy. Democratic institutions derive legitimacy not only from legal authority but also from public acceptance and engagement. Citizen participation contributes to legitimacy by ensuring that governance processes reflect societal interests and preferences. When citizens are able to participate in planning, consultation, monitoring, and evaluation activities, governance outcomes are more likely to be perceived as fair and representative. Therefore, participation serves as an important mechanism for connecting governments with the communities they serve.

Another important implication concerns the implementation of Law Number 25 of 2009. The findings indicate that public service governance can contribute significantly to democratic governance when citizens are actively involved in service delivery processes. The law recognizes the importance of citizen rights, service standards, and accountability mechanisms while encouraging public participation in evaluating and improving services. This approach reflects broader international trends emphasizing citizen-centered governance and participatory public administration. As a result, public service delivery becomes not only an administrative function but also a democratic process through which citizens engage with public institutions.

The findings also demonstrate the critical role of transparency in supporting democratic participation. Access to information enables citizens to evaluate public policies, monitor institutional performance, and participate in governance processes more effectively. Law Number 14 of 2008 provides an important legal mechanism for ensuring that citizens possess access to public information necessary for informed participation. The reviewed literature consistently indicates that transparency strengthens governance quality by reducing information asymmetries and promoting public oversight. These findings suggest that democratic participation is most effective when citizens possess sufficient information to understand governance processes and evaluate public performance.

Transparency further contributes to accountability by enabling citizens to scrutinize governmental actions and demand explanations for administrative decisions. The findings indicate that public information disclosure supports democratic governance because it creates opportunities for public monitoring and institutional evaluation. Citizens who possess access to information are better positioned to identify governance problems, assess policy outcomes, and advocate for improvements. Consequently, transparency functions as both a democratic right and an accountability mechanism within participatory governance systems.

Another important theme emerging from the findings concerns the role of administrative accountability in strengthening democratic governance. Accountability ensures that governmental actions remain consistent with legal standards, public

interests, and principles of procedural fairness. Law Number 30 of 2014 contributes significantly to governance quality by establishing standards governing administrative decision-making and citizen protection. The reviewed literature suggests that accountability strengthens democratic governance by promoting institutional responsibility and limiting arbitrary administrative actions.

The discussion also highlights the relationship between accountability and government responsiveness. Public institutions are more likely to maintain legitimacy when they respond effectively to citizen concerns, complaints, and participation initiatives. Accountability mechanisms encourage responsiveness by requiring institutions to justify decisions and address public expectations. The findings indicate that responsiveness strengthens citizen confidence in governance processes and increases willingness to participate in public affairs. Therefore, accountability and responsiveness should be viewed as complementary dimensions of democratic governance.

Public trust emerges as another important factor influencing participatory governance. Citizens are more likely to engage in governance activities when they trust public institutions and believe that participation will produce meaningful outcomes. The reviewed studies demonstrate that trust is strengthened when governments provide quality services, disclose information transparently, and respond effectively to citizen concerns. Conversely, weak accountability and limited responsiveness may reduce public confidence and discourage participation. These findings suggest that public trust is both an outcome and a prerequisite of effective democratic governance.

The findings further demonstrate that digital governance has become increasingly important in shaping contemporary participation practices. Digital technologies have expanded opportunities for information access, service delivery, public consultation, and citizen engagement. E-government initiatives can facilitate participation by reducing barriers to communication and improving access to governance processes. The literature suggests that digital platforms may strengthen democratic governance when they are designed to support transparency, responsiveness, and citizen involvement. However, digital participation should complement rather than replace traditional forms of democratic engagement.

Despite the opportunities associated with digital governance, several challenges remain. Digital inequality, technological accessibility, and varying levels of digital literacy may affect participation opportunities across different population groups. The findings indicate that governments must address these challenges to ensure that digital participation remains inclusive and equitable. Additionally, participation mechanisms must be designed carefully to ensure that citizen engagement produces meaningful influence rather than symbolic involvement. These considerations highlight the importance of institutional capacity and governance design in supporting participatory governance.

Another important implication concerns the integration of the three legal frameworks examined in this study. Law Number 25 of 2009 focuses on citizen participation within public service delivery, Law Number 14 of 2008 promotes transparency through information disclosure, and Law Number 30 of 2014 strengthens accountability through administrative governance. Together, these laws create a complementary governance framework in which participation, transparency, and accountability reinforce one another. The findings suggest that democratic governance is strengthened when these dimensions operate collectively rather than independently.

Overall, the evidence reviewed in this study indicates that citizen participation, transparency, and accountability are essential components of democratic governance and effective public service delivery. The interaction among the three legal frameworks creates opportunities for citizens to engage with public institutions, access information, and hold authorities accountable for governance outcomes. By strengthening these mechanisms, democratic governance can become more responsive, inclusive, and effective in addressing societal needs. Consequently, the continued development of participatory governance should remain an important priority for policymakers and public institutions seeking to enhance governance quality and democratic legitimacy in Indonesia.

5. | CONCLUSION

This study examined citizen participation and democratic governance in public service delivery through a qualitative Systematic Literature Review (SLR) and doctrinal analysis of Law Number 25 of 2009 concerning Public Services, Law Number 14 of 2008 concerning Public Information Disclosure, and Law Number 30 of 2014 concerning Government Administration. The findings demonstrate that democratic governance depends upon the effective interaction of citizen participation, transparency, and administrative accountability. These three dimensions collectively contribute to governance quality, public trust, institutional legitimacy, and responsive public service delivery.

The study found that citizen participation plays a crucial role in strengthening democratic governance by enabling individuals and communities to engage directly in public affairs and governance processes. Participation contributes to more responsive public services, improves decision-making quality, and enhances democratic legitimacy. The findings indicate that public institutions are more effective when citizens are actively involved in service evaluation, consultation processes, and governance oversight. Consequently, citizen participation should be viewed not only as a democratic right but also as an essential component of effective public administration.

The findings further reveal the importance of Law Number 25 of 2009 in establishing a legal framework that supports citizen-centered public service delivery. The legislation recognizes citizen rights within public service systems and provides mechanisms through which individuals can contribute to service improvement and

accountability. Through complaint procedures, public consultations, and service evaluation mechanisms, the law strengthens the relationship between citizens and public institutions. These provisions contribute significantly to participatory governance and democratic accountability.

Another important finding concerns the role of transparency in supporting democratic participation. Law Number 14 of 2008 provides citizens with access to public information and promotes openness within governmental institutions. The study demonstrates that information access enables citizens to participate more effectively in governance processes by improving their ability to monitor institutional performance and evaluate public policies. Transparency therefore functions as a foundational requirement for informed participation and public oversight. The findings suggest that democratic governance is strengthened when public institutions operate transparently and provide citizens with timely and accessible information.

The study also highlights the significance of administrative accountability in promoting governance effectiveness and protecting citizen rights. Law Number 30 of 2014 establishes legal standards governing administrative decision-making and governmental responsibility. The findings indicate that accountability mechanisms contribute to legal certainty, institutional responsiveness, and public trust by ensuring that governmental actions remain consistent with legal principles and public interests. Administrative accountability therefore serves as an important safeguard against arbitrary decision-making and supports democratic governance through responsible public administration.

Another key finding concerns the relationship between participation, transparency, and accountability. Rather than operating independently, these dimensions reinforce one another within democratic governance systems. Citizen participation becomes more meaningful when supported by access to information, while transparency becomes more effective when citizens possess opportunities to engage in oversight and evaluation activities. Likewise, accountability mechanisms strengthen participation and transparency by ensuring that public institutions respond to citizen concerns and remain answerable for governance outcomes. The interaction among these three dimensions creates a governance environment that promotes democratic legitimacy and institutional effectiveness.

The findings further demonstrate that digital governance has become an increasingly important factor influencing citizen participation and public service delivery. Digital technologies provide opportunities for expanding access to information, improving communication between citizens and public institutions, and enhancing service accessibility. However, challenges related to digital literacy, technological accessibility, and unequal participation opportunities remain significant. These findings suggest that governments must continue developing inclusive digital governance strategies to ensure that technological innovation contributes positively to democratic participation and governance quality.

From a practical perspective, the study suggests that policymakers and public institutions should continue strengthening mechanisms that support participation, transparency, and accountability. Efforts to improve public service quality, expand access to information, enhance institutional responsiveness, and encourage citizen engagement can contribute significantly to democratic governance. In addition, strengthening coordination among public institutions responsible for service delivery, information disclosure, and administrative accountability may improve governance effectiveness and public trust.

Future research may further explore the impact of digital governance on citizen participation, the effectiveness of public complaint mechanisms, and comparative approaches to participatory governance across different administrative systems. Additional studies may also examine how emerging technologies influence public service delivery and democratic engagement. By integrating public service governance, transparency, and administrative accountability within a single analytical framework, this study contributes to a broader understanding of how legal institutions support democratic governance and citizen participation in Indonesia.

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Declaration of Conflicting Interests

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest.

Ethical Approval and Originality Statement

Ethical approval was obtained for this study. The manuscript represents original work and has not been previously published, nor is it under consideration by another journal.

Data Disclosure Statement

The data that support the findings of this study are available from the corresponding author upon reasonable request.

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