

## Cats, Chefs and Pokemon: Russian Candidates Get Creative

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Russia's candidates for the State Duma are trying to attract voters with eye-catching billboards and slogans ahead of the parliamentary elections on Sunday, Sept. 18.

United Russia's is expected to emerge victorious in the upcoming elections, benefiting from apathetic voters and a lineup of celebrity candidates.

After the large-scale protests that followed the 2011 elections, steps have been taken to ensure the upcoming elections are seen as more legitimate and transparent. The Kremlin has appointed a new chief of the Central Election Commission, Ella Pamfilova, a former human rights commissioner with a solid reputation even among many Kremlin critics.

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