

Russian Opposition Politician Ilya Yashin Announces Bid For Moscow Mayor

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Ilya Yashin Sergei Bobylev / TASS

Russian opposition politician and Moscow municipal deputy Ilya Yashin has become the latest public figure to announce a run for the mayor's post later this year.

Mayor Sergei Sobyanin is expected to secure another 5-year term in the Moscow mayoral election on Sept. 9, promising to oversee reforms in health care, metro construction and a controversial urban renewal program beyond 2018.

Link:

https://themoscowtimes.com/news/moscow-mayor-sobyanin-seeks-new-term-to-finish-reforms-59345

"I've decided to run in the mayoral elections to stop Sobyanin and [ruling party] United

Russia," Yashin said in a recorded address <u>posted</u> on Wednesday.

"I don't have administrative resources or oligarchs behind me, I only have your support," he tweeted.

Dmitry Gudkov, another liberal opposition member who <u>intended</u> to run as "the only democratic candidate" when announcing his 2018 mayoral bid early last year, criticized the announcement as serving the interests of opposition leader Alexei Navalny.

Related article: Russian Opposition's Dmitry Gudkov Announces Plan to Run For Moscow Mayor in 2018

"No one should ask me about the democrats' unity anymore [...] the first thought is always about how to sink the competition," he <u>tweeted</u>.

Navalny <u>welcomed</u> Yashin's announcement and addressed Gudkov's criticism by reiterating his earlier pledge to support "any candidate who wins the primaries" in a post on his website.

In his announcement, Yashin said he supported democratic primaries to put forward a single candidate from the opposition ahead of the Sept. 9 vote.

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