

Moscow Scraps Paper Ballots in Favor of Online Voting

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Kirill Zykov / Moskva News Agency

Election officials in Moscow have scrapped paper ballots in favor of online voting at an upcoming vote for the Russian capital's legislative assembly, state news agencies [reported](#) Thursday.

Watchdogs and researchers [say](#) Russia's opaque online voting system [enables](#) electoral fraud by making independent monitoring impossible.

Moscow's election commission voted 12-1 to make electronic voting the default way of casting ballots at the Sept. 6-8 three-day election period for the Moscow City Duma, according to Interfax.

Paper ballots will only be provided if the voter applies for one by [Sept. 2](#).

"If earlier you had to apply to vote remotely, the situation has now changed," [said](#) commission deputy Dmitry Reutov. He added that the "overwhelming majority" of voters

prefer online voting since it was [introduced](#) in 2020.

In the years since, state employees complained they had been [intimidated](#) into voting online.

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