

Krasnoyarsk Court Rejects Lawsuit Against Local Governance Reforms

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A court in Siberia's Krasnoyarsk region on Tuesday [rejected](#) a lawsuit challenging Kremlin-backed reforms that scrap most local councils and shift power to the regional government, local media reported.

Residents and officials from several dissolved rural districts, equivalent to U.S. counties, [had sued](#) Krasnoyarsk Governor Mikhail Kotyukov and the regional legislature over the reforms, arguing that they were [adopted](#) without any input from the public.

The changes cut the number of municipalities in the vast region of 2.8 million people from 472 to just 39 — meaning most villages and small towns will no longer elect their own representatives. As a result of the reforms, authorities merged many rural districts into larger, more consolidated districts, where a number of elections are scheduled for next month.

Critics say the overhaul strips residents of local political representation and hands Moscow

tighter control over regional government, while regional lawmakers [claim](#) the reforms simply created new districts. The changes took effect June 19 under a federal law signed by President Vladimir Putin.

Governor Kotyukov is a member of the ruling United Russia party, which holds a two-thirds majority in the regional legislature. The Krasnoyarsk Regional Court on Tuesday rejected all lawsuits contesting the reforms, according to local media.

The court's ruling comes a day after the Supreme Court of the Siberian republic of Altai [rejected](#) a similar lawsuit challenging the municipal reforms there. A large group of locals gathered outside the courthouse in the city of Gorno-Altaysk to protest that ruling.

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