The Moscow Times
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‘Complete Nonsense’: Putin Dismisses Mobilization Rumors

September 02, 2026

Vladimir Putin. **Sputnik / Vyacheslav Prokofyev / Pool via REUTERS**

President Vladimir Putin has dismissed growing speculation that he plans to announce a new round of military mobilization following State Duma and regional elections later this month.

“It’s complete nonsense. It’s an information attack on Russia,” Putin told reporters late on Tuesday in his first remarks on the rumors.

As Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine has stalled in its fifth year, questions are once again mounting over whether Putin could resort to a politically costly mobilization to boost his military’s manpower.

The Kremlin has repeatedly rejected reports of an impending draft, characterizing them as a foreign disinformation campaign.

Last week, Ukrainian intelligence agencies warned that Russia was “drawing up plans” to mobilize 600,000 men this year and in 2027.

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Putin declared a "partial" mobilization of 300,000 reservists in September 2022, a move that was similarly dismissed just days before it was announced. That call-up triggered a mass exodus of draft-eligible men from Russia.

Since then, the Kremlin has gradually made legal changes that some observers view as preparations for a fresh wave of mobilization.

The Russian military has moved to a digital draft registry with automatic travel bans, shifted to year-round draft processing, and now allows reservists to be deployed to guard "critical infrastructure" without being formally called up to serve.

However, some experts caution that another mass mobilization would encounter logistical hurdles and fail to address challenges on the front line. At the same time, observers point to the fact that Putin's "partial" mobilization order remains in effect, suggesting Putin might not need to formally announce a new draft.

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