The Moscow Times
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United Russia Set for Record Parliament Majority in First Wartime Elections

September 21, 2026



Former Russian President Dmitry Medvedev, Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and other Russian officials celebrate United Russia's electoral victory. **Sputnik / Yekaterina Shtukina / Reuters**

Russia's ruling party, United Russia, is on track to secure a record number of seats in the lower-house State Duma following the country's first parliamentary elections since the launch of the full-scale invasion of Ukraine, preliminary results showed Monday.

With 95% of the ballots counted, Central Election Commission (CEC) chief Ella Pamfilova announced that United Russia received 57.83% of the party-list vote while dominating single-member districts, where its candidates were leading in 208 of 225 constituencies.

Pamfilova said United Russia stands to capture around 355 seats in the 450-seat State Duma — surpassing its previous record of 343 seats set in 2016 and comfortably maintaining its constitutional supermajority.

Four other parties cleared the threshold to enter parliament: the Communist Party with 40 seats, the nationalist Liberal Democratic Party (LDPR) with 25, New People with 20 and A Just

Russia with four.

Turnout reached nearly 60%, the highest for parliamentary elections since 2003, according to the newspaper Kommersant.

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Independent analysts described the vote — which President Vladimir Putin framed as a test of public support for the war effort — as the most uncompetitive in modern Russian history.

At least 86 Ukraine war veterans are expected to gain seats in the latest convocation of the State Duma. Putin has touted veterans-turned-politicians as Russia's "new elite."

The liberal Yabloko party, the only party running on an anti-war platform, failed to secure any seat in single-member constituencies. It did, however, manage to pass the 5% threshold in elections for the Novgorod regional assembly.

In August, Russia's Supreme Court blocked Yabloko from the party-list ballot, and its candidates running in single-member districts also faced exclusion and pressure from the authorities.

In concurrent regional gubernatorial races, Chechen leader Ramzan Kadyrov was re-elected with an official 99.85% of the vote.

The CEC said final election results will be announced no later than Oct. 5.

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