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United Russia Set for Record Parliament Majority in First Wartime Elections

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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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