

العربية ESP PYC DE FR RS 中

文

RT Index

ИНО TV

RT

A

RUPTLY

Academy

Where to
watch

Schedule



RT News

App



QUESTION MORE



German military operates secretive unit to provide arms to Kiev – media | Russia-Uk...

[Russia & Former Soviet Union](#)[World News](#)[Business](#)[India](#)[Africa](#)[RT Features](#)[Analysis](#)[Opinion](#)[Entertainment](#)[Shows](#)[Projects](#)[/ Home](#) / [Russia & FSU](#)

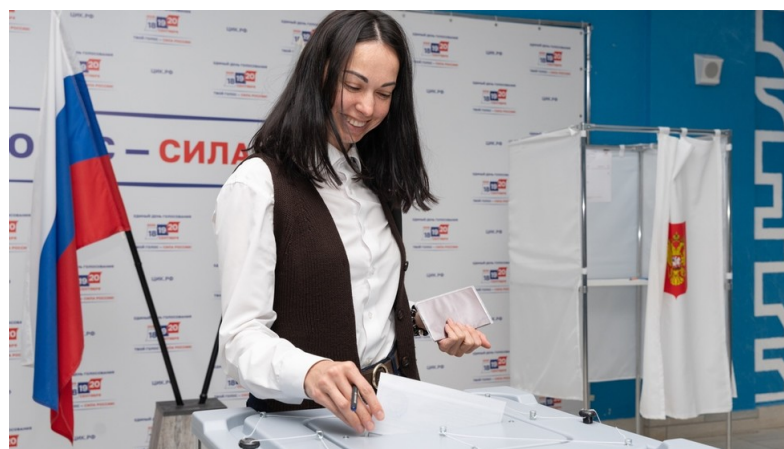
Voting underway in Russia's parliamentary elections

More than 113 million voters are set to choose 450 State Duma deputies, alongside regional and local representatives

Published 18 Sep, 2026 18:22 | Updated 18 Sep, 2026 20:20

Voting is underway across Russia in three-day parliamentary elections to choose a new State Duma, alongside thousands of regional and local representatives.

Polling stations opened on Friday across Russia's 11 time zones, starting in the Far East and moving westward. Some eastern regions have already completed their first day of voting, while polls remain open elsewhere. More than 111 million people are eligible to vote in Russia, with



Russia, September 18, 2026.

Top stories



Trump announces Greenland deal

Russia launches new military asset into orbit (VIDEO)

Ex-Zelensky spokeswoman regrets helping 'scum' come to power

Indian court grants bail to US national in terror training case – report

another 1.8 million registered abroad. Voting runs through Sunday.

All 450 State Duma seats are up for election. Half are allocated through federal party lists, while the other 225 deputies are elected in single-member constituencies. Ten political parties are competing through party lists, which generally require at least 5% of the vote to secure seats.

The parliamentary election coincides with more than 2,200 regional and municipal campaigns, with around 20,700 mandates and elected posts at stake. Of Russia's 89 regions, 11 are choosing their leaders, including eight through direct popular votes, while 39 are electing legislatures.



President Vladimir Putin cast his ballot online from his Kremlin office on Friday. In an address on Wednesday, he urged Russians to participate, saying the lawmakers elected for the next five years would *"shape our future"* and that *"every voter's voice matters."*

Gates used vaccine funding to pressure governments – Merkel

Subscribe to RT newsletter to get news highlights of the day right in your mailbox

E-mail

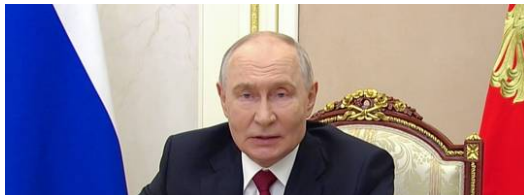
☐ We offer you the possibility to receive RT's news highlights every Monday, Wednesday and Friday by email.

Subscribe

RT Features



Mearsheimer: There's no diplomatic way



READ MORE: Putin issues historic call ahead of Russian elections

Remote electronic voting is available in 33 regions. Thirty-two are using the federal platform, while Moscow operates its own system. More than four million people applied to vote remotely through the federal system, with over 2.5 million ballots cast by 16:31 Moscow time on Friday.

Russians abroad can vote at 333 polling stations in 152 countries, most of which will operate only on Sunday.

Central Election Commission Chair Ella Pamfilova said that more than four million people had cast early ballots in 12 regions where special voting arrangements were introduced over security concerns. These include the Donetsk and Lugansk People's Republics, Kherson, and Zaporozhye Regions, as well as eight Russian regions near the Ukraine conflict zone.

Another 260,000 people voted early in 37 other regions, mostly in remote or hard-to-reach areas.

Residents of the DPR, LPR, Kherson, and Zaporozhye Regions are taking part in State Duma elections for the first time since joining Russia following referendums in 2022.

You can share this story on social media:

Follow RT on



[Russia](#)

Please check our [commenting policy](#). If you have questions or suggestions feel free to send them to feedback@rttv.ru.

out of the Ukraine war FEATURE



The CIA paid cash. A NATO ally supplied the torture prison FEATURE INVESTIGATION



What does American football look like in a country most Americans couldn't find on a map? FEATURE

Podcasts

All podcasts

The curious case of Viktor Bout, part 1



AA B i “ <> ☰ ☷

Your comment here

Sign In

0:0025:47

▶

Solovki: Finding meaning in the Far North

0:0024:19

🔊

⬇️

🔗

Sort by Recently updated ▾

RL

RL L 9/19/2026 at 12:52 PM

0

Russian elections show that elections in a democracy can be made to work with a lot of hard work in making ordinary people’s lives better...of, for and by the people as basic tenets, something which Western democracies have ditched wholesale and become one that is of, by and for the rich and powerful!

[Reply](#)

R

Rene Tortico (Tortico) 9/19/2026 at 11:20 AM

1

Voters in Russia are smarter than the West and know the real issues.

[Reply](#)

D

Dinamo Noka 9/18/2026 at 10:26 PM

10

Russian democracy is a true democracy. Western democracy is zionist democracy, a Jew’s democracy. What a sickening democracy!

[Reply](#)



Arnaldo de Castro 9/18/2026 at 10:41 PM ⤴

-2

Are you sure? We all know the results and do not understand why people bother voting.

[Reply](#)

**Tracie Smith** 9/18/2026 at 10:50 PM ↑

8

Americans have no business criticizing anyone else's voting system considering the Jerry Springer Freakshow we have here.

[Reply](#)**MF 75** 9/18/2026 at 11:16 PM ↑

-2

You have no right criticize anyone's opinion, your opinion is equally prone to criticism.

[Reply](#)**Raymundo Wellington** 9/19/2026 at 11:07 AM ↑

0

Until someone comes, is financed from abroad and starts corrupting the system to favour rotten Western policies, and yet they will keep on calling it Democracy. Actually, Democracy is the WORST scenario ever to exist to have a candidate or political party representing citizens' best interests.

You will certainly know that most mediocre candidates or parties will always be chosen. Intelligent men usually opt out for not being one of the chosen ones. It's a LOTTERY. Putin is a rare case and number among so much graft and corruption in the world.

[Reply](#)**Tiberius Caesar** 9/19/2026 at 10:48 AM

0

Russia's holding a three-day Duma shopping spree across 11 time zones. 450 seats, 113 million shoppers, Putin clicked "add to cart" from the Kremlin like a man ordering takeout. First time the new provinces get to pick their own cashiers. Ten parties, 5% cutoff, electronic voting so you can bless the future without leaving the couch. Sunday's the last call. Democracy, but make it a long weekend.

[Reply](#)**Raymundo Wellington** 9/19/2026 at 10:43 AM

1

While the West rots away with Fraudulent Elections, mostly manipulated for a chosen candidate or political party to win in all possible ways, forms and shapes, Russia should copy the Chinese Political System now they have an HONEST Leader at the front, the next

one could potentially be a TRAITOR while he works for the West.

[Reply](#)

A **Alpha Putin** 9/19/2026 at 5:11 AM

0

Presidential Election :

Putin legally eligible to run in both the 2030 and 2036 elections, potentially extending his rule until he is 83 years old. Long live Putin !

[Reply](#)