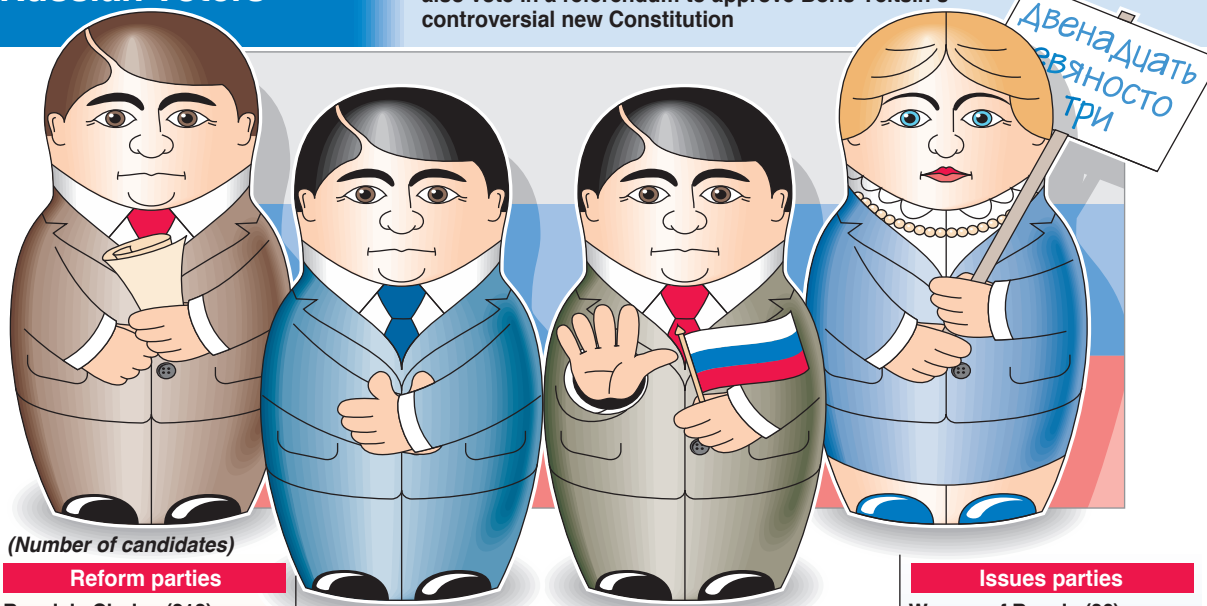


ELECTIONS IN RUSSIA

Decision time for Russian voters

As Russia prepares to hold its first democratic elections since the Bolshevik revolution in 1917, more than 1,760 candidates from 13 electoral blocs hope to win seats in the new Federal Assembly. The electorate of 107 million must also vote in a referendum to approve Boris Yeltsin's controversial new Constitution



(Number of candidates)

Reform parties

Russia's Choice (212)
Pro-government Yeltsin supporters advocate radical reform. Led by first deputy prime minister Yegor Gaidar and ahead in most polls

Yabloko (172)
Promises slower – less painful – but more effective market reform

Movement for Democratic Reforms (153)
Pro-reform but stresses political independence from Yeltsin

Party of Russian Unity and Accord (193)
Favours gradual approach to economic reform. Believes the regions have important role

Centrist parties

Civic Union for Stabilisation, Justice and Progress (184)
Favours a moderate approach to market reform to protect the interests of big industries. Supports tax rises for the rich

Future of Russia – New Names (95)
Youth movement. Advocates step-by-step adoption of market system, higher wages and fair taxation system

Democratic Party of Russia (167)
Favours moderate reform, including land privatisation, but insists on central state power

Anti reform parties

Agrarian Party (145)
Conservative, nationalist. Favours collective and state farming but also claims to support private farmers and land ownership. Strong rural support

Communist Party (151)
Anti-Yeltsin. Favours command economy and strong social programmes. Strong support from the old and the poor

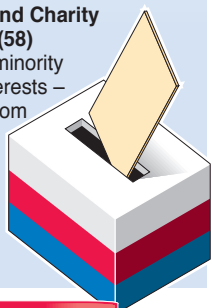
Liberal-Democratic Party (156)
Right-wing and stridently nationalist

Issues parties

Women of Russia (36)
Aims to promote women in politics and women's interests

Constructive Ecological Movement (44)
Wants serious approach to solution of environmental problems. Strong support from high-pollution regions

Dignity and Charity Alliance (58)
Reflects minority group interests – support from invalids, Afghan veterans, cultural figures

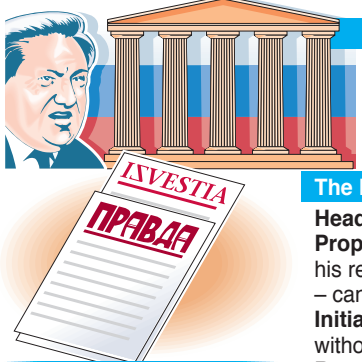


Referendum on President Yeltsin's draft constitution

'Do you agree to the constitution of the Russian Federation?'
Approval requires a 50 per cent vote on a turnout of at least 50 per cent of the electorate

Social aims:
Pensions and social welfare payments must provide a living standard no lower than the legally defined poverty line.
The number of people with incomes below this level stands at 45% – down on the 1992 peak of 64%

Property rights:
Citizens can own land and property and dispose of it as they wish.
Land owners are free to use and manage natural resources provided they do not violate rights of local inhabitants



The press:
Has freedom of speech.
Censorship is prohibited

The new parliament:
Federal Assembly consisting of two chambers. The 178-seat **Federal Council** (upper house) and the 450-seat **State Duma** (lower house)

The President's role:
Head of state – has no Vice-President.
Proposes prime minister – can call for his resignation. **Sets dates for elections** – can dissolve parliament at any time.
Initiates legislation. Appoints ministers, without recourse to parliament.
Runs foreign and defence policy. Can only be impeached for treason, violating Constitution or undermining human rights