

Russian opposition squeezed out of election

Challenging the rule of Russian President Vladimir Putin in the forthcoming elections will not be easy, with a strong economy buoying his popularity and significant changes to electoral law rendering many opposition parties ineligible to stand or unable to win a seat

ONE-PARTY STATE?

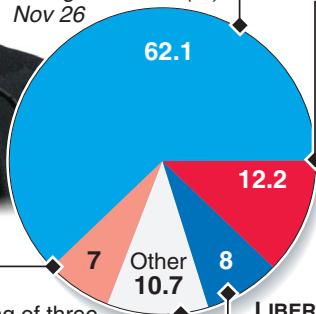
Parties require membership of 50,000 and over 7% of vote to enter Duma



UNITED RUSSIA Members: 1,530,000
Guaranteed to win election – could be only party in new Duma. Putin tops list of Party candidates, effectively ensuring he retains control when his presidency ends in May



*Voting intentions (%)
Nov 26*



COMMUNIST PARTY

Members: 580,000
Only real opposition, draws support from pensioners, industrial and agricultural workers in southern Russia and around Moscow



JUST RUSSIA

Putin-supporting, centre-left grouping of three parties in current Duma – Rodina, Party of Life and Pensioners' Party
Members: Up to 500,000

LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Right-wing nationalist party formed in 1989 by **Vladimir Zhirinovskiy**
Members: Up to 500,000

BELOW THE THRESHOLD...

Only seven other parties eligible to stand

Agrarian Party (leftist) 195,000 members

Yabloko (liberal-left) 85,000

Civil Force (liberal-right) 60,000

Union of Right Forces

(liberal-right) 50,000

Democratic Party (right) 50,000

Patriots of Russia

(nationalist left) 50,000

Social Justice Party (left) 50,000

Independent candidates barred from standing