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**National Voting on the  
Draft of the Constitution of the Russian Federation  
and Elections to the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation**

**Election day will be soon;  
Information about your ballot choices.**

**BALLOT CHOICES**

On the 12th of December every voter will be given four ballots at the polling place: three of the ballots involve the selection of deputies to the Federal Assembly (ballots numbered 1, 2, & 3) and one ballot is for the voting on the Draft of the Constitution (ballot numbered 4 ).

On the "constitutional ballot" there are no names, just one question: "Do you accept the Constitution of the Russian Federation?" and two possible answers: "Yes" or "No". It is very easy: you mark your answer by crossing out the answer you do not want.

**Ballot #4 National Voting on the Draft of the  
Constitution of the Russian Federation  
on the 12th of December of 1993**

**Do you accept the Constitution of the Russian Federation?**

**Yes**

**No**

If you **vote for** adoption of the Constitution of the Russian Federation, **cross** the word "No" out. If you **vote against** adoption of the Constitution of the Russian Federation, **cross** the word "Yes" out.

A ballot that is published illegally, without a seal of the polling place election commission or without two signatures of the members of such commission, and also a ballot that has neither "yes" or "no" crossed out or has both words crossed out, will be considered an invalid ballot.

The process of voting for the deputies may seem complicated but is actually easy. The primary responsibility of the parliament is to make the laws. The new Russian parliament (Federal Assembly) will have two chambers: the lower chamber (State Duma), which will introduce the laws, and the upper chamber (the Federation Council), which will approve the laws. In order to obtain "good" laws, the lower chamber should consist of professional lawmakers and representatives of the main political parties.

To prevent the possibility of non-compliance with the law in one of the subjects of the Federation (which includes the Russian republics, oblasts, autonomous regions, Moscow and St. Petersburg), it is important that laws be passed by deputies elected from throughout the subjects of the Federation, since the laws might otherwise not take into account the special conditions of the different subjects.

## **HOW THE DEPUTIES WILL BE ELECTED**

All three ballots will have the same structure: The list of candidates (or names of the parties) will be in alphabetical order and next to each name of the candidate or party will be a small square. Each of the three ballots will also have a special line - "against all candidates" - next to which will also be a small square. The only task left to the voter is to mark any sign (a cross, a circle or check) in the box corresponding to the selected candidate or party.

**To the Federation Council (upper chamber)** Each voter selects two candidates (therefore, the voter marks two signs upon the ballot numbered 1). The two candidates who receive the most valid votes will win these seats in the Assembly.

**To the State Duma (lower chamber)** The electoral system is mixed: 225 deputies will be elected from one mandate [single member] constituencies and 225 from the General Federal [nationwide] constituency from lists of parties, electoral coalitions and political movements.

**To the election of the Deputies to the Duma by one mandate constituencies** The voting follows the same system as the elections to the Federation Council (except that on this ballot, numbered 3, the voter should choose and place a mark for only one candidate; here, the candidate district is much smaller than a subject of the Federation).

The system is called majoritarian because the candidate who receives the greatest number of votes [plurality] wins.

**To the election of the Deputies to the Duma - the representatives of the party** The other half of the deputies in the lower chamber will be elected by the "proportional" system. They have a special ballot (numbered 2). On this ballot you will find the names of the parties (or electoral coalitions) and names of the first three candidates of the party or coalition. There is also a small square next to the name of the party or coalition and candidates. You should know that the federal list of candidates for the deputies can be completely or partially divided among regional groups of candidates. In this case, information about the first three candidates, who on the list belong to the corresponding regional group of candidates, will be listed on the ballot. (The complete lists of the parties are published in "Rossijskaya Gazeta" and displayed at all the polling places). This ballot is different in that here the voters vote for the party (not for the person) and the constituency in this case is the whole Russian Federation (i. e. the list of candidates is the same in Moscow and Chukotka [the region in the far east of Russia]). The parties or coalitions will receive seats in the Assembly if they receive valid votes from more than 5% of all voters in Russia.

If one or more parties don't obtain 5% of the votes - they won't qualify for representatives in the Duma. To be fair to everyone, the distribution of the seats is made mathematically, not politically, and is determined proportionally, depending on how many votes each party obtained in the elections to the Duma.

The elections are considered invalid if the total number of valid ballots in a constituency is less than 25% of the number of registered voters.

The Central Election Commission may call the elections invalid if infractions found during the voting process cast doubt on the reliability of the results.

### **CANDIDATES, LISTS**

A candidate can nominate him/herself (called an "independent") or can be nominated through an organization [party or electoral coalition]. The role of supporting candidates is allowed only for those organizations officially registered by the Ministry of Justice.

An organization (party) can nominate a candidate in any territorial region. It can also promote a candidate to the entire Russian electorate - by nominating candidates through a party

list. To qualify, each party (coalition, etc.) must present to the CEC 100,000 signatures of citizens who support this party or coalition. Citizens who believe they can act as a deputy and have enough funds to undertake the election campaign can collect signatures amounting to 1% of the votes in their district to qualify as a candidate. However, a citizen cannot be both a candidate to the state Duma and to the Federation Council (a deputy in the lower chamber cannot combine his position with other responsibilities; a deputy in the upper chamber may continue serving in other positions).

## **FEDERAL ASSEMBLY**

### **FEDERATION COUNCIL (upper chamber) 178 deputies**

**Ballot #1** The ballot for elections to the Federation Council in two mandate constituency

Ivanov ☐  
Kazakov ☐  
Lebedev ☐  
Monin ☐  
Against all candidates ☐

1. On this ballot voters choose two representatives for each subject of the Federation from the list of candidates and mark for them (Moscow is a subject of the Federation and chooses two representatives to the Federation Council).

### **STATE DUMA (lower chamber) [450 deputies]**

#### **225 deputies from the lists of parties, electoral coalitions and movements**

**Ballot #2** The ballot for elections in the General Federal Constituency to the State Duma

##### **Electoral Coalition "ABC"**

(Sidorov, Petrov, Ivanov) ☐

##### **"BCA" Party**

(Vasiliev, Nikolaiev, Nikanorov) ☐

##### **Electoral Coalition "BAC"**

(Yegorov, Szarov, Kapustin) ☐

Against all candidates ☐

2. On this ballot voters mark the small square corresponding to their favorite party or coalition. The list of the parties or electoral coalitions will be the same in the entire Russian Federation.

#### **225 deputies in the territorial districts**

**Ballot #3** Ballot for elections in single mandate constituencies to the State Duma

Ilyin ☐  
Maruk ☐  
Nosov ☐  
Petrov ☐  
Tishkin ☐  
Against all candidates ☐

3. On this ballot voters choose the name of the candidate from the list provided (in Moscow it will be a representative from one of 15 electoral districts).

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE ELECTION  
CALL THE IFES OFFICE AT THE CENTRAL ELECTION COMMISSION  
TELEPHONE (OR FAX) 203 11 12**