

St. Petersburg Police Filmed Dragging Local Election Monitor as Critics Decry ‘Dirty’ Vote

September 13, 2019



Screenshot Dave Frenkel / Twitter

Police in St. Petersburg have been filmed dragging a local election monitor out of a building as observers accuse officials in Russia’s second-largest city of staging the “dirtiest” campaign in the country.

No official results have been declared in the five days since St. Petersburg held the municipal vote, leading some election commission members to [claim](#) that officials there are preparing falsifications. Election-day footage showed one observer being [punched](#) after flagging potential violations and reports said at least two commission members had been [attacked](#) Sunday.

Embed:

Ещё раз, чтобы не было ошибок, это муниципальный депутат другого округа — Автово, в нем сейчас не было выборов. Ещё он член политсовета местной справедливой России, он просто остался на ночь охранять бюллетени по договорённости с полицией <https://t.co/1TMZFV5bcJ>

— Dave Frenkel (@merr1k) [September 12, 2019](#)

A video posted late Thursday [showed](#) police officers dragging municipal deputy Ilya Shmakov from one of the St. Petersburg commissions as he accused them of “complicity” in allegedly falsifying election results there.

“I’m defending democratic elections,” Shmakov said as five officers carried him out of the building.

Police released Shmakov after charging him with violating lawful orders, a misdemeanor punishable by 15 days of administrative arrest, photojournalist David Frenkel [tweeted](#) after midnight Friday.

Related article: [Russian Police Drag Opposition Candidate Onto Street on Couch to be Detained](#)

News outlets have singled out St. Petersburg’s vote as “the dirtiest” out of the dozens of Russian cities and regions that staged local elections Sunday.

Acting St. Petersburg governor Alexander Beglov was [confirmed](#) the winner of the gubernatorial race following a controversial campaign that critics said lacked real competition. Beglov is among 16 pro-Kremlin incumbents or acting governors nationwide who [avoided](#) runoffs by securing first-round victories.

In Moscow, opposition leader Alexei Navalny claimed his tactical voting strategy succeeded in ousting pro-Kremlin incumbents from the City Duma after election officials barred several of his allies and other opposition candidates from running.

Original url:

<https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2019/09/13/st-petersburg-police-filmed-dragging-local-election-monitor-as-critics-decry-dirty-vote-a67276>