

Medvedev Fires Arkhangelsk Governor

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Arkhangelsk Governor Ilya Mikhalechuk was [dismissed](#) on Friday by President Dmitry Medvedev, becoming the second governor to lose his job after United Russia posted poor results in the regions in last month's State Duma elections.

In a statement, the Kremlin said Mikhalechuk resigned on "his own free will." It did not elaborate on the reasons for his departure.

Mikhalechuk follows Vologda Governor Vyacheslav Pozdnyakov in leaving office following a poor showing in those regions for United Russia in the State Duma elections. In the Arkhangelsk region, United Russia won just 31.86 percent of the vote, below most other regions.

But senior United Russia official Sergei Neverov [said](#) Mikhalechuk's resignation was linked to high tariffs for housing and utilities services in the region, not the elections.

Last fall, "we drew the head of state's attention to that problem," Neverov said in a statement on United Russia's web site.

Medvedev appointed Mikhalechuk governor in 2008. In his place, Medvedev appointed Igor

Orlov, the ex-head of the Yantar shipbuilding plant, to serve as acting governor.

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