

Nearly 90% of Russians Are Unwilling to Protest, Poll Says

April 16, 2018



Yevgeny Feldman

An overwhelming majority of Russians polled by the independent Levada Center have said that they are unwilling to take part in political protests.

Mass political protests are unlikely to break out in the next year, largely due to President Vladimir Putin's high approval rating, according to an influential Minchenko Consulting Group report [released](#) this month. The report was published after opposition leader Alexei Navalny called for nationwide protests on May 5, two days ahead of President Vladimir Putin's inauguration.

Related article: [Navalny Calls for Russia Protests Before Putin's Inauguration](#)

Eighty-six percent of Russians [surveyed](#) by Levada late last month said they would not participate in political protests, against 8 percent who said they would.

Another 88 percent said they have not noticed any protests taking place in their town or district over the past several months.

“The polls most likely indicate that people don’t see any protests, while local demonstrations simply remain unnoticed by the majority,” Levada sociologist Denis Volkov [told](#) the RBC business portal on Monday.

Referring to protests after the deadly mall fire in Kemerovo and anti-landfill demonstrations outside Moscow, Volkov said that “people are more likely to seek answers from the authorities than make political demands.”

“There are problems, but there is no inclination to blame the central government, especially if the authorities try to respond and at least partially satisfy the demands of citizens,” he was cited as saying.

The results track with past Levada surveys, which [found](#) that four-fifths of Russians would not have protested the March 2018 presidential elections, while just one-third of Muscovites who voted against a controversial housing demolition program said they would [participate](#) in street protests.

The latest survey was conducted among 1,600 Russians in 52 Russian regions between March 23 and March 27.

Original url:

<https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2018/04/16/nearly-90-percent-russians-unwilling-protest-poll-says-a61174>