

Putin Reappoints Administration, Retaining Kremlin's Core

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President Vladimir Putin has reappointed virtually his entire administration in a salvo of decrees, including Chief of Staff Anton Vaino, spokesman Dmitry Peskov and the Kremlin's one-time "gray cardinal" Vladislav Surkov, but [dismissed](#) his internet development adviser German Klimenko.

Putin was re-elected to his fourth overall term in March on the promise of a broad political "[breakthrough](#)," and Russia's elevation into one of the world's five biggest economies. Some international monitors and local opposition members complained of ballot stuffing and other irregularities during the election.

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His chief of staff Vaino was [described](#) as an efficient and loyal administrator when Putin

named him to the top Presidential Administration post in 2016. Also in the new administration will be Vaino's two deputies Alexei [Gromov](#) and Sergei [Kiriyenko](#).

Peskov will [keep](#) his dual roles of Putin's press secretary and deputy chief of staff, a post he shares with Vladimir [Ostrovenco](#) and Magomedsalam [Magomedov](#). Peskov has been at Putin's side in various capacities for the [entirety](#) of the president's 18 years in power.

Despite [rumors](#) of his ouster last month, Surkov was [reappointed](#) as presidential aide, one of nine aides that include [three new names](#). One of the newcomers is the deputy head of the Federal Security Service (FSB), Dmitry [Shalkov](#).

Putin [said](#) at an annual call-in show earlier this month that there were so many [familiar](#) faces because new bureaucrats -- "even if they were perfect administrators and well-trained professionals" -- would need at least two years to carry out his agenda.

"We do not have these two years," he said last week.

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