

Putin Kicks Off Annual Phone-In As Domestic, Foreign Issues Swirl

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President Vladimir Putin began his televised phone-in session with the Russian public on Thursday at noon Moscow time amid a backdrop of growing dissatisfaction at home and stormy relations abroad.

The marathon Q&A session has become a yearly tradition during Putin's nearly two decades in power, giving the Russian president a chance to shape narratives around pressing issues. With Russians' [trust](#) in Putin at its lowest level since 2006, heightened attention will be placed on the phone-in this year.

Related article: [Putin's Annual Marathon Phone-In Will Focus His Attention Homeward](#)

More than 1 million questions had been submitted ahead of the carefully choreographed show, which is expected to last for up to four hours, organizers [told](#) Russian news agencies.

Putin is expected to field questions on issues including pensions, social programs, ecology and healthcare, the state-run Perviy Kanal (Channel One) television station that broadcasts the event [said](#) Monday.

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