

Russians' Trust in Putin Hits 14-Year Low – State Poll

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The latest poll results come as Russian authorities — and Putin in particular — have faced criticism for their response to the coronavirus pandemic. **Valery Sharifulin / TASS**

Russians' trust in President Vladimir Putin has fallen to a 14-year low, the state-funded VTsIOM polling agency [said](#) Monday.

The latest poll results come as Russian authorities — and Putin in particular — have faced criticism for their response to the coronavirus pandemic, which many see as providing insufficient support to businesses and workers. Before the coronavirus hit Russia, Putin had been pursuing a series of constitutional amendments that would allow him to stay president until 2036.

Related article: [Trust in Putin Doubles After Kremlin Criticizes Poll](#)

Just 28.3% of Russians surveyed by VTsIOM in March named Putin when asked to name a politician whom they trust, the lowest percentage since the pollster began asking the question

in January 2006.

Valery Fyodorov, the head of VTsIOM, [told](#) Forbes Russia that respondents are more likely to say they trust Putin if asked the question in multiple-choice format rather than the “open-ended” format that VTsIOM normally uses.

For example, when asked to give a yes-or-no answer to whether or not they trust Putin in April, 69.8% of respondents said yes, he said.

“The open-ended question is more about memory and information activity than about trust, unfortunately,” Fyodorov said. “In general, I would stop asking this question at all, but if I stop asking it, they will start suspecting me of some terrible things.”

In its May 2019 survey, VTsIOM said that trust in Putin had reached a 13-year low of 31.7%. Following criticism from the Kremlin, VTsIOM [said](#) it would change its polling methodology, and its revised results showed trust in Putin skyrocket to 72.3%.

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