The Moscow Times
30 YEARS
INDEPENDENT NEWS FROM RUSSIA

Car Trunks, Tree Stumps and Playgrounds: The Weirdest Locations for Russia's Constitutional Vote

June 26, 2020



Twitter

From Thursday through July 1, Russians will go to the polls to cast their vote of approval — or rejection — on a set of constitutional amendments that would allow President Vladimir Putin to extend his rule through 2036.

If passed, the amendments would make the first changes to Russia's basic law since 1993. In addition to adding various social, legal and economic guarantees to the Constitution, the amendments also "zero out" Putin's term limit, allowing him to serve two more six-year terms.

The referendum has been heavily promoted in the weeks leading up to it and millions of people are expected to take part. While residents of Moscow and Nizhny Novgorod can vote online, the rest of the country is required to vote in person. As a result, polling stations are being set up everywhere...and we mean *everywhere.*

Here's a look at some of the most unusual, surprising and just plain weird polling places where Russians are handing in their ballots:

Take a trip down the slide, then place your vote in the box.

Embed:



Посмотреть эту публикацию в Instagram

Публикация от Грошева Анастасия (@groshevaanastasia) 25 Июн 2020 в 4:47 PDT

No word on if this tree stump was used to make the paper for these ballots.

Embed:

> ААААААА 2020 год, жителям сверхдержавы предлагают голосовать на пеньке у колодца!
>
> Так вот о чём поправка про сохранение русских традиций! pic.twitter.com/kL9zYNNUgH
>
> — Штаб Навального в Брянске (@teamnavalny_brk) June 25, 2020

From the concrete bench to the transparent container for submitted ballots, there's a lot to discuss here.

Embed:

> Когда нет стола, можно проголосовать и на камне pic.twitter.com/LgVpVWQ7Q6
>
> — Andrey Zakharov (@skazal_on) June 25, 2020

In Russia, you can cast your vote in an outdoor tent...

Embed:

> А вот ещё отличный избирательный участок. Так выглядит анонсированное голосование в палатках. Как видите, здесь строгий контроль, фальсификация невозможна. Ваш голос может иметь решающее значение! pic.twitter.com/H4GCYRMq9n
>
> — Alexey Navalny (@navalny) June 25, 2020

...on a public bus...

Embed:

> А вот ещё одно прогрессивное решение. Как вам? pic.twitter.com/mqQ6pB661Z
>
> — Штаб Навального в Твери (@teamnavalnytver) June 25, 2020

...on a football field...

Embed:

> А как вам «избирательный участок» на футбольном поле? pic.twitter.com/kD4fzqYGb2
>
> — Штаб Навального в Омске (@teamnavalny_om) June 25, 2020

...or even in the trunk of a stranger's car.

Embed:

> Car boot voting on Putin's constitutional amendments in Vladivostok pic.twitter.com/fnu29QSBHt
>
> — Francis Scarr (@francska1) June 25, 2020

This polling place in a residential courtyard is of the blink-and-you'll-miss-it variety.

Embed:

> А как вам такое? Избирательный участок прямо на скамейке! Обнуление в каждый дом! pic.twitter.com/ktPgQDdHny
>
> — Штаб Навального в Краснодаре (@teamnavalny_kd) June 25, 2020

At least it's easy to practice social distancing at this polling place in the woods.

Embed:

> Да, многие знают и читают меня. Вы от этого теперь никогда не отмоетесь. pic.twitter.com/a89xZIPgnj
>
> — Ivan Zhdanov (@IoannZH) June 25, 2020

This playground carousel isn't really what we were picturing when we talked about "mobilizing voters."

Embed:

> Каруселъ! pic.twitter.com/Kucd94rs0H
>
> — Daniil Ken ◙ (@daniilken) June 25, 2020

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