The Moscow Times
30 YEARS
INDEPENDENT NEWS FROM RUSSIA

U.S. Election System Archaic, Says Russia

By AFP

November 12, 2020

Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov **Foreign Ministry**

The U.S. system of electing presidents is archaic and distorts the will of the people, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on Wednesday.

Joe Biden won the popular vote by more than 5 million ballots in the U.S. last week but that translated to an extremely tight margin in the electoral college that ultimately decides the president.

Related article: Russia Won't Congratulate Biden on U.S. Election Victory Before Official Results – Kremlin

Compared to other significant countries in the world, the U.S. electoral system is "probably the most archaic," Lavrov said.

During an online press conference on Thursday he said the system "significantly distorts the will of the population."

Incumbent Donald Trump has refused to concede, instead mounting a series of legal challenges over the results.

Russian President Vladimir Putin — unlike many world leaders — has not congratulated Biden on the win because of the court disputes.

Putin by comparison sent a congratulatory note to Trump in 2016 within an hour of his claim of victory.

Lavrov on Wednesday explained that Russia could not congratulate Biden until official results were announced.

"The State Department has also not yet recognized the presidential election," he said, noting that U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has called for patience until all of the ballots are counted.

Putin has already won four presidential elections and recently changed the Constitution to allow him to remain president until 2036.

Biden will be the fourth U.S. president since Putin came to power in 2000.

Original url:
https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2020/11/12/us-election-system-archaic-says-russia-a72031