

# Putin Signs Law Paving Way to Rule Until 2036

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If he remains president until 2036, Putin will surpass Josef Stalin as the longest-serving leader of Russia since Peter the Great. [Kremlin.ru](#)

Russian President Vladimir Putin has [signed](#) legislation formally granting him the right to stay in power until 2036.

Putin's second consecutive and fourth overall presidential term ends in 2024, the year when Russia's previous Constitution would have required him to step down.

But an overhauled Constitution that Russians approved in a nationwide vote last year allows Putin to run for two more six-year presidential terms. If elected both times, he would remain president until 2036, surpassing Josef Stalin as the longest-serving leader of Russia since Peter the Great.

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The 68-year-old signed a law Monday that resets his number of terms served, allowing him to extend his 20-year rule until he turns 83.

Former President Dmitry Medvedev, who served in 2008-2012 when Putin was constitutionally mandated to step down after his first two consecutive terms, is also granted the right to run two more times. Putin served as prime minister during Medvedev's presidency.

Critics slammed last summer's vote on the sweeping constitutional [reforms](#) — which contained populist economic measures and enshrined conservative values in Russia's basic law — as a pretext to allow Putin to become "president for life."

Putin has previously [said](#) he hasn't yet decided whether to run for president again, saying 2024 is still far off.

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