

Russian Election Authority Gives Presidential Hopeful Nadezhdin Extra Day to Dispute Signature Flaws

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Boris Nadezhdin. **Boris Nadezhdin / Telegram**

Russia's Central Election Commission (CEC) on Tuesday [agreed](#) to give pro-peace presidential hopeful Boris Nadezhdin an extra day to resolve thousands of errors in endorsement signatures before it decides whether to officially register him as a candidate in the March presidential election.

Just hours earlier, Nadezhdin [said](#) he had asked the CEC to give him more time to sort through thousands of signatures submitted by his campaign team that election officials say contain flaws. The presidential hopeful had requested for the review to be postponed until Saturday.

"Showing goodwill and taking into account the requests of the remaining nominated but not registered candidates who submitted signatures... today [CEC] decided to postpone from Feb. 7 to Feb. 8 the meeting... to consider the registration of all remaining nominated candidates," election chief Ella Pamfilova said in a statement.

"Since the share of invalid signatures identified by experts turned out to be quite significant... it will take more time to familiarize candidates with the conclusion of the working group," she added.

Related article: ['Hope for Change' or 'Kremlin Spoiler': Who Is Boris Nadezhdin, the Presidential Hopeful Uniting Pro-Peace Russians?](#)

Nadezhdin had said earlier that it was "absolutely impossible" for his team to verify the volume of allegedly flawed signatures by the time he is scheduled to meet with election officials on Wednesday. Overall, his campaign submitted 105,000 signatures to the CEC.

"[The postponement] will allow me to examine the complaints about signatures and better prepare my objections," Nadezhdin wrote.

He had said his campaign would need to prove the validity of 4,500 signatures to be eligible to run in the presidential race.

His campaign [suggested](#) that some of the flaws found in the signature papers were due to errors in the CEC's digitization of endorsees' personal information written by hand.

Nadezhdin, who hopes to run as a candidate from the Civic Initiative party, has seen a surge of support over the past month as scores of Russians seek to safely express their opposition to the war in Ukraine.

The Kremlin has said it does not view Nadezhdin as a rival to President Vladimir Putin, who is widely expected to win his fifth overall term in office.

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