

Today in History: March 26

By [The Moscow Times](#)

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Vladimir Putin holding up his presidential candidacy card after registering to run in early elections at the Central Elections Commission on Feb. 15, 2000. **Igor Tabakov**

Thirteen years ago today, on March 26, 2000, Vladimir Putin was elected to his first term as president in a snap election called after the New Year's Eve resignation of Boris Yeltsin. Putin, a political unknown until Yeltsin tapped him as prime minister in summer 1999, won in the first round of voting with 53 percent.

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