

# Meet Russia's Telepathic Duma Candidate

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**Pixabay**

Starting tomorrow, Russia's parliamentary campaigns come to a halt, as the country observes a "Day of Silence" ahead of voting on Sunday. In honor of another political race nearing its end, the Meduza news website has awarded its [prize](#) for "most unexpected turn in 20 seconds" to Vasily Dmitrienko, who's running for a seat in the Duma as the regional head of the Yabloko opposition party in the Khabarovsk Krai.

In a campaign video released earlier this month, Dmitrienko begins ordinarily enough, calling on voters to unite around his candidacy to raise living standards. Then, quite suddenly, he announces a special ability: "The fundamental difference between me and the other candidates is that I'm a specialist in providing telepathic video communications between all life on Earth and a higher intelligence."

Party officials at Yabloko say they don't see any harm in Dmitrienko's claim, calling it a publicity stunt. "Generally speaking, other than the phrase about telepathy, he's absolutely fit

for the job and is always welcome at Yabloko,” one of his colleagues [told](#) the AmurMedia news website.

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