

# VALUES AND ELECTORAL BEHAVIOR OF RUSSIAN CITIZENS AT PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS (2012, 2018): CONSTANCY AND VARIABILITY

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## Abstract

Based on the empirical data of two sociological studies conducted in accordance with the uniform methodology using the personal questionnaire method in April 2012 and May 2018 (almost immediately after the election of the President of the Russian Federation), the article analyzes the structure of values of Russian urban voters, influencing their attitude to participation in the presidential elections and to the competing candidates, as well as the nature of the changes that took place in the structure during 6 years. The socio-economic and socio-political conditions in Russia in 2012 and in 2018 and their influence on the structure of values of urban voters are considered in the article. The article reveals the reasons why the fewer urban voters participated in the elections and a much larger number of them voted for Vladimir Putin when the economic situation of voters deteriorated in 2012 compared to 2018.

It is revealed that within the framework of the “materialistic” value structure of urban voters, the value of material wealth does not play a significant role when voters choose the future development of Russia. The value of unselfish patriotism and family is in the first place. The difficult political conditions in Russia in 2018 gave the voters patriotism a militant character that was absent in 2012.

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