

## **Yekaterinburg Diocese says won't build church in city park if residents vote against it**



The Diocese of Yekaterinburg is prepared to agree with the results of a proposed public opinion survey related to the construction of a new church in the center of Yekaterinburg should residents of the city vote against the project.

“Absolutely,” head of the department on church liaison with society and the mass media Archpriest Maxim Minyaylo, told reporters on Thursday when asked whether the diocese would follow people’s will if most residents vote against the construction of a church in the city park.

“We have agreed that the results of the survey will also have judicial and practical consequences. Therefore, we are counting on this poll. We are preparing for it. We will be working together with the entire city [...] It is highly important that, no matter whether this church is built in the park or not, which I don’t rule out, people should know what was supposed to be built there. And only after that will they vote impartially,” the archpriest said.

Unauthorized protests against the construction of St. Catherine’s Church in the park on Oktyabrskaya Square in the center of Yekaterinburg began on May 13. Dozens were detained. More than 30 were arrested.

The city and regional authorities are holding meetings and talks with both

supporters and opponents of the project. The sides are discussing options for a public opinion survey on whether the church should be built at the abovementioned site.

Poll results published by the Russian Public Opinion Research Center (VCIOM) on May 22 show that 58% of Yekaterinburg residents interviewed by VCIOM do not want the church to be built in this park.

— Source: [Interfax](#)