

Soukup and the 90/66 rule

Just as God helps those who help themselves, the Constitution helps those who know how to read it. [Under Art. 56](#), new presidential elections must be held within 90 days if the office becomes prematurely vacant for whatever reason. If the resignation (or death) of the incumbent president were timed properly, even an uncooperative president of the Senate could be forced to announce a shorter campaign period, since elections must start on a Friday. As we [pointed out](#) in Jan. 2013, [Para. 21 of the implementation law for the presidential election](#) requires that candidates submit their bids at least 66 days before the election takes place, which gives candidates in a special presidential election a maximum of 24 days to gather the required signatures, and potentially only 17 days.

Politicians, political scientists and journalists who are splitting their sides with laughter over Jaromír Soukup's announced intention in April 2019 to run for Czech president in 2023 should study the Constitution and decide whether their candidates would have a fighting chance if Soukup knew something they didn't.

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