

# [***Billionaire Former Chilean President Piñera Dies In Helicopter Crash***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6B8R-6061-JBCM-F00V-00000-00&context=1516831)

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**Length:** 291 words

**Byline:** Zachary Folk, Forbes Staff

**Highlight:** Piñera s helicopter reportedly plunged about 40 meters into a lake.

**Body**

**Topline**

Sebastian Piñera, a Chilean politician who served as president of the South American nation twice, died on Tuesday after a helicopter he was reportedly flying crashed into a lake in southern Chile.

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Piñera s helicopter reportedly plunged about 40 meters into a lake.

AFP via Getty Images

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**Key Facts**

Piñera s helicopter crashed near the town of Lago Ranco on the shores of the lake of the same name, Chile s Interior Minister Carolina Toha confirmed toReuters.

The helicopter, which Piñera was reportedly piloting himself, plunged about 40 meters deep into the lake, Chilean newspaperLa Tercerareported, and the former president s body was recovered from the lake by the Chilean Navy.

Three other people traveling in the former president s helicopter were rescued by first responders and are alive, Toha said.

President Gabriel Boric has not commented on the death of his predecessor yet.

**Key Background**

Piñera, 74, was a wealthy businessman and investor before becoming involved in Chilean ***politics*** in the 1990s. Courting votes as a center-right moderate, he became the first right-leaning candidate in 2010 to win the presidency in Chile since the overthrow of far-right dictator Augusto Pinochet in 1990. But his second term, starting in 2018, was marred bymass protestsagainst inequity and riots against the government, which eventually led to Chileans voting in a national referendum for a new constitution, though theyhave yet to agreeon what that constitution should say. .

**Forbes Valuation**

We value Piñera and his family snet worthon the day of his death at $2.7 billion. He built his wealth through investments in credit card companies and the country s formerly state-run LATAM Airlines.

**Further Reading**

**Load-Date:** February 7, 2024

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