

FRENCH POLITICAL PARTIES



Left and right

This clear-cut division emerged during the French revolution

In the « Assemblée Nationale » :

- The ones on the right of the president stood up for the king
- The ones on the left were in favor of a democracy and against the absolute monarchy

The mainstream right

The "conservative" party is now known as "**Les Républicains**" the Republicans.

The FIRST party leader Nicolas Sarkozy engineered a name change in 2015, designed to distance the new party from the old **UMP - Union pour un Mouvement Populaire**, which had been in turmoil since the 2012 election defeat.

(The UMP emerged in the second round of the 2002 presidential election)

The other center - right party is the **MoDem**, or **Mouvement Démocratique** formed in 2007 when its leader, François Bayrou (Pau's mayor until 2026) and his supporters defected from the former centrist party UDF which finally disappeared. It backed Macron in 2017 and 2022.





Bruno Retailleau is the upcoming candidate for this party

The far right

The far right in French politics is occupied by 3 parties
the **Rassemblement National** (formerly **Front National** founded by Jean Marie Le Pen) and currently led since 2020 by his daughter Marine le Pen)

Another small and more recent sovereignist party, is **Debout la France** (Stand up France), led by former Gaullist parliamentarian Nicolas Dupont-Aignan.

For the 2022 Presidential election, the political geography of the far right was disturbed by the arrival on the scene of another far right candidate **Eric Zemmour and its group “ reconquête”**



**DEBOUT
LA FRANCE!**



RECONQUÊTE!



The center ground

Emmanuel Macron and "Renaissance"

Emmanuel Macron, president of France since 2017

Indeed, he had never held elected office before, having been brought into government as Economics minister by Socialist president François Hollande

"**LREM**" his first party in 2017, was changed to **Renaissance** in 2022.

Of more recent creation, the "Alliance Centriste" is a centre-right party and is led by Jean Arthuis

En Marche !



The left

The main party of the left is the **Parti Socialiste**, or Socialist Party (PS)

In 2022 Anne Hidalgo ran for the SP in the presidential election

Historically, the other main party of the French left had been the **Parti Communiste**, or communist party (**PCF**). The leader is Fabien Roussel

The other main party of the centre left is **Europe Ecologie Les Verts**, or the **Green** Party. Their candidate for the 2022 presidential elections was Yannick Jadot



The far left



OLIVIER FAURE today's 1st
secretary of the socialist party



RAPHAEL GLUCKSMANN leader for
European and legislative elections

Lutte Ouvrière (Workers' Struggle) is an old (70's) far left party. Its leader is Nathalie Arthaud

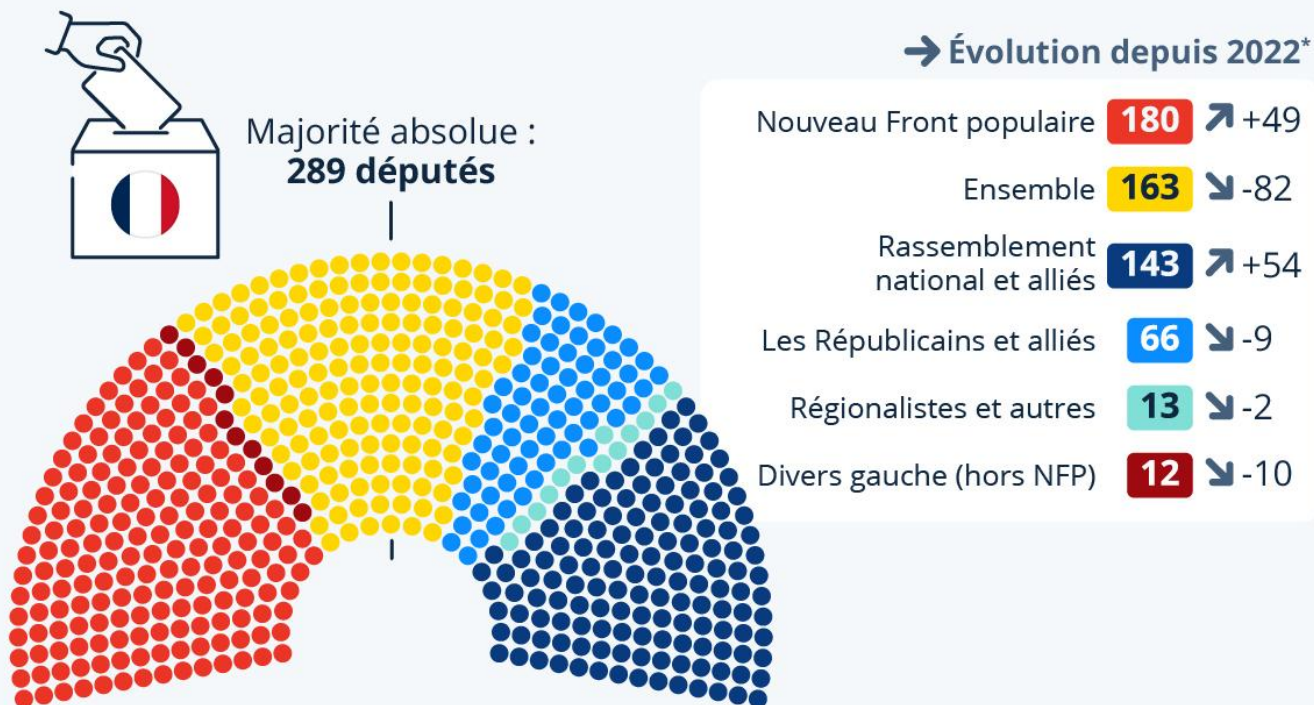
More recently, with the ageing of their historic leaders, these parties have given way to newer structures like the **NPA (Nouveau Parti Anticapitaliste)** founded in 2009

For the 2017 AND THE 2022 elections ex-Socialist Jean-Luc Mélenchon campaigned in the under the banner "**La France Insoumise**" (**Unsubmissive France**), an anti-capitalist anti-system anti-European movement of the far left.



Le visage de la nouvelle Assemblée nationale

Répartition des sièges obtenus par formation politique à l'issue des élections législatives 2024 en France



* Pour le Nouveau Front populaire, l'évolution est calculée par rapport aux sièges de la NUPES.

Source : ministère de l'Intérieur



The NEW POPULAR FRONT was an alliance in the National Assembly for the 2024 legislative elections between

- the socialist Party
- the communist party
- Unsubmissive France
- the green party

It quickly dissolved after

FAR LEFT

Workers' struggle
NPA
Unsubmitted
France (LFI)

LEFT

Socialist Party
Communist Party
The Greens

RIGHT

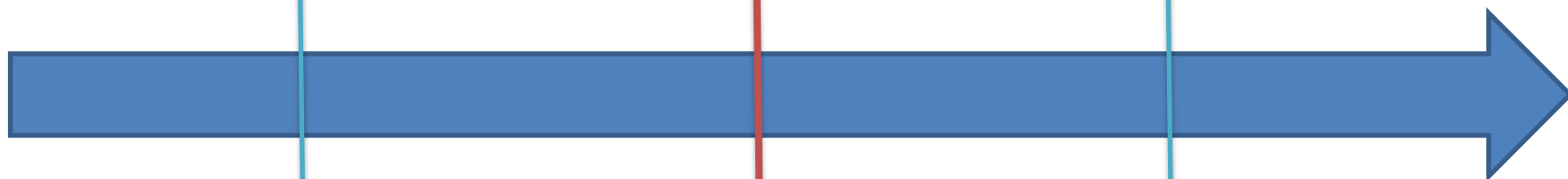
The Republicans
Debout la
république

FAR RIGHT

National rally
Reconquest
The patriots

CENTER

Renaissance
The centrist alliance
The Modem





Nathalie Arthaud

Workers' Struggle



Fabien Roussel

French Communist Party



Emmanuel Macron

La République En Marche!



Jean Lassalle

Résistons!



Marine Le Pen

National Rally



Éric Zemmour

Reconquête!



Jean-Luc Mélenchon

La France Insoumise



Anne Hidalgo

Socialist Party



Yannick Jadot

Europe Ecology – The



Valérie Pécresse

The Republicans



Philippe Poutou

New Anticapitalist Party



Nicolas Dupont-Aignan

Debout la France

CANDIDATES IN THE 2022 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

SOME PROPOSITIONS IN THE 2022 PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN

FRENCH NATIONALITY

Marine LE PEN (Rassemblement National) abolish right of soil and control immigration

Éric ZEMMOUR (Reconquête !) zero immigration, no right of soil, no more family regrouping

Nicolas DUPONT-AIGNAN (Debout la France) Control of immigration and nationality given providing a good level in French (test)

Valérie Pécresse (LR): end of right of soil

Yannick JADOT (EELV): Keep the system as it is

Jean-Luc MÉLENCHON (La France Insoumise)
Fabien ROUSSEL (PCF,)

Integrate undocumented workers,
keep the same system of right of soil

WAGES

Marine LE PEN (Rassemblement National) increase all wages by 10%

Éric ZEMMOUR (Reconquête !) no tax on overtime

Nicolas DUPONT-AIGNAN (Debout la France) increase wages by 8%

Valérie PÉCRESSE (LR) increase wages by 10%

Anne HIDALGO (Parti socialiste) higher wages by branch

Yannick JADOT (EELV) higher wages by branch

Jean-Luc MÉLENCHON (La France insoumise) increase all wages

Fabien ROUSSEL (PCF,) increase public servants' wages by 30%

Nathalie ARTHAUD (LO) increase all wages by 300 euros

Philippe POUTOU (NPA) increase all wages by 400 euros

SMIC

Marine LE PEN (Rassemblement National)	NO CHANGE
Éric ZEMMOUR (Reconquête !)	NO CHANGE BUT LOWER INCOME TAX
Nicolas DUPONT-AIGNAN (Debout la France)	SAME AS ZEMMOUR
Emmanuel MACRON (En Marche !)	NO CHANGE
Jean LASSALLE (Résistons !)	1400 EUROS
Anne HIDALGO (Parti socialiste)	INCREASE BY 15%
Yannick JADOT (EELV)	1500 EUROS
Jean-Luc MÉLENCHON (La France insoumise)	1400 EUROS
Fabien ROUSSEL (PCF,)	1500 EUROS
Nathalie ARTHAUD (LO)	2000 EUROS
Philippe POUTOU (NPA)	1800 EUROS

EDUCATION

Marine LE PEN (Rassemblement National)	Lower number of kids per class
Éric ZEMMOUR (Reconquête !)	Favor the highest level selective schools
Nicolas DUPONT-AIGNAN (Debout la France)	increase education budget by 45%
Valérie PÉCRESSE (LR)	10 000 new teacher jobs
Emmanuel MACRON (En Marche !)	Improve teachers' training? Hire more teachers
Anne HIDALGO (Parti socialiste)	allow a more open access to university
Yannick JADOT (EELV)	75 000 new teacher jobs
Jean-Luc MÉLENCHON (La France insoumise)	no more than 19 kids per class

ALL AGREE TO INCREASE TEACHERS' WAGES

MINIMUM INCOME

Éric ZEMMOUR (Reconquête !)	no minimum income for foreigners
Nicolas DUPONT-AIGNAN (Debout la France)	minimum income but work in return
Valérie PÉCRESSE (LR)	Minimum income but work 15 hours a week in return

Jean LASSALLE (Résistons !)	minimum income for 18-25 years old as well
Emmanuel MACRON (En Marche !)	Minimum income but work return

Anne HIDALGO (Parti socialiste)	minimum income for the 18-25 as well minimum pension 1000 euros
Yannick JADOT (EELV)	minimum income for the 18-25 as well

Jean-Luc MÉLENCHON (La France insoumise)	minimum income for all ages
Fabien ROUSSEL (PCF,)	minimum income for the 18-25 as well
Nathalie ARTHAUD (LO)	minimum income 2000 euros from 18

RIGHT TO VOTE

Nicolas DUPONT-AIGNAN (Debout la France) count « vote blanc »

Jean LASSALLE (Résistons !)

Count « vote blanc »

Emmanuel MACRON (En Marche !)

No change

Anne HIDALGO (Parti socialiste)

right to vote at 16

Yannick JADOT (EELV)

right to vote at 16

Jean-Luc MÉLENCHON

vote at 16 and right to vote for foreigners in local elections

Nathalie ARTHAUD (LO)

Right to vote to foreigners

Philippe POUTOU (NPA)

Right to vote for foreigners

Fabien ROUSSEL (PC)

Right to vote to foreigners

CANDIDATES AND PROGRAMS

I/ WHO IS MORE LIKELY TO RUN FOR
PRESIDENCY IN 2027?

Who is running in France's 2027 presidential election ?



Declared candidates



Expected candidates



Possible candidates



Many politicians have announced a candidacy, but they are likely to go into primaries alongside other party candidates

The right-wing Les Républicains have already decided on **Bruno Retailleau**(former minister of the interior in 2024-2025) .

The Socialists, Greens, and Communists performed well in the March 2026 mayoral elections after forming an alliance, and may do so again for the presidential election by uniting behind a single candidate.

Several former La France Insoumise (**Jean-Luc Melenchon's** party) members have formed their own parties and intend to run in 2027 (although they will likely drop out of the race or support another candidate in order not to split the vote):
François Rufin (Debout!) **Clémentine Autain** (L' Après)

In the far left, there are Workers' struggle with **Nathalie Arthaud** and The Newly Anticapitalist Party with **Philippe Poutou**.

Fabien Roussel's communist party could join the Socialists or run alone like in 2022.

In the centre, **Edouard Philippe and his party HORIZONS** has performed well in recent polls, and in some circles is seen as the second most popular candidate behind the Rassemblement National's candidate (both **Marine Le Pen and Jordan Bardella**).

Gabriel Attal (Renaissance= formerly la république en marche) is also popular as he is young and was France's former prime minister.

On the right, Les Républicains (**Bruno Retailleau former minister of the interior in 2024-2025**) are expected to run their own candidate and not enter any alliance.

Far-right groups such as **Eric Ciotti's** Union des droites pour la République (formerly he was from " les republicains) are likely to back the Rassemblement National.

Indeed, fringe and extremist groups on the far-right and far-left run their own candidates but struggle to attain more than around 1% of the vote.

RECENT SCANDALS

Among all the discussed topics in the election, corruption among politicians will be certainly a major one.

2 cases seem to show It's a burning issue

two well known and important politicians have been recently sentenced to prison along with a large fine which is unprecedented in French politics

NICOLAS SARKOZY

The 2020 trial in France for the former French President [Nicolas Sarkozy](#) dealt with allegations that he bribed a judge with a retirement package in return for information on an investigation into his alleged campaign finance violations.

Indeed he passed the 22 million euros cap, which is illegal. He was also accused to have financed his 2007 campaign with the help of dictator Gaddafi.

The trial opened on 24 November 2020

NICOLAS SARKOZY

He was sentenced to three years in jail for corruption.

Two years of this sentence are suspended, and one to be served in prison.

Sarkozy appealed, suspending the ruling.

On 17 May 2023, Sarkozy, was convicted on appeal and given a three-year sentence

He appealed to the [Court of Cassation](#)

NICOLAS SARKOZY

In 2026, Nicolas Sarkozy has become the first French ex-president to go to jail.

He was jailed but very quickly released (20 days) and his sentence was changed into house arrest with electronic tag .

Indeed, decision of the court was based on article 144 of France's criminal code, which states that release should be the general rule pending appeal, while detention remains the exception.

MARINE LE PEN

Twenty-seven members of the National Rally party, including its leader Marine Le Pen, and her father Jean-Marie, were accused of having hired people as European Parliament assistants between 2004 and 2016 to work for the political party while being paid with French public funds.

The French courts indicted several members of the National Front (FN) for embezzlement of public funds.

Current-day party leader Jordan Bardella, despite serving as a parliamentary assistant in 2015, was not charged in this case

MARINE LE PEN

The damages in the case were estimated at €2.9 million.

Marine Le Pen received a sentence of four years in prison, two of which were to be served under electronic tagging.

She was also fined €100,000 and given five years of disqualification (*inéligibilité*) with immediate enforcement without waiting for appeal.

This sentence prevented her from running for office until 2030, including the 2027 French presidential election

Twelve of the twenty-four convicted **appealed** the decision, including Le Pen.

MARINE LE PEN

The Paris appeal court has upheld Marine Le Pen's conviction for misusing EU funds but **shortened her sentence**.

A five-year ban on holding public office has been reduced and backdated to March 2025, and the court said it now considered the penalty had already been served.

However, the leader of the hard-right National Rally (RN) has been given a one-year term wearing an electronic ankle tag under house arrest, although that would not necessarily stop her running either.

She appealed to the “**cour de cassation**” which **delays the serving of her sentence** and she announced her candidacy to the election.