

French Elections: Far Right Leads Amid Political Realignment; Second Round Awaited

Under the leadership of Marine Le Pen and Jordan Bardella, the French parliamentary elections have seen a surge for the right National Rally (RN) with 34.2% of the vote in the first round. This outcome indicates a shift away from traditional centrist and left-wing dominance. The left-wing New Popular Front (NPF) followed with 29.1%, while President Macron's centrist coalition secured 21.5%, indicating discontent among the voters. Following the election results, members of the New Popular Front and Ensemble urged voters to prevent the National Rally from winning a majority. On 30 Jun, French Prime Minister Gabriel Attal warned that the far right was now at the "gates of power" and said that "not one single vote" should go to the National Rally in the second round. Candidates have until the end of 2 Jul to withdraw from the second round, leading to intense negotiations on strategies to defeat the National Rally in numerous constituencies.

Macron's Snap Election decision, following setbacks in the European Parliament elections held on 06 to 09 Jun 2024, has backfired. The swift election campaign and considerable voter turnout of 66.7% emphasize the urgency and critical nature of this event. While intended to strengthen Macron's administration, this election has instead brought RN to the gates of power.

Social concerns shaped the election result and RN took advantage of voter dissatisfaction with rising prices, the Cost Of Living, and Immigration. Their promises to increase spending ability and lower taxes struck a chord, revealing deep-seated fears and a strong Anti-establishment mood among voters.

There are concerns about Liberties under an RN-led administration, particularly for Minority groups and those with dual nationality in Defense, Security, and Nuclear Industry Jobs. Demonstrations by left-leaning voters, like those at Place de la République in Paris, shed light on these apprehensions.

The election logistics remain intricate, with districts facing three-way competitions. Tactical withdrawals by opposing candidates are anticipated to reshape voter preferences in the second round. A hung parliament could cause policy paralysis and delay efforts to reduce France's fiscal deficit. However, financial markets and the [European Commission](#) prefer this over a National Rally-led government.

The results of the second round on 07 Jul will play a crucial role in shaping France's political landscape, ensuring governance continuity and influencing its global interactions.