

Information Guide

The 2017 French Presidential Election, 23rd of April and 7th of May 2017

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The 2017 French Presidential Election 23rd of April and 7th of May 2017

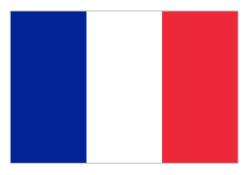
The Cardiff EDC can help you find information from all points of view on this important topic

Click on the images in this guide to access a wide range of information sources

To find further information you can also search in **ESO**



Updated March 2017



The 2017 French Presidential Election, 23rd of April and 7th of May 2017

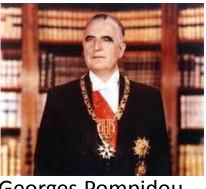


Main sections in the guide

- The French Presidential Elections
 - Role of French President
 - Former French Presidents
 - Organisation of the Election
- The 2017 French Presidential Election
 - Social Issues
 - Candidates
- News sources and social media
- Issues



Charles De Gaulle



Georges Pompidou

The French Presidential Election



Valéry Giscard d'Estaing



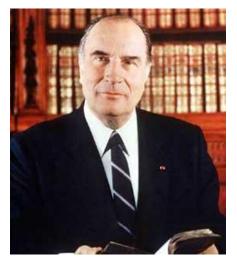
François Hollande



Nicolas Sarkozy



Jacques Chirac



François Mitterand

The French Political Regimes

France has experienced different political regimes during its history. It was a monarchy until 1789, and then again between 1814 and 1848. It was an empire between 1800 and 1814 and again between 1852 and 1870.

Presently France is a Republic. It has seen five different kinds of Republic in its history. <u>First Republic</u>: 1792-1804 <u>Second Republic</u>: 1848-1852

<u>Third Republic</u>: 1870-1940 <u>Fourth Republic</u>: 1946-1958

From the 4th of October 1958, France is in the Fifth Republic embodied by the fifth French Constitution.

CONSTITUTION Le Gouvernement de la République, conformément à la loi constitutionnelle du 3 juin 1958, a proposé, Le Peuple français a adopté. Le Président de la République promulgue la loi constitutionnelle dont la teneur suit PRÉAMBULE Le peuple français proclame solennellement son attachement aux Droits de l'homme et aux principes de la souveraineté nationale tels qu'ils ont été définis par la Déclaration de 1789, confirmée et complétée par le préambule de la Constitution de 1946. En vertu de ces principes et de celui de la libre détermination des peuples, la République offre aux Territoires d'Outre-Mer qui manifestent la volonté d'y adhérer des institutions nouvelles fondées sur l'idéal commun de liberté, d'égalité et de fraternité et conçues en vue de leur évolution démocratique. ARTICLE PREMIER. La République et les peuples des Territoires d'Outre-Mer qui, par un acte de libre détermination, adoptent la présente Constitution instituent une Communauté. La Communauté est fondée sur l'égalité et la solidarité des peuples qui la composent.

The 5th French Republic

The 5th Republic was implemented on 4th of October 1958 after two Political Parliamentary Regimes.

The French citizens had lost confidence in political matters because of the governments of the 4th Republic. The 4th republic saw 25 governments in 12 years and had created huge instability.

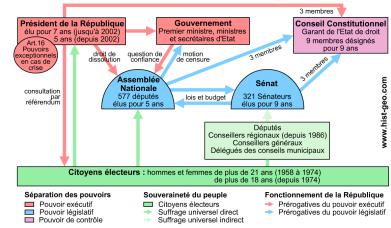
Consequently, the constitution of the 5th Republic promotes efficiency instead of representation. The voting system was built to foster stability for the regime.

In this system one person leads the country and is helped by a strong majority in the National Assembly (French House of Commons) which is elected through majority vote.





Schéma de la Constitution de la Vème République







French Presidential Elections of the Past

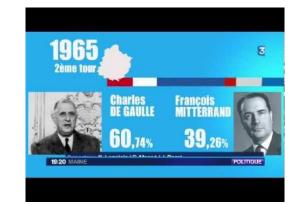
Before 1962, the French President was elected by a process of indirect suffrage by a college of 80 000 electors.

To strengthen the legitimacy of the President, De Gaulle changed the constitution. From 1962, the President is chosen by a process of direct universal suffrage.





Le «oui» obtient 61,75 % des suffrages exprimés
Le «oui» obtient 61,75 % des suffrages exprimés
Le «non» l'emporte dans quatorze départements
1962 referendum: 'yes' won with
61,75% of the expressed suffrage.







The First French president elected via process of direct universal suffrage was Charles De Gaulle, on the 19th of December 1965.

The Role of the French President

The French system is characterised by the strong role of the President of the Republic.

The president presides over the council of Ministers and the International High Councils.

The president can also dissolve Parliament and has the authority to bypass parliament by submitting referenda directly to the people. Article 16 allows for the concentration of all the powers of the state in the presidency.

De Gaulle's great influence and the election of the President via a process of direct universal suffrage, has tended to reinforce the authority of the presidency at the expense of the rest of the government. In this system the president has the power to fix the political agenda.



French president's accommodation: Élysée Palace







A unique role



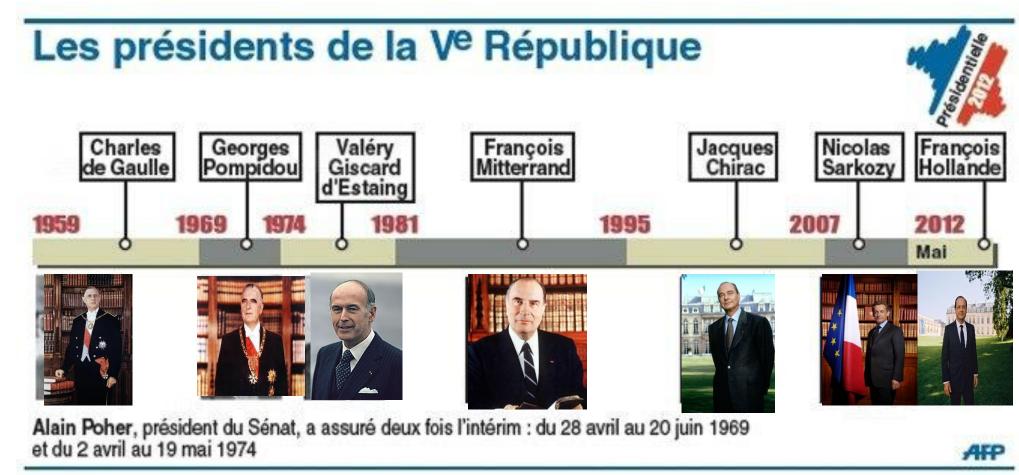
The President has embodied French history. The president is both:

A Parliamentary President	and	A Republican Monarch
The President can dissolve the Assembly.		The President presides over the Council of Ministers.
The President ensures the respect of the constitution and the functioning of the public		The President is the Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces.
authority and the continuity of the States.		When the situation is critical the President can
The President appoints the Prime Minister.		concentrate all the powers of the state.
The President promulgates Acts of Parliament.		The President can grant pardons in an individual capacity.
The President of the Republic communicates with the two Houses of Parliament by messages which are to be read and debated.		The President ratifies treaties and leads discussions with the European Union.
		The President can bypass Parliament to propose a law

via a Referendum.

Former French Presidents

To date, France has had seven Presidents in the 5th Republic: -1958-1969: Charles De Gaulle 1969-1974: Georges Pompidou 1974-1981: Valéry Giscard D'Estaing 1981-1995: François Mitterrand 1995-2007: Jacques Chirac 2007-2012: Nicolas Sarkozy 2012-2017: François Hollande



National Commission for Campaign Account and Political Funding (*Commission Nationale des Comptes de campagne et des financements politiques*)

The National Commission for Campaign Account and Political Funding (*Commission Nationale des Comptes de campagne et des financements politiques*) is a French independent body which monitors the campaign spending and the funding of political parties.

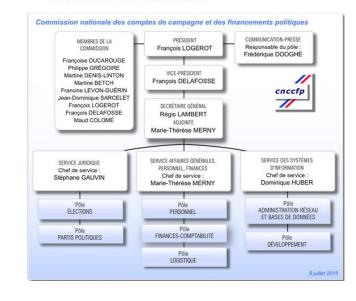
A specific section will be dedicated to the 2017 Presidential Election.

For example, this commission will check to see whether private donations exceed €7 500, as surpassing this amount is illegal under French law.

Commission nationale



des comptes de campagne et des financements politiques



Organisation of the French Presidential Election

Who can stand as a candidate in the French Presidential Election?

Every French citizen can stand for the Presidential Election – as long as they meet the following conditions.

A candidate must:

- Be more than 18 years old
- Have proper Civil and Electoral Rights

- Have 500 presentation forms which are signed by great electors (Members of Parliament, Senators, Mayors)



Organisation of the French Presidential Election

Who can vote ?

As of 1962, every five years French citizens directly elect their President.

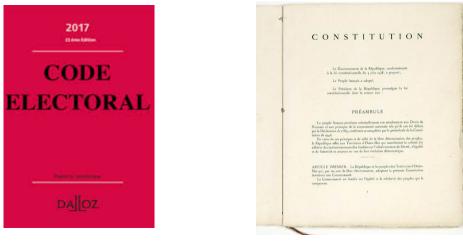
To vote in the 2017 French Presidential Election you must fulfil these four conditions:

- Be 18 years old the day before the first round of the ballot
- Hold French Nationality.
- Have civil and political rights.
- Be registered on the Electoral List before the 1st of January 2017.

Consequently, Foreign or Europeans citizens living in France cannot vote in this election.

However, French citizens who live abroad can vote in certain cities which open a polling station.

For instance, in 2012, in the United Kingdom there were more than ten polling stations in London, one in Manchester, one in Bristol and numerous other polling stations around the country.



French Electoral Code French Constitution: Articles 3 and 88-3



A polling station for French voters in the UK during the 2007 French Presidential Election

Organisation of the French Presidential Election

Where do the French vote ?

French citizens vote in a polling station in the area in which they are registered. An electronic vote is forbidden and voters cannot cast their vote by mail either.

The majority of polling stations are in City Council Buildings.

In big cities, due to the density of population, there is more than one polling station. The polling stations can be found in Republican buildings such as public schools, public services buildings and other government buildings.







Polling Station in Vitre, City of Britanny region (France)

French Polling Station

The French Presidential Election

Since 1962 elections have taken place via a process of direct universal suffrage, the French Presidential Election gives rhythm to French political life.

+ Even for the small parties, the election presents an opportunity to express their ideas and become known by the French population.

+ The elections have much media coverage and the press will report on all of the candidates during the two rounds of elections.

+ Electoral participation is stronger for presidential elections than previously, however the participation is less than before when it comes to the local elections.

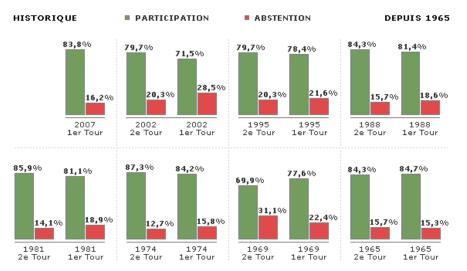
According to Maurice Duverger, a French constitutional expert, the first round of the French Presidential Election gives a representation of French public opinion.

In the second round, it's an election by a majority vote.



Political Display for the 2012 French Presidential Election

You can find further information on this election on ESO



Participation rate in French Presidential Elections

The 2012 French Presidential Election

In 2012, Francois Hollande, the Socialist Party candidate, ran against the former president Nicolas Sarkozy. Hollande was elected President of the French Republic.

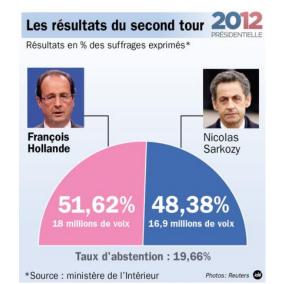
He won by a margin of 1.1 million votes, which is just a little bit less than 2% of the total.

This victory signified the return of the left to power after more than 25 years of right-wing Presidencies.

This victory also symbolised the expectations of the French population. He was elected on his promise to reduce the unemployment rate.



You can find further information on this election on ESO







Marine Le Pen



François Fillon



Philippe Poutou



Benoit Hamon



Jean

Lassalle





François Hollande



Jean-Luc Mélenchon



Emmanuel Macron





François Asselineau



Nathalie Artaud



Nicolas Dupont-Aignan



Jacques Cheminade





Liberté • Égalité • Fraternité RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE



A Significant Election

This election will be the first in which the current president will not run for a second term.

Francois Hollande, the current French president, announced on the 1st of December that he would not run for president in 2017.

Instead, Manuel Valls, French Prime Minister from April 2014 to December 2016, would try to stand for the French Presidential Election. He announced his candidacy for the left primary on the 5th of December 2016.





More information about these two events:















The Conservatives' Primary: Candidates



The French Conservative Party decided to organise an open primary. Electors could decide which conservative candidate would stand for election. The primary took place on the 20th and 27th of November 2016.



Jean- François Copé



Nicolas Sarkozy



Alain Juppé



Bruno Le Maire



Nathalie Kosusko-Morizet



Jean-Frédéric Poisson



François Fillon



The Conservatives' Primary: Issues



First Round

Votants PROVISOIRE	38284	189 dépor	rès du uillement 9272 sur 1022 e de buressux
François Fillon			44.2% 16009
Alain Juppé			28.4%
Nicolas Sarkozy			20.7% 79218
Nathalie Kosciusko-1	Morizet		2.6%
Bruno Le Maire			2.4%
Jean-Frédéric Poisso	n		1.5%
Jean-François Copé			0.3%
Votes blancs et nuls			876

The former French president Nicolas Sarkozy was eliminated in the first round. Two former Prime Ministers: Alain Juppé and François Fillon led the first round and competed in the second round on the 27th of November 2016.

Second Round



The second round had the same outcome as the first one. François Fillon won by a large margin and will represent the centre and right parties in the 2017 French presidential election.

You can find further information on this primary at ESO



Left Primary: Candidates



The French Socialist Party decided to organise an open primary to gather left-wing candidates. Electors chose the presidential candidates of the 'beautiful popular alliance'. This primary took place on the 22nd and 29th of January 2017.



Benoit Hamon



François de Rugy



Vincent Peillon



Arnaud Montebourg



Jean-Luc Bennahmias



Sylvia Pinel



Manuel Valls



Left Primary: Issues



First Round

- Benoît Hamon : 35,21%
- Manuel Valls : 31,56%
- Arnaud Montebourg : 18,70%
- Vincent Peillon : 6,48%
- François de Rugy : 3,49%
- Sylvia Pinel : 2,1%
- Jean-Luc Bennahmias : 1,6%
- Votes blancs ou nuls 0,75 et 0,76%

The leader of the 'insubordinate left', Arnaud Montebourg was eliminated in the first round. The former Prime Minister Manuel Valls came in second place, and he would go on to compete with the former Education Minister Benoit Hamon in the second round on the 29th of January 2017.

In the second round, French citizens had to choose between two different visions of the left: the social left represented by Benoit Hamon and the centre left embodied by Manuel Valls.

Second Round



The result of the second round was similar to the result of the first round as Benoit Hamon, who is the candidate of the radical left, won with 58.9% of the vote against the former Prime Minister, Manuel Valls.

Two million people voted in the left primaries which gave legitimacy to the winner.

Benoit Hamon will stand as candidate for the socialist party in the 2017 French Presidential Election.

You can find further information on this primary on ESO









2017 French Presidential Election: Social Issues









The Importance of Social issues

Social issues are an important element of elections in France.

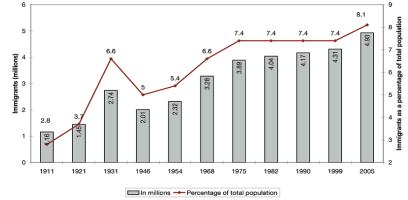
For the 2002 French Presidential Election, Jean-Marie Le Pen's success through to the second round of this election was explained by a campaign focus on immigration and problems in the suburbs.



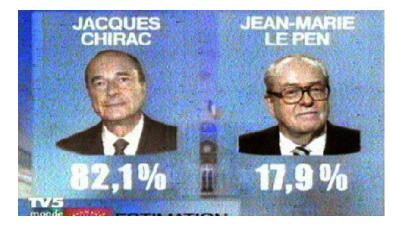




Figure 3: Immigrant population in France 1911-2005



Source: Institut national de la statistique et des études économiques, INSEE (2006)



Conservative Views

In 2013, the left majority voted for legalising gay marriage and adoption rights by samesex couples.

In 2016, François Fillon and Marine Le Pen shared a conservative view on this issue. During their campaign, both of them announced that they want to dismantle this law allowing gay marriage and adoption.

On the other hand, other candidates want to expand gay rights further. They want to authorise assisted reproduction technology for such couples.













You can find further information on this topic on ESO



Working conditions

2016, like 2006, was an important year for the Employees' Trade Unions. They struggled against the Labour Law which liberalises the Labour Market.

2016 will also be remembered as the year when the "Nuit Debout" movement commenced (this is the same as the Indignados Movement in Spain).

Social issues can explain political patterns. On the one hand, candidates want to continue Hollande's policy to increase salaries in the public sector and the number of teachers. On the other hand, some candidates want to 'modernise' the French Social System and want to cut public employment.







You can find further information on this topic at ESO





Migration Issues

The conflicts in the Middle East and in Sub-Saharan Africa have caused a lot of migration from these areas to Europe in recent years.

Some migrants set up the Calais Jungle in France, which was dismantled in November 2016.

This issue will have a part to play in the elections. On the one hand parties do not want to welcome refugees: they think that France has other problems to deal with. On the other hand, there are some candidates who want to participate in the same European initiative as the German Chancellor did in 2015.



You can find further on European Migration Issues at <u>ESO</u>





More information about Calais's jungle at <u>ESO</u>





You can find further information on the EU-Turkey deal at ESO





Terrorism

Terrorism is a very problematic issue in France. France has experienced four terrorist attacks in the past two years:

- Charlie Hedbo Attack: 7 January 2015
- Paris Attacks: 13 November 2015
- Bastille Day in Nice: 14 July 2016
- Saint Étienne du Rouvray: 26 July 2016
- Also: one attack near France occurred in Brussels on the 22nd of March 2016.

In addition, France and Europe have prevented many terrorist attacks such as the Thalys attacks on 21st of August 2015.



More information about the Brussels attack on ESO







More information about the Nice attack on ESO





More information about Charlie Hebdo's Attack on ESO



You can further information about the 13^{th} of November attack on <u>ESO</u>



Tax Evasion

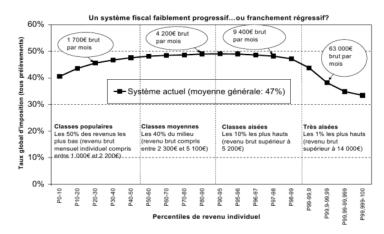
Tax Evasion has become an important topic in the 2017 French Presidential Election.

The leaders of some French companies want to move to other countries to pay fewer taxes.

On the one hand, some candidates want to reduce the amount of capital taxes to prevent tax evasion. On the other hand, some candidates want to combat tax evasion and tax the rich the same way as the rest of the population.







The proportion of taxation is, in reality, decreasing for the richest part of the population.

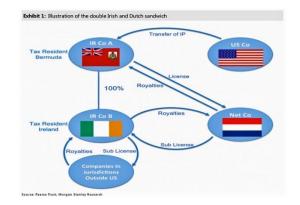


Panama Papers: where intermediaries operate

Location of companies, foundations and trusts of Mossack Fonseca customers



You can find more information on the Panama Papers and its consequences on ESO



Corruption

Some of the 2017 French Presidential Election candidates have been facing allegations of corruption.

On January and February 2017 'Penelope Gate' occurred. Francois Fillon, the candidate of *Les Republicains* was accused of giving his wife a salary for a job she didn't actually do. On the 14th of March 2017 the state put him under formal investigation.

On February 2017, Marine Le Pen refused to repay €300 000 to the European Parliament in misused EU funds. She was accused of using European Parliament money to employ people in her own party. On the 10th of March, the state put her under formal investigation.

Surprisingly, these corruption scandals are helping the candidature of Marine Le Pen.



For more information about this issue please go to <u>ESO</u>











The European Union will be at the core of the campaign for economic and security problems.

Firstly, regarding economics, some candidates want to dismantle the European Monetary Union – for them, this has become a synonym for austerity and a lack of sovereignty.

Secondly, certain candidates want to leave the European Union to restore French sovereignty, French currency and internal borders.

However, other candidates want to deepen European integration via dialogue with Germany and other members of the European Union.









For more information about Le Pen's view on the European Union, please visit <u>ESO</u>:





Jacques

Cheminade

Nicolas Dupont-



François Fillon



Benoit Hamon

François Asselineau Aignan The 2017 French Presidential **Election: Candidates**



Jean Lassalle



Marine Le Pen



Macron



Jean-Luc Mélenchon



Philippe Poutou



Candidate : Nathalie Arthaud



Nathalie Arthaud presents herself as the communist candidate for the 2017 French Presidential Election.

She wants to expand the rights of workers, expand salaries and improve job security by forbidding layoffs.

She also wants to defend the environment and to reduce French dependence on non-renewable resources.

On European matters, she wants a real united European Union. She has advocated that a political union should come before an economic one.

More information about her campaign:





pour rétablir la démocratie

Candidate : François Asselineau

François Asselineau is the candidate of the Republican Popular Union (Union populaire républicaine), a party that he created in 2007 for the 50th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome.

He is national sovereigntist. Most of his program addresses the relations between France and the European Union, as well as the relations between France and NATO.

He wants to leave the European Union and introduces himself as the "Frexit candidate". He also wants to leave NATO. He supports a strengthening of national borders.

Otherwise, he wants to implement social policies such as the building of low cost accommodation.



(left) His program [In French]

More information about his campaign:





Candidate : Jacques Cheminade

Jacques Cheminade is the leader of his own political party - 'Solidarity and Progress'.

In economic matters, he wants to create a department which will identify gaps in the Labour Market. He also wants to implement a 'French Glass-Steagall Act' in order to separate deposit banks from commercial banks.

He also wants to colonise the Moon and then Mars later.

On European Matters, he wants to leave the European Union, NATO and the Eurozone. He wants to restore the French currency: the Franc. He also wants to deal with others European countries without the need of a supranational institution.





More information about his campaign:







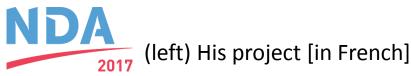
Candidate : Nicolas Dupont-Aignan

Nicolas Dupont-Aignan is a national sovereigntist candidate. He wants to take power back from the European Union and give it to France.

In economics, he wants to adopt a "BUY French Act", so that a large proportion of sales goes to French companies. He also wants to reduce taxes for companies.

In financial matters, he wants to implement a French 'Glass-Steagall Act'. He wants to give more power to the French Authority of Financial Markets in order to regulate the financial market.

On European Matters, he wants a community of independent states rather than the present format of the European Union.



More information about his campaign:







Candidate: Benoit Hamon

Benoit Hamon was elected in the open left primary on the 29th of January 2017.

He is a radical left candidate for the Socialist Party (the most important French left-wing party).

Regarding Economic policy, he wants to implement a basic income in order to reduce the burden of labour society. He also wants to implement a green transition in order to safeguard the earth and its resources.

On European matters, he wants to strengthen European integration, he wants a European Defence and also a bold European green investment plan. He argues for a parliament in the Eurozone in addition to the Eurogroup of the Finance Minister within the Eurozone.

On international matters, he wants France to be independent from the United States and Russia.



The project (in French)



More information about his campaign: theguardian European Sources Online Le Monde euro news. OPE'S NEWS IN ENG

JEAN LASSALLE

Candidate : Jean Lassalle

Jean Lassalle is a centrist candidate. To prepare for his program, he walked 6 000 kilometres in France to meet French citizens which took him from April to December 2013. He introduces himself as the "partisan of the rural territories and a humanist ecologist".

His main wish is to get France and French citizens out of what he calls 'Financial oppression'. According to him, once France is out of Financial oppression, enterprises can develop long-term policies and Renewables Energies can be developed without the pressure of oil companies.

In European Matters, he wants to leave the current European Union which he sees as encouraging financial oppression, and set up a new Union which will enable France to tackle this oppression.

JEAN LASSALLE (left) His project [in French]

More information about his campaign:







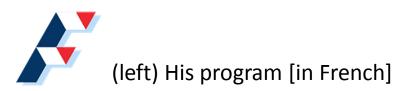
Candidate: François Fillon



On the 27th of November 2016, François Fillon won the open centre and right primary. He became the conservative candidate for the 2017 French Presidential Election.

Regarding economic policy, he wants to reduce public expenditure by ≤ 100 billion (£85 billion). He also wants to get rid of taxes on the rich and to cut 500,000 public jobs in five years.

As a conservative candidate, he wants to remove the gay adoption rights voted for in 2013. He also wishes to affirm French Values and restore French state authority.



More information about his campaign:

theguardian











Candidate: Marine Le Pen



Marine Le Pen is the candidate of the National Front, the French Far-Right Party.

She wants to leave the European Union and leave the Euro Zone. She wants to create a new national currency.

Regarding economic policy, she wants to improve public services and create a new industrialisation of France with the aid of import taxes.

She also wants to implement favourable policies for small and middle companies such as less taxes and less administrative tasks.

She desires to create a pro-birth policy to reduce immigration.

More information about her campaign:

theguardian







Front ational

Candidate: Emmanuel Macron

Emmanuel Macron is an independent candidate. During Hollande's presidency he was the assistant to the Elysée's Secretary General. In August 2014, he became France's Minister for Economics. He resigned in March 2016 to stand for the French Presidential Election.

En Marche!

His policies are similar to Blair and Clinton; known as 'the third way'. He is a centre candidate.

For this election, he proposes making the law regarding the 35 hour working week more flexible, and getting rid of unemployment and sickness contributions. These will be replaced by a proportional tax.

He has proposed to remove 150 000 public employment jobs. He claims this will save 60 billion euros.

He is a pro-European candidate, who wants to strengthen the German-French cooperation and deepen European integration.

En Marche! (Left) His program [In French]

More information about his campaign:

<section-header>





Candidate: Jean-Luc Mélenchon

Jean-Luc Mélenchon is the Left-wing candidate (Le Parti de Gauche). He is supported by the French Communist Party.

He wants to establish a 6th Republic to stop this 'Republican Monarchy' and give power back to the people.

His program is characterised by his willingness to share wealth and to regulate the financial market. He is in favour of Ecologic Transition: he wants to invest in the green sector.

Regarding the European Union, he wants discussions with European Institutions and with Germany to change European rules in order to avoid policies of austerity.

He also wants to leave NATO to become independent and prepare for peace instead of fighting wars.



The Project (in French)



More information about his campaign: theguardian Le Monde European Sources Online euro he news. ROPE'S NEWS IN ENGLIS





Candidate: Philippe Poutou

Philippe Poutou is the candidate of the New Anti-capitalist Front (Nouveau Front Anticapitaliste). He describes himself as the candidate who will 'break off with capitalism'.

To tackle unemployment, he wants to forbid layoffs. He also wants to reduce working time in order to share work between workers. He wants to increase salaries and believes the minimum salary should reach €1,700 monthly.

On Health issues, he wants to expand Social Security in order to implement a free health policy. He also wants to improve the quality of Public Service.

In international matters, he wants to open borders and to promote a free world circulation of people. In International Economics, he wants to implement protectionist policies against the 'Capitalist European Union'. (Left) His program in French

More information about his campaign:









2017 French Presidential Election: Main sources of information







Daily Newspapers in French





Les Echos





International Newspapers in English



The New York Times







The Economist

French Audiovisual media









Weekly and Monthly French Newspapers











^{Йонде} diplomatique

International Audio-visual Media













European Sources



euro news.



VOX CEPR's Policy Portal





Other sources of information









Atlantic





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Further information: <u>http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/european-documentation-centre</u> Blog: <u>http://blogs.cardiff.ac.uk/european-documentation-centre/</u>