

From **Corinne Deloy**  
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1 month before  
the poll


# Outgoing President Nicolas Sarkozy and Socialist François Hollande are running neck and neck for victory in the first round of the French Presidential Election.

On 22nd April next nearly 45 million French voters are being called to ballot in the first round of the presidential election. Outgoing Head of State, Nicolas Sarkozy (Union for a Popular Movement, UMP) announced on 15th February last that he was running for office again. According to the polls François Hollande (Socialist Party, PS) is his main rival. Both men are running neck and neck in the polls in the first round and they should come out ahead on 22nd April and face each other in a second round that will take place two weeks later, ie on 6th May next.

The presidential election will be followed on 10th and 17th June by general elections that will lead to the renewal of the 577 members of the National Assembly, the lower chamber of Parliament.

## The French Political System

Since 1962 the President of the Republic of France has been elected by direct universal suffrage in a majority two round election. If none of the candidates wins the absolute majority vote in the first round, a second round is organised two weeks later. Every candidate aspiring to the supreme office must be aged at least 23 and present at least 500 representatives' signatures (MPs, regional councillors, general councillors, mayors) from at least 30 *départements* (counties) local and overseas communities, with not more than one tenth of them being from the same *département*.

Head of the armed forces, the President of the France, also holds executive power. He appoints the Prime Minister and puts an end to his post if the latter presents a letter of resignation to the government. The Head of State promulgates the laws; on the government's proposal or on the part of that of the two chambers of parliament, he can submit a law or the ratification of a treaty to referendum. After consultation with the Prime Minister and the leaders of both chambers the President of the Republic can also pronounce the dissolution of the National Assembly, the lower chamber in Parliament.

On 13th March last the Constitutional Council drew up a list of ten political personalities, ie two less than in the election on 22nd April and 6th May 2007, who were officially running in the presidential election:

- Nicolas Sarkozy (Union for a Popular Movement UMP), 57 years old, outgoing Head of State;
- François Hollande (Socialist Party, PS), supported by the Radical Left Party (PRG) and the Republican and Citizens' Movement (MRC). Aged 57, Mr Hollande was the First Secretary of the Socialist Party from 1997 to 2008, and Mayor of Tulle from 2001 to 2008. At present he is an MP of Corrèze and Chairman of the General Council in the same *département*. The left's candidate was appointed by the PS on 21st October last after having won the primary election (56.57% of the vote) on 16th October 2011 in the second round when he faced Martine Aubry (PS), Ségolène Royal (PS), Manuel Valls (PS), Arnaud Montebourg (PS) and Jean-Michel Baylet (PRG);
- François Bayrou (Democratic Movement, MoDem), 60 years old, is MP in the Pyrénées-Atlantic and former Education Minister (1993-1997) in the governments led by Edouard Balladur (Assembly for the Republic, RPR) and Alain Juppé (RPR). Candidate in the presi-

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dential election on 21st April and 5th May 2002 he won 6.83% of the vote in the first round; five years later in the election on 22nd April and 6th May 2007, he came third and won 18.57% in the first round;

- Marine Le Pen (National Front, FN), 43 years old and leader of the National Front (FN). Regional Councillor of the Nord-Pas-de-Calais, she is also an MEP;
- Jean-Luc Mélenchon (Left Front, FG), 60 years old, MEP. Joint leader of the Left Party (PG), which together with the French Communist Party (PCF) forms the Left Front – he was Vocational Education Minister (2000-2002) in the government led by Prime Minister (1997-2002) Lionel Jospin (PS);
- Eva Joly (Europe Ecology-Greens, EELV), 68 years old, former magistrate and presently an MEP;
- Nathalie Arthaud (Lutte ouvrière, LO), 42 years old, a professor of economics and management and spokesperson for the far left party, Lutte ouvrière;
- Philippe Poutou (New Anti-Capitalist Party, NPA), 45 years old, appointed on 25th June 2011 by his party with 67% of the vote during the party's national conference;
- Nicolas Dupont-Aignan (Debout la République, DLR), 51 years old, a former member of the UMP and candidate of the sovereignist right who pleads for a return to the franc and a new system of common currency;
- Jacques Cheminade (Solidarity and Progress, S&P), 70 years old was candidate in the presidential election on 23rd April and 7th May 1995 when he won 0.28% of the vote;

### The two "main" candidates

Taxation, buying power, economic themes are at the heart of the campaign this year in the French presidential election On 13th January the agency Standard and Poor's downgraded France's rating (and that of nine other countries in the euro zone), from AAA to AA+). The economic situation is difficult: the country is in debt (1,740 billion euros in public debt ie 85% of the GDP) and 9.8% of the population is unemployed (December 2011 figure). Five years ago Nicolas Sarkozy was elected as Head of State thanks to a programme focused on: economic flexibility, an increase in growth and the re-establishment of order in public finances. The international economic crisis has however forced

the French president to change his policy making it less liberal, more pro-active and oriented to Colbertism. Several reforms have been made during Nicolas Sarkozy's five years in office notably reducing tax on overtime, the introduction of the tax shield, the reform of the retirement system and that of the civil services and university autonomy. Other reforms have not been rolled out due in part to the difficult economic situation.

### François Hollande

Winner of the left's primary election with 56.57% of the vote ahead of Martine Aubry (43.3% of the vote) on 16th October last, François Hollande was appointed candidate in the presidential election five days later. After an end of year when he seemed to be keeping a low profile, saying that he wanted to take his time – to the point of worrying some of his supporters François Hollande gave his first speech in the campaign at the Bourget on 22nd January. He then launched an attack against the world of finance. *"My real rival has no name and belongs to no party. He will never stand for election and yet he rules. That rival is the world of finance,"* declared the Socialist candidate who then put forward several proposals: the separation of investment banking activities from speculative operations; the ban on French banks working in tax havens; the abolition of stock options (except for nascent businesses and carefully managed bonuses and the introduction of a tax on financial transactions – an idea that has also been defended by outgoing President Nicolas Sarkozy.

Four days after his speech at the Bourget on 26th January, the Socialist candidate put forward "Sixty Commitments for France". Amongst these feature the creation of 60,000 jobs in Education over five years, the introduction of a generation contract (ie employment under an unlimited contract for young people seconded by a more experienced workers who would be kept in work until they leave for retirement); a major tax reform with the merger of income tax and the CSG; the introduction of an additional tax band of 45% for incomes over 150,000 € and the re-designing of the business tax to the benefit of business itself. François Hollande is also suggesting the creation of 150,000 jobs for young people (a programme adopted by the PS planned for 300,000); the introduction of a pro-

portional element into the general elections and voting rights in local elections for foreigners living in France. Finally, he says that if he wins the presidential election he will renegotiate the European budgetary discipline treaty that was signed on March 2nd last by 25 of the 27 EU Member States (except for the UK and the Czech Republic) to which he would like to add a Responsibility, Governance and Growth pact.

### Nicolas Sarkozy

The outgoing President wanted to enter the campaign as late as possible in order to maintain suspense and to protect the integrity of the status given to him as Head of State and also to appear as a president who acts and protects for as long as possible. On 18th January Nicolas Sarkozy convened a social summit for employment with all of the social partners. On 29th January he announced the implementation of a so-called social VAT as of 1st October 2012 set at 21.2% (ie 1.6 points more in comparison with the present VAT rate), representing a transfer of 13 billion euros to fund social protection, notably that given to the family policy. In exchange in order to boost the economy he would introduce a reduction in employers' contributions who will be exempted from paying the total amount of the employers' family contributions that weigh heavily on the lowest wages (from 1.6 to 2.1 times the minimum wage (SMIC)) and a 2 point increase on the CSG on financial income. He also said that a tax on financial transactions (to a total of 0.1%) would be introduced in August and that the 35 hour working week and the wage levels might be renegotiated with the agreement of a majority of workers in order to increase working time when the economy requires it. Finally he announced that it would become obligatory for every company that had at least 250 employees to take on at least five young people as part of a sandwich course or as apprentices.

Under pressure from his peers, the rise to power of the National Front and the slow, but regular consolidation of his main rival, socialist François Holland and the poor results in the polls finally convinced Nicolas Sarkozy to declare that he was standing earlier than he had wanted to. *"If I did not stand for another term it would be the same as giving up this mission, it would be like a captain abandoning his ship,"* he said on 15th

February when he officially announced his intentions on the television channel TF1.

Running under the banner "Strong France" Nicolas Sarkozy wants to appear as the "President of the People" to whom he wants to give back their sense of expression, notably by calling for a referendum in the event of a stalemate. *"The referendum is in the spirit of the V Republic. Those who think that it is a populist step to turn to the people really think in fact that the people is not sensible enough, not intelligent enough for it to give its opinion,"* he maintained. His programme is set to the right and promotes the values of work, responsibility and authority. He criticises state handouts and suggests the organisation of a popular consultation on conditioning unemployment benefits with the obligation to undertake a training course. *"Benefits will not be a payment that we receive passively but money granted to each job seeker in exchange for training that he will have to follow,"* he declared. The outgoing Head of State also want beneficiaries of the "active solidarity revenue" (RSA) – a minimum income that is subject to the search for work, to undertake seven hours of community work per week (paid at the minimum rate SMIC). He announced that he wanted to ban "top-hat" retirement plans (funded entirely by the company and exempted from social contributions) and "golden parachutes" (compensation paid out when a company's top manager leaves office) and to subject the level of managers' remuneration in large companies to the general shareholders' assembly.

Unlike his socialist rival, Nicolas Sarkozy has yet to present his programme for the five year period to come but he has given details of the measures he would like to see implemented. Hence he is suggesting exempting companies of social charges for the employment of one job-seeker aged over 55 with a permanent or limited work contract for a period of at least six months, with permanent, limited aid set within the limits of the Social Security (36,000€ gross salary).

The outgoing president, who regularly insists on the seriousness of the international economic crisis that is affecting France (*"I will never pretend that we have succeeded in everything but I want to say that we have escaped catastrophe,"* he declared on 19th February),

hopes to continue on the path to public finance consolidation and promotes the need to continue reforms so that France can maintain its social model. On 11th March during a meeting in Villepinte, he suggested the introduction of a Buy European Act according to the Buy American Model, a measure acted in 1933 to protect products manufactured in the USA by American companies. "Free trade, yes: anti-trust no" he stressed – he wants to make it obligatory for all EU and Member States administrations to work only with businesses from European countries and to introduce reciprocity rules that will enable to introduction of retaliation measures against countries who prevent European exports. The European Commissioners in charge of the Internal Market (Michel Barnier) and Trade (Karel de Gucht) are preparing a proposal at present that will oblige some countries to open their procurement markets under the threat of being excluded from certain European markets.

On 11th March Nicolas Sarkozy indicated that he wanted to review the Schengen agreements that regulate entry conditions and free movement within the signatory countries. "We have to have political government within Schengen in the same as there is now a euro zone government. We need joint discipline in border control (...). We have to be able to sanction, suspend or exclude any State from Schengen that does not comply (...) We need greater convergence in terms of foreigners rights and asylum," he maintained. The outgoing president said that if the EU did not develop in this direction within the next twelve months, "France would suspend its participation in the agreements." This is a somewhat unrealistic declaration since the latter have been part of the Union's treaties since 1997. With regard to Schengen Brussels is also working on a reform. Moreover the European Commission recalled that solutions provided to governance problems had to be taken from a "community" point of view.

### The other candidates

Elected as leader of the National Front on 16th January 2011 during her party's congress in Tours, Marine Le Pen has ipso facto become the FN's candidate in the Presidential election. Her status as candidate was validated on 16th May 2011 by the FN's political bureau. Her presidential project, presented on 19th November 2011, intends to be anti-liberal and against globalisation. To bring France out of its debt Marine Le Pen is advising on France leaving the euro zone (with both a return to the franc and the transformation of the euro into a common currency according to the ECU model), a proposal that she hopes to submit to referendum and the introduction of "reasoned" protectionist mea-

asures (establishment of taxes on imported goods and services). She defends an increase in public spending (increase in police force budgets, justice, research, infrastructure development, aid to SMEs, a rise in 200€ on salaries that are 1.4 times more than the SMIC via the exemption of social charges). Finally she wants to make radical cuts to the number of immigrants entering France (legally) and to send back all illegal immigrants.

The Democratic Movement's candidate (MoDem) François Bayrou started the electoral campaign early. The centrist whose party suffered in the elections (general, regional and local) five years ago, has experienced a difficult period. Like five years ago he is standing as the only real "anti-system" candidate and likes to say that he is the first to have warned about the extent of the State's debt, which, he says shows that he is firmly attached to "telling the truth". In his fight against the bi-party system, he intends to build a new type of democracy and has chosen to undertake a campaign on "producing French".

François Bayrou is also calling for a reform of Europe, asking for the election by universal suffrage of a European leader who might embody the Union which, he says by referring to the couple Angela Merkel-Nicolas Sarkozy "does not govern" itself. Mr Bayrou, who has always been pro-European, supports the golden rule, ie the inclusion into the Constitution of a limit to the public deficit and says he supports a common growth, equipment and innovation policy that focuses on legitimate authority (elected). However he is against the idea of renegotiating the European budgetary discipline treaty defended by socialist candidate François Hollande.

The withdrawal of Hervé Morin (New Centre, NC) and Jean-Louis Borloo's decision (Radical Party) to give up their quest in the presidential election left the way open to François Bayrou even though the centrist position in France is still extremely fragmented.

For the first time since 1974 the French Communist Party (PCF) has not put a candidate forward in the presidential election. It supports MEP Jean-Luc Mélenchon, who represents the Left Front that rallies his party, the Left Party and the PCF. He likes to stand as the heir to historic socialism carried forward by former Head of State (1981-1995) François Mitterrand (PS). A talented orator and representative of the "revolutionary left" (which is against the "reformist left" led by François Hollande), Jean-Luc Mélenchon turns to populism at times as shown in the title of his latest book "Qu'ils s'en aillent tous". (Let them all leave). He has called for the "Bastille to be taken again" and for "civic insur-

rection". An anti-capitalist, he stands as the defender of public services (he is suggesting the employment of 800,000 people in the civil service), he defends a minimum wage of 1,700€ per month, a 100% reimbursement on healthcare spending, the capping of rents and retirement at 60, at a full pension rate. To fund all of this his solution is to "make the banks and the rich pay." Jean-Luc Mélenchon says that he would stand down in the second round in support of the best placed candidate on the left.

Winner in the primary election organised by the ecologists with 58.16% of the vote ahead of Nicolas Hulot (41.34%) on 12th July 2011 Eva Joly was appointed the candidate of Europe Ecology-Greens in the presidential election. The MEP experienced a difficult debut in her campaign. Almost inaudible, she struggled over the nuclear issue which was the focus of debate after the accident at the nuclear power plant of Fukushima Daiichi in Japan on 11th March 2011 – and failed when answering questions about employment and the maintenance of buying power. But the ecologists have always found presidential elections hard, which is an extremely personal campaign in which the Greens, often bearers of innovative ideas and which aim to play the collective field, are ill at ease.

Whilst the far left candidates won 10.44% of the vote in the first round of the presidential election in 2002 and then 5.75% five years later, Nathalie Artaud and Philippe Poutou are struggling in the polls and only total 2% of the voting intentions.

### **The murders in Montauban and Toulouse, a turning point in the presidential election?**

Whilst the electoral campaign officially started on 20th March last several tragic events put politics on hold for a while. The murder of a soldier in Toulouse on 11th March last and then that of two others four days later in Montauban and finally that of four other people (including three children) in front of a Jewish school in Toulouse on 19th March gave rise to a shock wave in France. Some days later the suspected killer, Mohamed Merah, a young 23 year-old Frenchman, a fundamental Islamist, who acted alone (according to the first observations), was identified. The latter was finally killed by the police force (RAID, an elite brigade in the French police force) after a 32 hour siege and negotiations at his home.

The murders affected France greatly even though it is too early to understand what the political consequences will be. "These are our children. It is France that has been affected (...) We have to do everything to make

these anti-Semitic acts and racism lead to a joint, firm response on the part of all of the Republic," declared Nicolas Sarkozy. "It is not a school of Jews, or a town that have been affected. It affects all of France. And so it is the Republic, with its status, its strength and unity that has to respond to this barbarous attack," stressed François Hollande. "All French people are under attack and have been injured by this murderous madness that has taken on a different face," indicated François Bayrou.

After the murderer's death the electoral campaign took off again but the tone has changed. Security and the fight to counter terrorism and that of radical Islamism or more widely, the position of Islam in France, may find themselves at the centre of political debate. Outgoing President Sarkozy has already made three proposals. "From now on anyone who regularly consults internet sites that approve terrorism or which call for hate or violence will be punished by the law (...) anyone who travels abroad to follow lessons of indoctrination, or ideologies that lead to terrorism will be punished by the law," he declared. He also announced that "the communication of extremist ideologies will be punished according to penal law with the means that exist, ie counter terrorism." François Hollande says that there was not necessarily any need to "change the law to step up security" but that it was vital to "strengthen our means", which were allocated to it.

All of the candidates have not given the impression that they are trying to take over the tragedy as their own or to use it to their advantage, a position that would be viewed badly by the French population.

According to the most recent poll by BVA and published on 22nd March last, François Hollande is due to win the first round of the presidential election on 22nd April next. With 29.5% of the vote he is due to come out ahead of the outgoing Head of State Nicolas Sarkozy, who is due to win 28% of the vote. The Left Front candidate Jean-Luc Mélenchon is due to come third with 14% of the vote. Marine Le Pen is due to win 13% of the vote, and François Bayrou 12%. The other five candidates are due to win under 5% of the vote, including 2% for ecologist Eva Joly. A CSA poll puts outgoing President Nicolas Sarkozy ahead in the voting intentions with 30% of the vote in the first round ahead of François Hollande (28%). In one poll the FN leader is due to come third with 13.5% of the vote ahead of François Bayrou and Jean-Luc Mélenchon (13% each). The other candidates are due to win under 5% of the vote.

The PS's candidate François Hollande is still the favourite in the second round of the election on 6th May.

Forced by the economic situation and without any

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strong popularity, both of the main candidates seem to have avoided the real debate and have caused doubt about their political project. In an Ipsos poll, published on 7th March, the French population said that the elec-

toral campaign was "not really interesting" and deplored the fact that the most important issues - in their opinion - (employment, buying power, school, housing, retirement) have not been adequately addressed.

### Reminder of the Presidential Election Results on 22nd April and 6th May 2007 in France

Turnout: 83.77% in the first round and 83.97% in the second round

Candidats	No. of votes won (1st round)	% of votes won (1st round)	No. of votes won (2nd round)	% of the vote won (2nd round)
Nicolas Sarkozy (Union for a Popular Movement, UMP)	11 448 663	31,18	18 983 138	53,06
Ségolène Royal (Socialist Party, PS)	9 500 112	25,87	16 790 440	46,94
François Bayrou (Union for French Democracy, UDF)	6 820 119	18,57		
Jean-Marie Le Pen (National Front, FN)	3 834 530	10,44		
Olivier Besancenot (Revolutionary Communist League LCR)	1 498 581	4,08		
Philippe de Villiers (Movement for France, MPF)	818 407	2,23		
Marie-George Buffet (French Communist Party, PCF)	707 268	1,93		
Dominique Voynet (Greens)	576 666	1,57		
Arlette Laguiller (Lutte ouvrière, LO)	487 857	1,33		
José Bové (independent)	483 008	1,32		
Frédéric Nihous (Hunting, Fishing, Nature and Tradition, CPNT)	420 645	1,15		
Gérard Schivardi (Workers Party, PT)	123 540	0,34		

Source : Constitutional Council

[http://www.interieur.gouv.fr/sections/a\\_votre\\_service/elections/actualites/11913079182440/downloadFile/attachedFile\\_3/CC\\_25\\_avril\\_07\\_resultats\\_prsd.pdf?nocache=1179128471.09](http://www.interieur.gouv.fr/sections/a_votre_service/elections/actualites/11913079182440/downloadFile/attachedFile_3/CC_25_avril_07_resultats_prsd.pdf?nocache=1179128471.09)

[http://www.interieur.gouv.fr/sections/a\\_votre\\_service/elections/actualites/11913079182440/downloadFile/attachedFile\\_5/CC\\_10\\_mai\\_2007\\_proclamation\\_resultats.pdf?nocache=1179128566.57](http://www.interieur.gouv.fr/sections/a_votre_service/elections/actualites/11913079182440/downloadFile/attachedFile_5/CC_10_mai_2007_proclamation_resultats.pdf?nocache=1179128566.57)

# The gap between François Hollande and Nicolas Sarkozy has tightened in the first round but the socialist candidate is still forecast to win in the second.

45 millions French citizens are being called to ballot on 22nd April for the first round of the presidential election in which ten candidates are running :

- Nicolas Sarkozy (Union for a Popular Movement, UMP), outgoing President of the Republic;
- François Hollande (Socialist Party, PS), former First Secretary of the Socialist Party (1997-2008) ;
- François Bayrou (Democratic Movement, MoDem), MP and former National Education Minister (1993-1997) ;
- Marine Le Pen (National Front, FN), MEP ;
- Jean-Luc Mélenchon (Left Front, FG), co-chair of the Left Party (PG), which with the French Communist Party (PCF) forms the Left Front – is also MEP;
- Eva Joly (Europe Ecology-The Greens, EELV), former magistrate and presently MEP;
- Nicolas Dupont-Aignan (République debout, DLR), MP;
- Nathalie Arthaud (Lutte ouvrière, LO) ;
- Philippe Poutou (the New Anti-Capitalist Party, NPA);
- Jacques Cheminade (Solidarity and Progress, S&P).

**D-7**  
7 days before  
the poll

Just one week before the election, the gap between outgoing President Nicolas Sarkozy and his socialist challenger François Hollande tightened even though the latter is still forecast to win in the second round, which will take place two weeks after 22nd April on 6th May. The populist National Front candidate Marine Le Pen (right) and the left populist Jean-Luc Mélenchon (Left Front) are vying for third place.

The most recent polls highlight the risk of a low turnout. A survey published on April 1st last by IFOP estimates the abstention rate at 32% i.e. a record level in French electoral history.

## Debt, public deficit, a battle of figures

The state of public finances is still one of the central themes in the electoral campaign. The outgoing President, Nicolas Sarkozy's programme plans to bring France's accounts back to balance by 2016, that of his

rival by 2017. To do this the UMP candidate wants to increase revenues by 40 billion €, 32 billion of which are to come thanks to reductions in tax niches that have already been approved by parliament and to reduce spending by 70 billion €. For the outgoing Head of State, France's recovery lies therefore in reducing spending by three quarters unlike his socialist rival. Nicolas Sarkozy wants to see the golden rule, i.e. the inclusion of the country's commitment with regard to the respect of the goal of balanced budgets in the public accounts and the limit of its structural deficit to 0.5% of the GDP (1% for countries whose debt is below 60% of the GDP) to be approved by the summer and repeats that the French socialists are the only ones in Europe not to want to make this commitment, which is part of the European budgetary pact – the so-called Stability, Coordination and Governance Treaty approved by 25 of the 27 EU Member States (except for the UK and the Czech Republic) on 2nd March last.

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Nicolas Sarkozy is planning to continue his policy to reduce the number of civil servants by including the major local communities (regions, departments and cities of over 30,000 inhabitants) which will not replace one civil servant in two as they retire (but they will continue to recruit). He is suggesting the introduction of a flat rate tax on profit (global, at least to start with) paid by big CAC 40 companies (which should bring in 2.3 billion €) and a tax on tax exiles, which should bring 500 to 700 million € per year into the State coffers. The outgoing President also wants to extend tax on financial transactions and increase taxes on the internet giants and also on people who rent out property. France's public deficit totalled 103 billion € last year, i.e. 5.2% of the GDP instead of 5.7% in 2010. Nicolas Sarkozy stressed that the reduction in the public deficit from one year to another was an all time first for France. *"For the first time since 1960 public spending as a whole was stabilised in terms of its volume. For the first time since 1945 State spending, excluding the burden of the debt and pensions has decreased,"* said the Prime Minister François Fillon (UMP). The public debt (around 1,700 billion €) has however increased: in 2010 it rose from 82.3% to 85.8% last year, whilst the government was counting on 84.9%. Obligatory payments have increased, rising from 42.5% in 2010 to 43.8% in 2011, again this was a figure above the one expected (43.7%). Public spending fell from 56.6% (2010) to 55.9% in 2011 – a better result than expected (56.3%). Average public spending in OECD countries lies at 43%.

François Hollande wants to reform taxation by cancelling 29 billion tax niches (capping tax niches at 10,000€ per year) and by raising the upper tax income tax band from 41% to 45%. The socialist candidate is also suggesting three professional tax rates (the first a low one at 15% for small companies: the second at 30% for medium sized businesses and the third at 35% for the biggest companies) as well as the end of tax exemptions on overtime.

According to a poll by Viavoice, published on 28th March last in the economic daily *Les Echos* and the BVA survey dated 27th March, employment is the main issue in the presidential election campaign for more

than half of the French (52%). 42% talk of buying power, 27% of public health issues, 24% of public deficits and 23% of insecurity. For the electorate, however the public deficit is the subject, which most candidates running in the election speak of the most – on a par with insecurity (32%) and ahead of employment (29%), immigration (25%) and buying power (24%). The British weekly, *The Economist* published a feature on 31st March *"France's Future. A country in Denial"*. The magazine accuses the two main candidates – Nicolas Sarkozy and François Hollande – of not preparing the French for the reforms, which are vital to counter the public deficit. It condemns their wait-and-see attitude with regard to the country's lethargy, which according to *The Economist* may lead to dramatic consequences.

### What kind of society model?

Nicolas Sarkozy defends an economic model, qualified as German, i.e. focused on the development of SME's that export and which are dynamic and positioned on middle of the range products. The programme put forward by the outgoing president on 5th April last includes 32 proposals including a net salary rise of 840€ per year for the 7 million people who earn between 1000 and 1,400€ per month, a 50% reduction in immigration and the confirmation of the choice to adopt nuclear power.

Last autumn Prime Minister François Fillon, likewise the Foreign Minister, Alain Juppé pleaded in support of an electoral campaign focused on the debt and competitiveness. But to date Nicolas Sarkozy has chosen another path: favouring regalian themes such as immigration, security, justice etc. which enable him as outgoing head of State to have an advantage over his main rival, *"those who think the election will be won because of the economy are wrong,"* he declared.

Nicolas Sarkozy said that he wanted to reduce legal immigration in France. *"The extremist parties say: we do not want people who are different. I say: those who come to France must love France enough to speak French and learn about our values* (the Head of State wants family reunification candidates to pass a French language test). *Otherwise they will not come to France (...)* How can people integrate, or assimilate if an

*uncontrolled migratory wave continually reduces the Republic's work to nought? We accept differences but we do not want to change our values, which were those of our parents, our grand-parents and which we want to pass on to our children,"* he said.

After having suggested the establishment of a Buy European Act according to the Buy American Act, which would reserve part of state orders for SME's and having asked for the review of the Schengen agreements that regulate the conditions of entry and free-movement within the signatory countries, Nicolas Sarkozy said that he would freeze the French contribution to the EU budget i.e. in his opinion this would mean savings of 600 million €. This request asked for by France (but also by other Member States including the UK, Germany and Finland) has been repeated over the last few months. Paris's contribution to the EU totals 19 billion €, which places the country second amongst the 27. France receives however 13 billion € from Brussels, including 9.8 billion in virtue of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP).

For his part, François Hollande continues his electoral campaign, criticising the results produced by Nicolas Sarkozy.

The socialist candidate has made youth the central theme of his electoral campaign. He suggests the introduction of a generation contract (reduction of social contributions to encourage employers to take on young people and to maintain the eldest in their jobs: employment on an unlimited contract of young people accompanied by a more experienced candidate, who will retain his job until he retires). The socialist candidate also wants to create 150,000 jobs for young people and says that every young person aged 16-18 who has dropped out of school will be offered training (apprenticeship or civil service). He also wants to draw up a productivity pact to revive growth in France by supporting innovative, exporting SMEs. François Hollande says that if he wins on 6th May next he will enter office quickly. He has laid out

in detail several measures that he wants to implement at the very beginning of his mandate: a 30% reduction in the salary earned by the President of the Republic and the members of government; a freezing of fuel prices for three months; a 25% increase in the school allocation in September; the introduction of retirement at 60 for those who started to work at 18 and who have paid their contributions for 41 years and the establishment of a scale of 1 to 20 in salary bands in the civil service.

The socialist candidate wants to see parliament – that will be elected on 17th June next – to convene from 3rd July until 2nd August. MPs will have to approve tax reforms quickly (abolition of tax niches, return to the previous tax on wealth (ISF), 75% taxation on the highest incomes (as of one million € per year) and the abolition of social VAT (a 1.6 point increase in the present VAT rate, that has already been approved and supposed to enter into force on October 1st next)). The designer of the socialist project, Michel Sapin, declared on 10th April that the 75% tax band would *"last as long as the recovery of France's finances required it"*.

François Hollande is trying to create a consensus around his bid for office and over the last few days he has increased the number of meetings he has had with socialist leaders, Ségolène Royal, Henri Emmanuelli, Arnaud Montebourg and even former socialist and honorary chair of the Citizens' Movement (MRC), Jean-Pierre Chevènement. *"I am seriously on the left and I am in favour of a serious left, which will not disappoint, will not deviate and will not turn away from its promises,"* declared the socialist candidate recently insisting on the fact that *"everything will depend on the first round"*, calling regularly for a *"strategic vote"*. *"The first round first – it will be decisive. We must create dynamism as of 22nd April. I am calling on the electorate to understand this,"* stressed the favourite, who warned however against the idea *"that everything has already been decided."* *"By continuing to announce a result, we'll end up by not creating it,"* he said on 13th April in the daily Libération.

The two favourites in the first round rallied their supporters on 15th April at the Concorde in Paris (Nicolas Sarkozy) and on the esplanade of the Château de Vincennes (François Hollande). Copying John Fitzgerald Kennedy, the latter spoke of “defining a new frontier for a new France.” “The appeal I am launching is not only the rejection of the outgoing candidate. My responsibility is higher. My responsibility is to open up a new era,” he declared. The outgoing President announced a new measure – the general application of the civil bankruptcy principle – and insisted greatly on his determination to work towards strengthening the role played by the European Central Bank in reviving growth.

### A Duel for Third Place

Behind the two favourites, Jean-Luc Mélenchon and Marine Le Pen are vying for third place in the polls.

The National Front candidate promises “a big surprise” on 22nd April. “I am convinced that more than one Frenchman in two does not want the duel between François Hollande-Nicolas Sarkozy. They know what they have to do,” she declared, saying however that if the 2nd round brought the two men up against one another she would not give any voting directives.

Marine Le Pen tried to develop her party’s usual campaign themes in the wake of the murders in Montauban and Toulouse (on 11th and 15th March last three soldiers and four Jews (including three children) were murdered by a young 23 year old Frenchman, Mohamed Merah). “We have to take drastic measures immediately and firmly against fundamental Islam,” declared the National Front candidate who promised to “take all of the necessary measures to protect the French from the Islamic threat.”

Jean-Luc Mélenchon continues his campaign that leans rather to the left. He defends an increase of the minimum salary to 1,700€ (10% of workers earn the SMIC, which lies at 1,398€ gross). He also suggests the employment of 800,000 people

in the civil service (the Left Front candidate wants to create 11 new services or “public centres”) and the renationalisation of EDF-GDF, Areva and Total. “France is extremely wealthy. The public service is not expensive. The public service does not cost a lot,” he maintains. Jean-Luc Mélenchon wants demonetise the debt and create nine new tax bands, including one in which tax totals 100%. We should note that the EU makes renationalisation impossible, likewise taxation at 100%.

The populist leader, who has always said he would not run in the second round to the benefit of the left candidate best suited, is convincing the voters on the left who are not very keen on the idea of voting for François Hollande and who want to have influence in the PS. As for the UMP it hopes that Jean-Luc Mélenchon will scare centrist voters, pushing them to give up their support of François Hollande in the second round. Although he may not be amongst the two leaders on 22nd April next, Jean-Luc Mélenchon may at least be pleased to have become the one with the best campaign (in the opinion of the French) in this presidential election. According to a poll by LH2, 63% of those interviewed say this. 57% of those interviewed speak in support of Nicolas Sarkozy’s campaign and 54% for that of François Hollande.

As for the other candidates François Bayrou, third in the first round of the presidential election on 22nd April 2007 with 18.57% of the vote, is losing ground and is due to come fifth. The Democratic Movement candidate maintains however to be the only one “dealing with real problems” and protests against the attitude adopted by his rivals, who, in his opinion, are preventing the French from understanding how serious the crisis is in France. “Only those who do not lie to the people love it. We say to people that everything is going well, that the crisis is behind us, that we can spend again,” he says in an interview in the daily Le Monde on 6th April. “The first question that springs to my mind is over employment, and the revival of production in our country,” he adds.

François Bayrou, was indeed the first to highlight the threat posed by the debt on the French economy and continues to warn the electorate both of extremes and against the futility of the left-right tug of war. *"Extremes are becoming increasingly dangerous and taking up more and more space. Because the political world is cut in tow, right against left – we have two dominant parties – one on the right, the Union for a Popular Movement, and the other on the left, the Socialist Party, who are both under pressure from their respective extremes. This leads to extremely significant excesses in terms of decisions and attitudes. In this presidential election there is only one political proposal that is safe from any extremist pressure, and it is the one I am putting forward to the French,"* he stressed.

In spite of their efforts and the opening of the official campaign on 9th April last the five other candidates -- Eva Joly (Europe Ecology-The Greens, EELV), Nathalie Arthaud (Lutte ouvrière, LO), Philippe Poutou (the New Anti-Capitalist Party, NPA), Nicolas Dupont-Aignan (Debout la République, DLR) and Jacques Cheminade (Solidarity and Progress, S&P) – are struggling to convince and are credited with very few votes in the polls (1% of the vote except for Eva Joly, who is due to win 2.5% of the vote).

François Hollande is in the lead in terms of voting intentions in the most recent poll by the Sofres for the TV channel Itélé, which was published on 13th April last. He is due to win 28% of the vote and is two points ahead of outgoing President Nicolas Sarkozy (26%). Jean-Luc Mélenchon and Marine Le Pen share third place with 16% of the vote each. François Bayrou is credited with 9% of the vote and ecologist Eva Joly 2.5% of the vote. The other candidates are due to win 1% of the vote or less. More than one quarter of those interviewed (27%) say they have not decided. Two thirds of those interviewed (64%) say however they know how they will vote. François Hollande is forecast to win in the second round on 6th May with 56% of the vote and 44% for Nicolas Sarkozy.

Many proposals that have been made over the last few weeks by the President of the Republic have not had the desired effect within the population. The outgoing head of State chose to warn the French of a victory by François Hollande who, in his opinion, would provoke *"a confidence crisis"* that would rapidly lead France to bankruptcy. *"In 1981 it took two years. This time it will take two days,"* he declared. *"If by misfortune François Hollande should win he will not be able to govern without Jean-Luc Mélenchon or the Greens. A left victory would reduce our budgetary, energy, food and military independence to nought,"* stressed Jean-François Copé, the UMP's Secretary General on 14th April.

If, in the opinion of the French, François Bayrou is the candidate *"who understands France's and the French population's problems the best"* (62%), the MoDem leader struggles because of his solitary image: 24% only believe that he *"has a real team with which to form a government"*, a quality that six Frenchmen in ten acknowledge however with regard to the outgoing head of State, (60%). An equivalent number of Frenchmen (60%) believe that Nicolas Sarkozy has the necessary qualities to be president against 38% with regard to François Hollande. The latter *"understands France's and the French population's problems"* (56% of those interviewed); only 36% share the same opinion about the outgoing head of State. These figures come from a poll undertaken by Sofres for Itélé at the beginning of April.

Finally with 57% of positive opinions François Holland takes the lead in terms of the most popular political figure in a monthly poll undertaken by Ipsos for the weekly magazine *Le Point*. He is ahead of François Bayrou, (56%). The outgoing President of the Republic Nicolas Sarkozy wins 40%.

We should remember that the presidential election will be followed on 10th and 17th June by general elections that will lead to the renewal of the 577 members of the National Assembly, the lower chamber in Parliament.

**Results of the 1st round of the presidential election on 22nd April 2012 in France**

Turnout : 79,47%

Candidates	No. of votes won (1st round)	% of votes won (1st round)
<b>François Hollande (Socialist Party, PS)</b>	10.273.475	28,63
<b>Nicolas Sarkozy (Union for a Popular Movement, UMP)</b>	9.754.324	27,18
<b>Marine Le Pen (National Front, FN)</b>	6.421.808	17,9
<b>Jean-Luc Mélenchon (Left Front, FG)</b>	3.985.088	11,10
<b>François Bayrou (Democratic Movement, MoDem)</b>	3.275.390	9,13
<b>Eva Joly (Europe Ecology-The Greens, EELV)</b>	828.392	2,31
<b>Nicolas Dupont-Aignan (Debout la République, DLR)</b>	644.065	1,79
<b>Philippe Poutou (New Anticapitalist Party, NPA)</b>	411.183	1,15
<b>Nathalie Arthaud (Lutte ouvrière, LO)</b>	202.562	0,56
<b>Jacques Cheminade (Solidarity and Progress, S&amp;P)</b>	89.558	0,25

Source : French Interior Ministry, <http://elections.interieur.gouv.fr/PR2012/FE.html>

## 2nd round of the French Presidential Election between the Socialist candidate François Hollande and the outgoing Head of State, Nicolas Sarkozy

**D-7**  
7 days before  
the poll  
(2<sup>nd</sup> round)

On 22nd April last the Socialist Party candidate, (PS) François Hollande came out ahead in the first round of the French presidential election winning 28.63% of the vote, taking the lead over outgoing President of the Republic, Nicolas Sarkozy (Union for a Popular Movement, UMP), who won 27.18% of the vote. Both men will be facing each other in the second round of the election that will take place on 6th May next.

People who voted for Marine Le Pen, the National Front candidate (FN), who won 17.90% of the vote, taking third place, are the now the focus of the campaign. To win on 6th May next each of the candidates has to attract a share of the voters who opted for Ms Le Pen a week ago.

The outgoing President of the Republic must also convince the electorate of centrist François Bayrou (Democratic Movement, MoDem), who won 9.13% of the vote on 22nd April. Nicolas Sarkozy must therefore achieve an impossible acrobatic feat and rally two electorates (those

in the centre and on the populist right) who are totally opposite each other. He challenges the idea however that there is an "insurmountable barrier" between the two camps. He has no problem in going too far – too far in the eyes of some – to convince the National Front electorate, pursuing a campaign that is oriented far to the right, which is leading to some dissension amongst the presidential majority. Nicolas Sarkozy has said though that there will be no agreement between the UMP and the National Front and that no FN minister will sit in the future government if he is re-elected on 6th May next.

For her part, Marine Le Pen, sticking to her campaign message, is refusing to choose between the outgoing President of the Republic and his socialist challenger. She must however be careful not to appear, in the event of victory on the part of François Hollande, as the one responsible for Nicolas Sarkozy's defeat, although this might in fact please her, since she has not hidden her desire to take over as head of the opposition against a socialist government after the general elections that will take place on 10th and 17th June next.

François Hollande is continuing his federating strategy, including beyond his own camp, which is vital if he wants to win on 6th May next. *"First we have to motivate those who did not turn out to vote. Secondly we have to speak to all sincere republicans who have France's interest at heart. Finally there is the electorate of Marine Le Pen part of which comes from the left and ought to find itself on the side of progress, equality, change and justice because it is against privileges, against financial globalisation, against a weak Europe,"* declared the socialist candidate in an interview in the daily, Liberation on 23rd April.

The socialist candidate is finding it easier to rally people to his name. Indeed with the exception of Nathalie Arthaud (Lutte ouvrière, LO) all of the leftwing candidates in the first round – Philippe Poutou (New Anti-Capitalist Party, NPA), Jean-Luc Mélenchon (Left Front, FG) and Eva Joly (Europe Ecology-the Greens, EELV) – called to vote for the *"best placed left candidate"* in the second round. Without approving the socialist programme, voters who opted for the *"left of the left"* will do everything in their power to beat the outgoing President, Nicolas Sarkozy.

Prime Minister François Fillon (UMP), whose constant worry vis-à-vis the need to reduce the deficit and to control public finance, has always been appreciated by the centrists, addressed François Bayrou's electorate, insisting on the common values shared by the right and the centre, calling for their vote on 6th May. He promoted Nicolas Sarkozy's credibility, notably regarding issues of security, immigration and the protection of the French. François Fillon says he is convinced that the people do not *"really want the left"* and is confident about Nicolas Sarkozy's victory. In his opinion *"the Pre-*

*sident of the Republic's determination, his authority, his ability to assume the position of Head of State in the crisis"* will be confirmed during the televised debate between the two men that will take place on 2nd May.

On 25th April François Bayrou sent a letter to both candidates indicating his priorities. These refer to the fight to counter deficits, development of production, the moralisation of political life, national unity and the European project. In his 2 pages answer, François Hollande indicated that he was planning the approval of a law on the moralisation of political life that would include a restriction on multiple mandates, the independence of the legal system and the exemplarity of the State. He also declared that he supported the introduction of a dose of proportionality into the general elections. Nicolas Sarkozy, in a 7 pages answer, recalled that he supported the inclusion of the golden rule into the constitution (commitment to respecting the goal of budgetary balance on the part of public administrations and a limit of the structural deficit of 0.5% of the GDP) unlike his socialist rival.

Outgoing President, Nicolas Sarkozy was the source of polemic between rounds as he announced that he was going to organise the celebration of *"real work"* on May 1st, for those *"who work hard, who are exposed to, who suffer and who no longer want people to be able to earn more if they don't work than when they work."* May 1st in France is a bank holiday when work is celebrated in commemoration of May 1st 1886, when the unions demonstrated in Chicago, USA, in support of an eight hour working day, a demonstration that turned into a riot that subsequently was severely repressed. Every May 1st the National Front organises a rally in Paris in celebration of Jeanne d'Arc.

Just one week from the election the second round of the French presidential election seems more than ever like a referendum on Nicolas Sarkozy's personality and government style.

According to a TNS Sofres poll for the channel Itélé published on 27th April, François Hollande is due to win the second round with 55% of the vote, i.e. a ten point lead over outgoing President Nicolas Sarkozy (45%). Slightly more than one quarter of those interviewed

(27%) did not say which way they would vote. 81% of interviewees say they are certain of their choice, including 94% of voters for François Hollande and 88% for the outgoing head of State. According to a poll half of Marine Le Pen's electorate (51%) are going to vote for the outgoing President, 16% for his socialist rival and one third say they will abstain (33%) or will vote blank or null. Amongst François Bayrou's electorate 39% lean towards the UMP, 32% for the PS and 29% will abstain or vote blank or null. Finally eight of those interviewed out of ten (81%) said they were sure to go

and vote on 6th May.

Another poll by IFOP reveals that most of the French (52%) think that François Hollande will win in the 2nd round; one quarter (21%) anticipate victory for the outgoing President. 43% of the French wish the victory of François Hollande and 35% the victory of Nicolas Sarkozy.

Since the autumn Nicolas Sarkozy has not once been forecast by the polls to win in the 2nd round against François Hollande.

## Socialist François Hollande is the new President of the Republic of France

### Results

François Hollande (Socialist Party, PS) was elected President of the French Republic with 51.63% of the vote in the second round of the presidential election that took place on 6th May. He beat his rival, outgoing head of State, Nicolas Sarkozy (Union for a Popular Movement, UMP), who won 48.37% of the vote. The socialist candidate's victory can certainly be explained as much by a feeling for political change on the part of the French as their rejection of Nicolas Sarkozy as a person.

Turnout was high; it totalled 80.34%.

*"I can see the task that lies ahead. I promise to serve my country. I know what it demands,"* declared Mr Hollande in his speech after the announcement of the first results. *"This evening there are not two Frances, there is just one nation with a common future. Everyone will be treated with the same rights and duties. Too much division, too many rifts have led to the separation of our citizens. It is over!"*, he added. *"I ask to be judged according to two criteria: justice and youth,"* indicated the winner of the election, quoting the numerous areas of work which await him, including reviving production, reducing deficits, controlling the debt, protecting the social model and re-orienting Europe towards growth and employment for the future.

Just a few days ago Mr Hollande admitted that he was quite apprehensive about becoming President of the Republic. *"The country's problems will not go away if Nicolas Sarkozy leaves office, he will not take with him*

*the public debt, unemployment, and social emergencies, I can see what is being asked of me. Time will not be on my side,"* he declared.

Outgoing Head of State Nicolas Sarkozy acknowledged defeat and wished the new Head of State *"the best of luck amidst all of the problems"*. He declared that he was *"entirely responsible"* for the defeat. *"I am not someone who does not assume his responsibilities. I have to learn from all of this,"* he stressed adding, *"another era is about to start. In this new era I shall remain with you. I share your ideas and your beliefs. And you can count on me to defend those ideas and beliefs."*

The campaign he undertook on the far right and its attempts to rally both the votes of Marine Le Pen's electorate (National Front FN) and those of François Bayrou (Democratic Movement, MoDem), which were the cause of tension in his party, prevented him from

winning. *"The governance of the UMP lacked diversity. We should have maintained the party's dual centrist culture,"* declared former Prime Minister (2002-2005) Jean-Pierre Raffarin.

According to an Ipsos poll for France Télévision, Radio France, Le Monde and Le Point, those who voted for Marine Le Pen, who gave no instructions on how to vote but who said that she personally would be voting blank in the second round, mainly voted for the outgoing Head of State, Nicolas Sarkozy (51%). One quarter of them (25%) are said to have abstained, 14% chose François Hollande and 10% imitated their candidate and voted blank. As for those who voted for François Bayrou, who said that he would vote in support of the socialist candidate, most voted for Nicolas Sarkozy (41%), 29% chose François Hollande and 30% are said to have voted blank or void or they simply did not go to vote.

Nicolas Sarkozy, who said during his campaign that he would give up politics if he failed in the presidential election, has not repeated this declaration. *"I shall remain amongst you and you will be able to count on me but my place will no longer be the same. My commitment to my country will now be different,"* he indicated. The Head of State is therefore going to step back without announcing his withdrawal from political life though. Nicolas Sarkozy has however said that he would not undertake the campaign for the upcoming general elections that will take place on 10th and 17th June next.

During his electoral campaign François Hollande announced the first measures that would be implemented if he won on 6th May. The first of these which is symbolic is a 30% reduction in the remuneration of the President of the Republic and the members of the government. The socialist candidate declared that as of 29th June, and amongst other things, he would introduce an increase of 25% in the September school allocation, cap petrol prices, he would propose the renegotiation of the European budgetary pact in order for it to include growth measures, he would introduce retirement for people aged 60, who started work at the age of 18 and who have contributed for 41.5 years into the system; there would also be a maximum difference of between

1 to 20 in terms of salaries in state companies (RGPP). Between 3rd July and 2nd August Parliament will have to meet in extraordinary session and approve, amongst other measures, the draft law on financial programming establishing the goal of a return to balance in 2017, fiscal reform (review of tax niches and the creation of a 75% tax band (applicable to people earning over one million euros per annum) and the abolition of social VAT. Aged 57, François Hollande is a high ranking civil servant who started his career as an auditor for the Court of Auditors. He joined the Socialist Party in 1979 and after the election of François Mitterrand as President in 1981, he was an advisor to the Presidency of the Republic. He then became director of the cabinet of two government spokespeople, Max Gallo (PS) and Roland Dumas (PS).

Elected first as an MP in 1988, he succeeded Lionel Jospin in 1997 as head of the Socialist Party by becoming its first secretary – a position he occupied until November 2008. In that year he was also elected general councillor of the department of Corrèze and became the President of the General Council of the same region. He was re-elected to this post in the local elections in March 2011. Just after this election on 31st March 2011 he said he would be running for President in 2012. François Hollande was elected by the Socialist Party on 21st October after having won 56.67% of the vote on 16th October in the second round of the primary election in which he faced Martine Aubry. On 6th May François Hollande, who has never occupied a government post in the 30 years of his career became the 7th President of the Fifth Republic and the 2nd from the PS.

Several international appointments are being scheduled for the new Head of State, including the G8 and Camp David (USA) on 18th and 19th May and the next NATO summit on 20th and 21st in Chicago. François Hollande has said he reserving his first journey abroad for Germany and Chancellor Angela Merkel (CDU).

From a domestic point of view the battle for the general election that will take place on 10th and 17th June next has now started with the PS hoping to provide François Hollande with a majority that will enable him to govern; the UMP is calling for the electorate not to give the PS the same power that it already holds in the Senate (the Upper Chamber of Parliament), in most of the country's regions, departments and major cities.

Presidential election in France  
22<sup>nd</sup> April and 6<sup>th</sup> May 2012

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**Presidential Election Results of 22nd April and 6th May 2012 in France**

Turnout: 79.48% (1st round) and 80.34% (2nd round)

Candidates	No of votes won (1st round)	% of votes won (1st round)	No of votes won (2nd round)	% of votes won (2nd round)
<b>François Hollande (Socialist Party, PS)</b>	10 272 705	28.63	18 000 438	51.63
<b>Nicolas Sarkozy (Union for a Popular Movement, UMP)</b>	9 753 629	27.18	16 869 371	48.37
<b>Marine Le Pen (National Front FN)</b>	6 421 426	17,9		
<b>Jean-Luc Mélenchon (Left Front, FG)</b>	3 884 822	11,1		
<b>François Bayrou (Democratic Movement, MoDem)</b>	3 275 122	9,13		
<b>Eva Joly (Europe Ecology-The Greens, EELV)</b>	828 345	2,31		
<b>Nicolas Dupont-Aignan (Debout la République, DLR)</b>	643 907	1,79		
<b>Philippe Poutou (New Anti-Capitalist Party, NPA)</b>	411 160	1,15		
<b>Nathalie Arthaud (Lutte ouvrière, LO)</b>	202 548	0,56		
<b>Jacques Cheminade (Solidarity and Progress, S&amp;P)</b>	89 545	0,25		

Source : Interior Ministry <http://elections.interieur.gouv.fr/PR2012/FE.html>