

French candidates neck-and-neck

Interior Minister Nicolas Sarkozy is set to be appointed UMP presidential candidate with polls giving him the slimmest of leads over Socialist candidate Ségolène Royal for the first round of voting in April. The pair are thought most likely to contest the second, head-to-head round on May 6



Ségolène Royal
Parti Socialiste (PS)

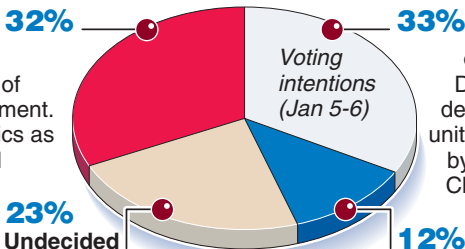


Nicolas Sarkozy
Union pour un
Mouvement
Populaire (UMP)



Straight-talking and promising fresh ideas for voters tired of elitist establishment. Derided by critics as lightweight and inexperienced

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS – April 22/May 6



Driven and energetic with tough stance on law and order. Divisive candidate despite promises to unite country, tainted by association with Chirac government



UNDECLARED
Jacques Chirac
Incumbent has not ruled out standing as independent. Deadline of March 16 to declare

Jean Marie Le Pen
Front National (FN)
Perennial far-right candidate profited from divided votes in 2002 to reach second round



PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS – June 10/17

