



François Hollande

French Socialist Party candidate will stand against President Nicolas Sarkozy in April's election

■ **Aug 12, 1954:** François Hollande, son of a doctor, born in Rouen, France

■ **Education:** Attends prestigious Ecole Nationale d'Administration and elite Sciences Po university

■ **Political career**

1979: Joins ***Socialist Party***, adviser to President ***François Mitterrand***

1988-93, 1997-present: Member of National Assembly representing constituency of Corrèze

1997: Succeeds ***Lionel Jospin*** as Socialist Party leader

2007: Breaks up with ***Segolene Royal*** – mother of his four children – after her defeat to Sarkozy in presidential election. Relationship with journalist ***Valérie Trierweiler*** revealed

2008: Stands down as party leader. ***Martine Aubry*** becomes first woman to lead Socialist Party

Jun 2011: Described as “true statesman” capable of crossing party lines, by former conservative President ***Jacques Chirac***

Oct 16: Beats party leader ***Martine Aubry*** in Socialist primary contest