

# French presidential race hots up

France's former Economy Minister Emmanuel Macron has launched his presidential bid just days before the conservative Les Républicains hold their primaries. Voters go to the polls next April and May



**Alain Juppé, 71**

*Former prime minister*

**Les Républicains**

Current front-runner in polls says French identity is grounded in respect for religious and ethnic diversity



**Nicolas Sarkozy, 61**

*Former president*

**Les Républicains**

Proposes detention of thousands of people who are on intelligence watch lists but have never been charged



**François Fillon, 62**

*Former prime minister*

**Les Républicains**

Only outspoken defender of economic liberalism among party's seven candidates



Four other

**Les Républicains**

candidates:

**Bruno Le Maire** (above), **Nathalie Kosciusko-Morizet**, **Jean-Frédéric Poisson** and **Jean-François Copé**



**François Hollande, 62**

*President of France*

**Socialist Party**

Has not yet confirmed whether he will stand for re-election



**Manuel Valls, 54**

*Prime Minister*

**Socialist Party**

Supported attempts from right-wing mayors to ban head-to-foot "burkini" swimsuits



**Marine Le Pen, 48**

**Front National**

Anti-immigrant message – no place for multiculturalism under Le Pen presidency



**Emmanuel Macron, 38**

**En Marche!**

Former investment banker has pledged to break apart France's political system