

Bertrand emerges as Macron challenger

Former insurance salesman, Xavier Bertrand, has emerged as a leading contender for the April 2022 French presidential election between President Emmanuel Macron and far-right leader Marine Le Pen



Xavier Bertrand

Conservative head of Hauts-de-France region has confirmed he will stand in 2022 election, although not for main right-wing faction ***Les Républicains (LR)***



Marine Le Pen

Leader of far-right ***Rassemblement National (RN)*** made it to run-off vote in 2017 presidential election but was decisively defeated by Macron



Emmanuel Macron

Surged to power in 2017 with centrist ***La République En Marche! (LREM)***, but has shifted policies rightward in bid to outflank Le Pen

2022 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION VOTING INTENTION*

Emmanuel Macron *La République En Marche!* 24%

Marine Le Pen *Rassemblement National* 24%

Xavier Bertrand (*scenario as LR candidate*) 18%

10% **Yannick Jadot** *Europe Écologie-Les Verts*

8% **Anne Hidalgo** *Parti Socialiste*

7% **Jean-Luc Mélenchon** *La France Insoumise*

5% **Nicolas Dupont-Aignan** *Debout la France*

*IPSOS/Sopra Steria poll of 1,499 respondents conducted Jun 25-26, 2021

Sources: AFP, Reuters, Twitter

Pictures: Getty Images

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