France's Le Pen could run for presidency

A French appeals court has shortened Marine Le Pen's ban from public office, potentially allowing the far-right leader to contest the 2027 presidential election



"Fake Jobs" Case

- **2013:** French investigative outlet ***Mediapart*** reports that two members of Le Pen's ***National Front*** party – now ***National Rally (RN)*** – were hired as parliamentary assistants who allegedly worked for party rather than for EU
- **Investigators later discover these hires are part of wider system of "fake jobs"**
- **2023:** Le Pen ordered to stand trial alongside 27 other defendants over alleged misuse of EU funds – charges she and her party contest
- **Mar 2025:** Paris court rules Le Pen played key role in scheme to misappropriate more than **€4m** of EU funds
- She receives five-year ban from holding elected office, four-year prison sentence – two years suspended and rest served in home detention – and **€100,000** fine

Appeal Ruling

- **Jul 7, 2026:** Court upholds guilty sentence but reduces ban on holding elected office to 45 months, with 30 months suspended
- Outcome means Le Pen could run in 2027 but would have to wear electronic tag – something she said she would not do



- If Le Pen declines to stand, it would likely make RN president ***Jordan Bardella*** *(left)* party's presidential candidate

Sources: BBC, Reuters

Pictures: Getty Images

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