

How the voting system changes the elections

patrice.kiener@inmodelia.com

Tel: +33.9.53.45.07.38

Paris + University of Crete - 5 February 2025

Elections in old and modern times



« Those who vote decide nothing, those who count the votes decide everything. »

Joseph Stalin

How the voting system changes the elections



Following the European elections of 9 June 2024,

President Macron decided to dissolve the French national assembly and called for new elections which took place on 30 June 2024 for the first round and on 7 July 2024 for the second round.

It is reasonable to assume that voters have not changed their mind in 3 weeks.

Except that the voting system for the European Parliament and the French parliament are very different and completely change the way of voting of French voters and the results.

This talk is about the voting systems and their impact on the elections.

European Elections, 9 June 2024 in France





In France, elections are held on Sunday.

Next municipal elections were scheduled in 2026.

Next presidential + parliament elections were scheduled in 2027.

Map of France + 10 overseas departments + T





European elections: the voting system



Key points:

- One round
- Lists of candidates at the national level
- Vote is for a list, not for a candidate
- Lists are opened to all citizens
- The cost to create and submit a list is low
- Proportional vote
- 81 seats allocated to France
- One threshold, not 1/81 = 1.23 % but 5 %

Consequences:

- 38 lists !!!
- Lists having a score between 1.23 % and 5 % are penalized

European elections: results of lists 1 – 12



Résultats nationaux

Résultats d	éfinitifs : 35270 communes / 35270						
1	Jordan BARDELLA Liste du Rassemblement National - La FRANCE REVIENT	31,37 % 7765 595 voix	30 sièges	7	Marion MARÉCHAL Liste Reconquête!-LA FRANCE FIERE, MENEE PAR MARION MARECHAL ET SOUTENUE PAR ÉRIC ZEMMOUR	5,47 % 1353 061 voix	5 sièges
2	Valérie HAYER Liste Ensemble - BESOIN D'EUROPE	14,6 % 3614322 voix	13 sièges	8	Léon DEFFONTAINES Liste du Parti communiste français - GAUCHE UNIE	2,36 % 583 886 voix	
3	Raphaël GLUCKSMANN Liste d'union à gauche - REVEIL EUR	13,83 % 3423641 voix	13 sièges	9	Jean LASSALLE Liste divers droite - AR	2,35 % 582 794 voix	
4	Manon AUBRY Liste de La France insoumise - LFI - UP	9,89 % 2448 692 voix	9 sièges	10	Hélène THOUY Liste Divers - PARTI ANIMALISTE	2 % 495 852 voix	
5	François-Xavier BELLAMY Liste des Républicains - LA DROITE POUR FAIRE ENTENDRE LA VOIX DE LA FRANCE EN EUROPE	7,25 % 1793790 voix	6 sièges	11	Jean Marc GOVERNATORI Liste écologiste - EAC	1,28 % 315 999 voix	
6	Marie TOUSSAINT Liste Les Ecologistes - EUROPE ÉCOLOGIE	5,5 % 1362140 voix	5 sièges	12	François ASSELINEAU Liste Divers - LISTE ASSELINEAU-FREXIT	1,02 % 253 008 voix	

European elections: results of lists 13 – 26



13	Florian PHILIPPOT Liste d'extrême droite - L'EUROPE CA SUFFIT!	0,93 % 229 122 voix	20	Nagib AZERGUI Liste Divers - FREE PALESTINE	0,06 % 15 049 voix
14	Nathalie ARTHAUD Liste d'extrême-gauche - LUTTE OUVRIERE	0,49 % 121 398 voix	21	Georges RENARD-KUZMANOVIC Liste Divers - NLP	0,06 % 13 880 voix
15	Yann WEHRLING Liste écologiste - ECOLOGIE POSITIVE	0,42 % 104 971 voix	22	Pierre LARROUTUROU Liste divers gauche - CHANGER L'EUROPE	0,05 % 13 095 voix
16	Marine CHOLLEY Liste écologiste - ÉQUINOXE	0,29 % 73 005 voix	23	Laure PATAS D'ILLIERS Liste Divers - ESPERANTO	0,04 % 10 348 voix
17	Guillaume LACROIX Liste divers gauche - EUROPE TERRITOIRES ÉCOLOGIE	0,26 % 63 508 voix	24	Audric ALEXANDRE Liste Divers - PACE	0,03 % 7 496 voix
18	Selma LABIB Liste d'extrême-gauche - URGENCE REVOLUTION!	0,15 % 37 438 voix	25	Francis LALANNE Liste Divers - FRANCE LIBRE	0,02 % 5 522 voix
19	Caroline ZORN Liste Divers - PARTI PIRATE	0,11 % 28 203 voix	26	Pierre-Marie BONNEAU Liste d'extrême droite - FORTERESSE EUROPE	0,02 % 5 305 voix

European elections: results of lists 27 – 38



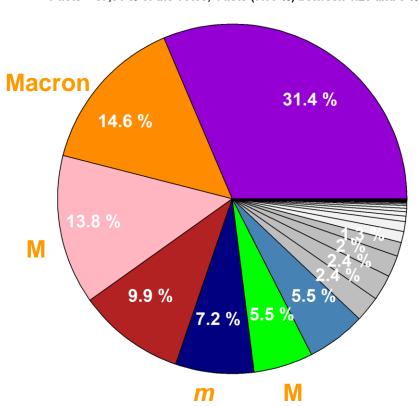
27	Gaël COSTE-MEUNIER Liste Divers - DEFENDRE LES ENFANTS	0,02 % 5 289 voix	34	Olivier TERRIEN Liste d'extrême-gauch REVOLUTIONNAIRE C
28	Camille ADOUE Liste d'extrême-gauche - PPL	0,02 % 4143 voix	35	Philippe PONGE Liste Divers - POUR U REELLE : DECIDONS N
29	Lorys ELMAYAN Liste Divers - LA RUCHE CITOYENNE	0,02 % 4100 voix	36	Léopold-Edouard LESAINT Liste Divers - HUMANI
30	Jean-Marc FORTANÉ Liste Divers - POUR UNE AUTRE EUROPE	0,02 % 3 829 voix	37	Patrice GRUDÉ Liste Divers - LIBERTÉ FRANÇAISE
31	Michel SIMONIN Liste d'extrême-gauche - PAIX ET DECROISSANCE	0,02 % 3797 voix	38	Hamada TRAORÉ Liste Divers - DEMOCF REPRESENTATIVE
32	Charles HOAREAU Liste d'extrême-gauche - NON À L'UE ET À L'OTAN, COMMUNISTES POUR LA PAIX ET LE PROGRÈS SOCIAL	0,01 % 3193 voix	Sources : N	linistère de l'Intérieu
33	Edouard HUSSON Liste Divers - PRENONS-NOUS EN MAIN	0,01 %		



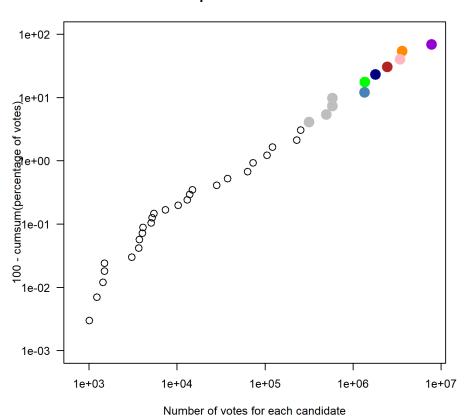
Some national results



June 2024 European elections in France 7 lists = 87,91 % of the votes, 4 lists (7.99 %) between 1.23 and 5 %



June 2024 European elections in France: Fat tail



European elections: 577 circonscriptions (same zonal divisions than the French parliament)



EU2024 electoral data are public:

- https://www.data.gouv.fr/fr/datasets/resultats-des-elections-europeennes-du-9-juin-2024/
- Several files:
 - 70104 voting bureaux
 - 35270 municipalities
 - 577 deputy circonscriptions (= the French parliament)
 - 98 departments in France + overseas departments and territories
 + 11 circonscriptions for French people leaving outside France
 - · 22 regions
 - All France
- I selected the file that corresponds to the 577 circonscriptions
- To simplify the analysis, I kept the 7 winners and aggregated the 31 lists in 2 groups: left (gauche) and right (droite) => 9 lists
- National data have no zero, I can apply:
 - PCA (Principal Component Analysis) on CLR (Centered Log-ratio) data
 - CA (Correspondance analysis) on untransformed data

The dataset (after some transformation)



About the column names:

- CDEP LCIR: Details of the 577 circonscriptions
- INSC EXPR: Number of registered voters, Number of correct votes
- BARDELLA PDROITE: Percentages of the 9 lists
- cBARDELLA cPDROITE: Centered Log-Ratio
- aBARDELLA aPDROITE: Alpha transformation (alpha=0.25)
- eBARDELLA ePDROITE: weighted CLR (easyCODA)

```
> ht9(XC, n=2) # 577 x 42
   Data frame of dimension: 577 x 42
         CDEP
                                          LDEP CCIR
                                                                      LCIR
                                                                             INSC
                                                                                   EXPR BARDELLA HAYER GLUCKSMANN
                                                     1ère circonscription
   0101
           91
                                           Ain 0101
                                                                            86824 46887
                                                                                            37.44 13.98
                                                                                                             12.13
                                                     2ème circonscription 102088 56962
                                                                                                             11.88
   0102
           Θ1
                                           Ain 0102
                                                                                           36.73 14.82
   ZZ10
          ZZ Français établis hors de France ZZ10 10ème circonscription 113777 18842
                                                                                           14.31 18.16
                                                                                                             12.17
          ZZ Français établis hors de France ZZ11 11ème circonscription 104696 22555
   ZZ11
                                                                                             9.48 23.64
                                                                                                             16.48
        AUBRY BELLAMY TOUSSAINT MARECHAL PGAUCHE PDROITE CBARDELLA CHAYER CGLUCKSMANN CAUBRY CBELLAMY CTOUSSAINT
                  7.72
   0101 6.50
                            4.37
                                      5.95
                                              5.72
                                                      6.19
                                                               1.457 0.471
                                                                                   0.329 -0.295
                                                                                                   -0.122
                                                                                                              -0.692
   0102 7.66
                  7.92
                            4.90
                                      5.88
                                              4.75
                                                      5.46
                                                               1.437 0.530
                                                                                   0.309 -0.130
                                                                                                   -0.097
                                                                                                              -0.577
7710 21.05
                  9.54
                            6.91
                                      9.68
                                              3.01
                                                      5.17
                                                               0.406
                                                                                   0.242
                                                                                                   -0.001
                                                                      0.643
                                                                                         0.790
                                                                                                              -0.324
   ZZ11 8.90
                  8.28
                           10.76
                                    10.36
                                              4.20
                                                      7.90
                                                               -0.057 0.860
                                                                                   0.499 -0.117
                                                                                                   -0.189
                                                                                                               0.073
         cMARECHAL cPGAUCHE cPDROITE aBARDELLA aHAYER aGLUCKSMANN aAUBRY aBELLAMY aTOUSSAINT aMARECHAL aPGAUCHE
            -0.383
                     -0.422
                              -0.343
                                                                                        -0.660
                                                                                                   -0.436
                                                                                                            -0.467
   0101
                                          1.923 0.397
                                                             0.233 -0.366
                                                                             -0.219
           -0.395
   0102
                     -0.608
                              -0.469
                                          1.884
                                                 0.467
                                                             0.208 -0.227
                                                                             -0.197
                                                                                        -0.582
                                                                                                   -0.446
                                                                                                            -0.604
   ZZ10
                                                                                                            -0.922
             0.013
                     -1.155
                              -0.614
                                          0.352
                                                 0.649
                                                             0.168 0.852
                                                                             -0.080
                                                                                        -0.366
                                                                                                   -0.066
   ZZ11
             0.035
                     -0.868
                              -0.236
                                         -0.104
                                                                             -0.227
                                                                                         0.021
                                                                                                            -0.738
                                                0.995
                                                             0.501 -0.162
                                                                                                   -0.017
         apdroite ebardella ehayer eglucksmann eaubry ebellamy etoussaint emarechal epgauche epdroite
   0101
           -0.405
                      1.036 0.051
                                         -0.091 -0.714
                                                         -0.542
                                                                     -1.112
                                                                               -0.803
                                                                                         -0.842
                                                                                                  -0.763
   0102
           -0.503
                      1.011 0.103
                                         -0.118 -0.557
                                                         -0.524
                                                                    -1.003
                                                                               -0.822
                                                                                        -1.034
                                                                                                  -0.895
   ZZ10
                                                         -0.218
                                                                    -0.540
                                                                                        -1.371
                                                                                                  -0.830
           -0.587
                      0.188 0.427
                                          0.027 0.574
                                                                               -0.203
           -0.269
                                                         -0.282
                                                                                        -0.961
   ZZ11
                     -0.146 0.767
                                          0.406 -0.210
                                                                     -0.020
                                                                               -0.058
                                                                                                  -0.329
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PCA on the 577 circonscriptions



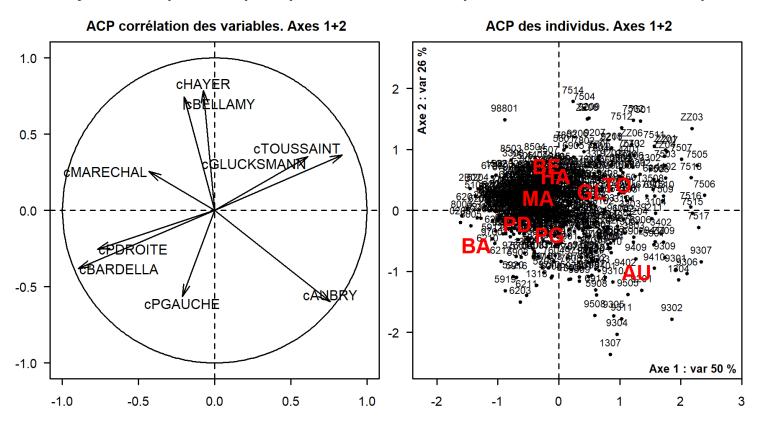
7514 = 75 Paris city, 14 is fourteen circonscription (different from arrondissement)

98801 = 988 Guadaloupe Island, 01 is first circonscription

ZZ08 = ZZ French zone outside France, 08 is for Italy, Greece, Turkey, Lebanon, Syria, Israel, Egypt, Chypre, Malte

9302 = 93 Department of Seine Saint-Denis (north-east of Paris, formerly red suburb), 02 is second circonscription

Analyse en composantes principales – Élections européennes 2024 – 577 circonscriptions



CA on the 577 circonscriptions



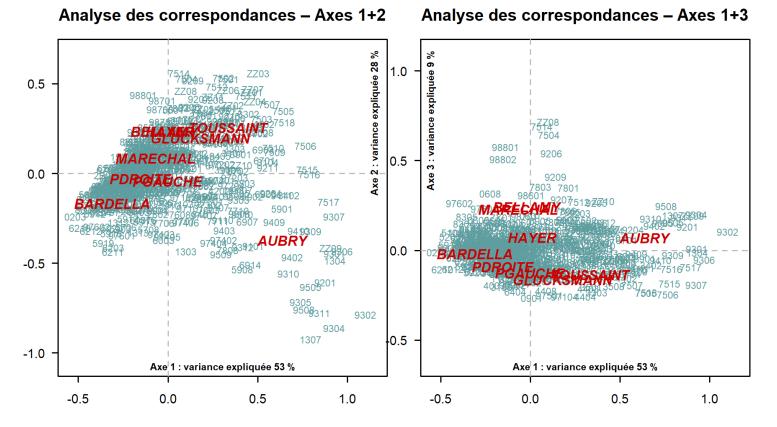
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Élections européennes 2024 – 577 circonscriptions



PCA on the 577 circonscriptions, 3D

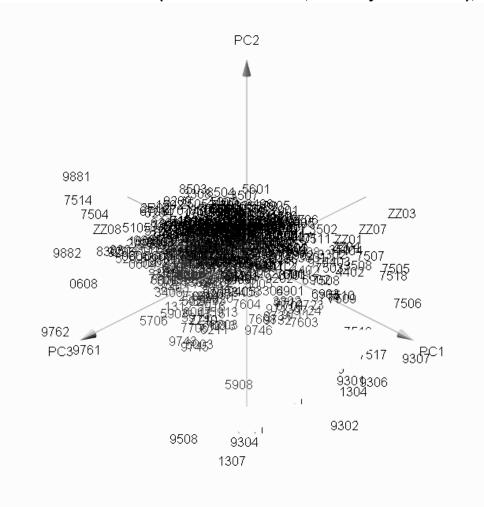


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9302 = 93 Department of Seine Saint-Denis (north-east of Paris, formerly red suburb), 02 is second circonscription



Votes > 50 %



16 candidates received more than 50 % of the votes and were elected on the first round:

- BARDELLA (LE PEN, far-right): 14 candidates
- AUBRY(MÉLENCHON, far-left): 2 candidates

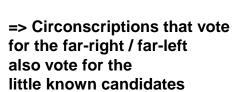
02, 80, 52 = Aisne + Somme + Haute-Marne => agricultural departments

59, 62 = Nord + Pas-de-Calais => desindustrialisation + migrants to UK

93 = Seine Saint-Denis => workers

97602 = Mayotte island => migrants from Comores archipel

> XC9	[apply(XC9	9,1,∖(ı	u) max(u) >	50),]					
	BARDELLA	HAYER	GLUCKSMANN	AUBRY	BELLAMY	TOUSSAINT	MARECHAL	PGAUCHE	PDROITE
0201	50.21	11.68	8.16	4.72	6.10	2.86	4.60	4.95	6.72
0203	55.87	9.98	6.74	3.20	5.76	1.49	4.87	4.47	7.62
0204	50.85	11.44	7.81	6.18	5.55	2.34	4.99	4.73	6.11
5202	52.85	10.24	6.68	4.70	8.08	1.81	5.39	3.66	6.59
5912	50.81	11.04	6.92	5.10	5.24	2.29	4.45	7.46	6.69
5916	50.33	8.48	7.03	8.76	3.38	2.45	4.27	9.17	6.13
5918	51.95	11.93	6.81	3.88	6.28	1.95	5.56	5.20	6.44
5919	53.13	7.62	5.92	8.70	3.21	1.69	4.02	10.17	5.54
6203	52.10	7.45	6.25	10.39	2.45	2.15	3.34	9.79	6.08
6210	57.66	9.25	7.42	4.40	3.30	2.12	3.57	5.61	6.67
6211	54.53	7.26	6.54	11.28	2.72	2.32	3.25	6.36	5.74
6212	55.49	8.25	7.57	5.98	3.45	2.31	3.86	6.62	6.47
8005	51.84	12.04	6.38	4.13	6.28	1.61	4.54	4.71	8.47
9302	12.40	5.44	10.48	52.25	1.90	5.16	2.18	6.48	3.71
9304	18.47	5.70	6.34	50.38	2.73	2.17	2.96	6.09	5.16
97602	54.11	6.37	2.01	8.51	14.18	2.19	4.86	3.55	4.22



Votes of top 3 candidates < 52 %



Some circonscriptions do not choose (and ignore the little known candidates):

```
37 = Indre et Loire
69 = Rhône (Lyon)
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78,92 = Yvelines + Hauts-de-Seine (west of Paris)

94 = Val de Marne (south-east of Paris)

ZZ02 = overseas French (Latin America)

ZZ11 = overseas French (Russia to Australia)

> XC9[names(which(FIRST3 < 52)),]									
	BARDELLA	HAYER	GLUCKSMANN	AUBRY	BELLAMY	TOUSSAINT	MARECHAL	PGAUCHE	PDROITE
3701	16.19	15.62	20.18	15.07	8.22	9.44	5.32	5.27	4.69
6901	15.90	15.65	17.54	18.13	8.29	9.84	4.99	4.83	4.83
6904	14.40	18.09	17.25	13.56	12.14	9.26	6.89	4.29	4.12
7801	13.63	18.00	14.60	11.55	18.15	6.18	9.08	4.15	4.66
7805	16.24	21.18	14.41	12.49	12.72	6.76	7.03	4.23	4.94
9203	14.00	20.81	16.67	13.16	13.94	6.87	6.27	3.71	4.57
9205	13.01	17.64	15.84	17.57	14.01	6.30	7.82	3.81	4.00
9401	17.12	17.70	15.83	13.99	9.99	6.90	7.31	6.00	5.16
9405	17.63	17.10	15.29	16.44	9.74	6.41	6.64	5.31	5.44
9406	11.47	17.31	20.83	13.51	10.38	10.04	7.33	5.03	4.10
9408	17.12	15.22	16.59	14.35	11.08	7.92	8.08	4.72	4.92
ZZ02	8.19	22.84	16.00	12.41	9.21	11.72	9.04	4.46	6.13
ZZ11	9.48	23.64	16.48	8.90	8.28	10.76	10.36	4.20	7.90
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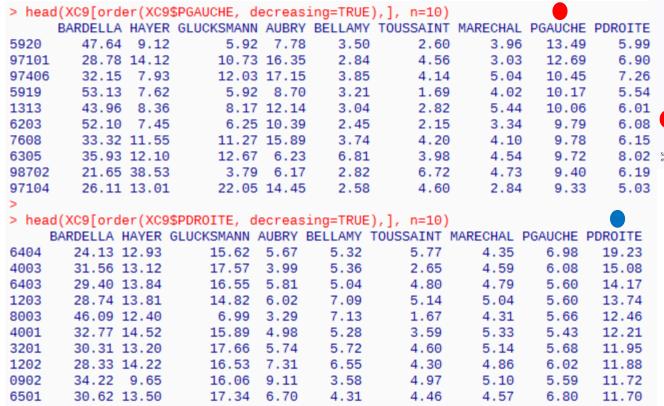


=> Circonscriptions that vote for the traditional parties do not vote for the little known candidates

Independante candidates have low scores



Candidates left/PGAUCHE are in urban areas and islands Candidates right/PDROITE are in agricultural areas



=> Independant candidates with local notoriety are in

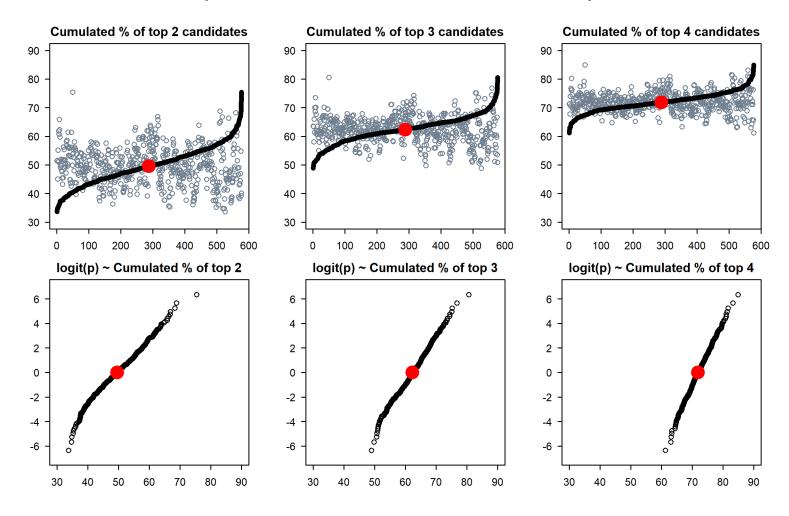
Some of them replace the traditional parties.

areas far away from Paris.

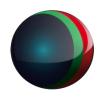
Cumulated % of votes for top 2, 3, 4 candidates + logit(p) representation



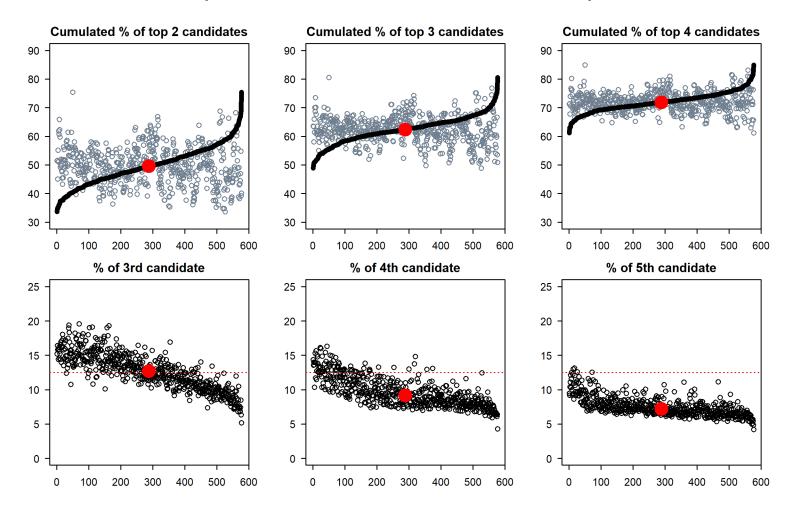
European Elections 2024 in France: 577 circonscriptions



Cumulated % of votes for top 2, 3, 4 candidates + Next candidate



European Elections 2024 in France: 577 circonscriptions



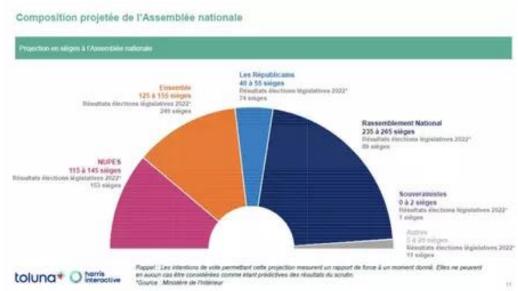
The 12.5 % horizontal line (adjusted to the participation ratio, could reach 18 %) is the threshold to accept the third (and fourth) candidate(s) to the second round of in the French parliamentary elections

And E. Macron decided to dissolve the lower chamber of the French parliament





Projection of EU2024 results on FrenchParliament2024 results



=> Macron + friends < 35 %

Legislative elections: the voting system



Key points:

- Two rounds
- 577 seats / circonscriptions (mainland + islands + French overseas)
- Vote is for individual candidates (+ one substitute per candidate)
- Candidates must keep a proper account, and prove it
- Candidates must provide and pay for the printing material
- Candidates that reach the threshold [score*ParticipationRate > 12.5 %] are qualified for the second round
 - They are named Triangular or Quandrangular elections (Example: if the participation rate is 70 %, then the threshold is 17.85 %)
 - If score is > 50 % but the threshold is not reached, then second round
- The candidate who arrives first at the second round is elected

Consequences:

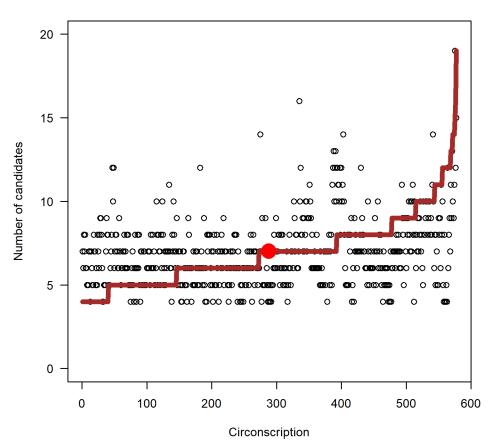
- 4009 candidates
- 4 to 11 candidates per seat / circonscription
- Individual notoriety is much more important

LEG2024-T1 on 577 circonscriptions



Within one week, 4009 individuals + substitutes + proof of an accountant were able to register and run for this unplanned election !!

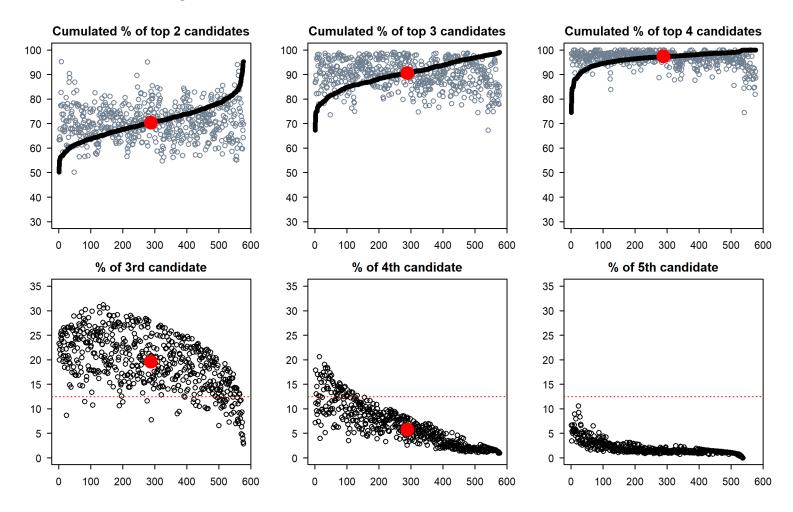
LEG2024-T1 in France: Number of candidates per circonscription



Cumulated % of votes for top 2, 3, 4 candidates + Next candidate



Legislatives Elections 2024 in France: 577 circonscriptions

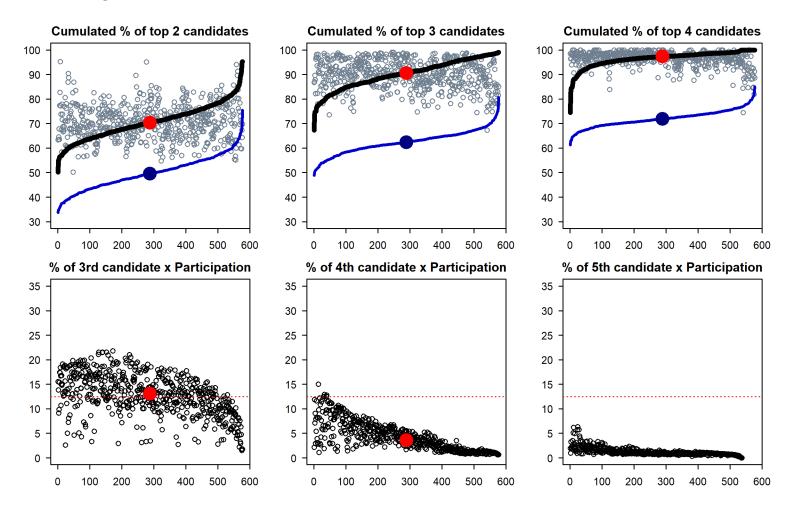


The 12.5 % horizontal line (need to be adjusted with the participation ratio, could reach 18 %) is the threshold to accept the third (and fourth) candidate(s) to the second round of in the French parliamentary elections

Cumulated % of votes for top 2, 3, 4 candidates + Next candidate adjusted by participation



Legislatives Elections 2024 in France (+EU2024 in blue): 577 circonscriptions

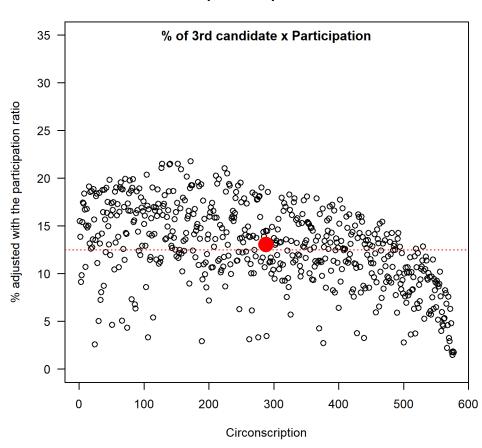


The 12.5 % horizontal line, here adjusted with the participation ratio, is the threshold to accept the third (and fourth) candidate(s) to the second round of in the French parliamentary elections

LEG2024-T1 on 577 circonscriptions



317 candidates in third position qualified for the second round !!



Projection of EU2024 results on FrenchParliament2024 results



For the first time in the recent French election history (5th republic 1958 ~), triangular fights could give a relative majority to the far-right party, which is strong in agricultural and desindustrialized areas

From LEG2024-round-1 to round-2



But the French electoral law allows any candidate to resign between the first and the second round.

And suddenly, traditional parties who opposite each other agree to sideline the far-right party.

And some intelligent / shameful maneuvers began to force the 3rd candidate to resign in favour of top 1 or top 2 candidates.



Résultats du second tour des élections législatives 2024

Les résultats du premier tour des élections législatives 2024 sont disponibles. Le scrutin du premier tour a eu lieu le 30 juin 2024 et celui du second tour se déroulera le 07 juillet 2024, les résultats seront disponibles à partir de 20h00.

Here are the results of LEG2024-Round-2.

Just unpredictable.

E. Macron has been saved by his fierced opponents in the (far-)left party.

The gouvernment is totally unstable.



Conclusion 1



EU2024

- Elections with one round + proportional vote favours a large number of lists/candidates.
- French electors like this diversity.
- Based on EU2024 election, in average (median), TOP 2 candidates receive 50 % of the total vote, and candidate 7 has still an acceptable score.
- The vote for minor / independant candidates is higher in areas
 - Strong agricultural place
 - Vote for far-right/far-left is important ⇔ disillusioned people (do not trust politicians)

LEG2024

- Elections with two rounds reduce the number of candidates.
- Still, individual candidates with strong notoriety can get elected.
- Based on LEG2024-Round1 election, in average (median), TOP 2 candidates receive 70
 % of the total vote.
- Candidate 3 has still an acceptable score in 1 out of 4 cases (classical legislative election)
- This LEG2024-Round1 is very special, with 317/577 = 55 % of circonscriptions with qualified third candidates.

Power sizing in old and modern times



« The revolutionary party will bring together men tried, professionally prepared and educated by long practice, perfectly in agreement with each other. [...] If these qualities are combined, we will have something more than democracy: a complete fraternal trust between revolutionaries. »

« If the tactical goal of the party is to take power, the strategic goal is to transform society – and even to transform man. »

Vladimir Ilyich Lénine

Donald Trump and Elon Musk are probably not Russian assets, but they seem to be good Lenine's students ...



Thank you for your attention

patrice.kiener@inmodelia.com

Tel: +33.9.53.45.07.38

Paris + University of Crete – 5 February 2025