

Beat: Politics

## THE REPUBLICANS WON 6 OUT OF 13 REGIONS IN 1st ROUND OF THE REGIONAL ELECTIONS

### A RECORD ABSTENTION RATE OF 68%

Paris, Washington DC, 21.06.2021, 13:32 Time

**USPA NEWS** - The French regional and departmental elections (13 regions, and 101 departments) held last Sunday, paved the way to the upcoming presidential elections (10 and 24 April 2022), showing a dramatic record of 68% abstention rate. This could make a difference, and break the entire legacy of the LREM (French Presidential Majority) hit affected by ricochet by a negative result, ie none of the 13 regions, conquered by the party of the majority LREM, especially the region of Hauts de France, where five ministers of the party of the current government made minimal scores, vis-a-vis the big winner Xavier Bertrand, with a score of 42.1% of the right-wing LR party (the Republicans) the outgoing president of this region of northern France. Herve Morin the President, Center Right, (Party of the centrists) of the Normandy Region is also in the lead, with 35.1% followed by Nicolas Bey of RN the extreme right party of Marine le Pen, with 20.4%. In the Auvergne Rhone-Alpes region, Laurent Wauquiez, of the right-wing LR party (the Republicans), the outgoing president of this region also made a very good score of 42.7%.

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As for Valerie Pécresse, ex Right LR party (Les Republicans) currently of the "Free" party makes a score of 34.7% in the Ile de France region (Paris and suburbs). In PACA Region (French Riviera, Marseille) Renaud Muselier is second with a score of 32.5% behind Thierry Mariani (Ex Republican, now in the RN National Rally party of Marine le Pen, extreme Right has a score of 35, 9%. The first round of this election was marked by an increased rate of abstention from votes with 84% of the young people of the age group of 18-25 years, who did not go to vote .... RN party, of Marine Le Pen, and the presidential party of LREM, of Emmanuel Macron. The map of France is therefore divided in two half of the regions in pink to represent the left in alliance with Socialists, Communists, extreme left of LFI (La France Insoumise by Jean Luc Melenchon) and the green ecologists, facing half of the other blue regions, won by the right of the LR Republicans party. The second round will be more decisive provided that the voters mobilize and vote in larger number, because it was only 32% to see vote in the first round, on June 20, the day before the music festival and the start of the summer solstice. The head of government, Prime Minister Jean Castex has meanwhile tweeted, a call, by his great disappointment at the failure of the party of the presidential majority, during this 1st round of regional elections: "To win abstention it is to lose democracy. We must all collectively fight it. It is not a formula but a republican demand. Today I launch a solemn appeal, to all our fellow citizens, to all of you, vote next Sunday!

In the light of this first round of elections, either LREM, the presidential party, will defend and expand their majority, in the French territoires (13 regions and 101 departments) allowing them to help President Macron pass his bold agenda (10 months ahead of the next presidential 2022 elections) ... or the republican party wins back power and blocks everything leftists and ecologists, try to achieve and even more Marine le Pen to be in dual with Emmanuel Macron, as the forecasted so far by the polls.

That's why this week is crucial for all parties in France to win back the trust from the voters, and Gerard larger President of the Senate from the right wing, (The Republicans) accompanied with Francois Baroin fellow from the same party, (President of the Mayors for France, AMF) is traveling up to the South of France. These two top republican are going to with in on the strategy to win the Region race by encouraging Renaud Muselier, across PACA area...Meanwhile Valerie Pécresse with her 34,7% who's is now facing a freshly announce alliance composed by the Ecologist the Greens led by Julien Bayou (13,6%) and the left wing socialist led by Audrey Pulvar

(11,3%) and extreme left wing LFI led by Clementine Autain (10,2%), already ramping up their common next campaign for the second round. The President of Ile de France, might be in danger, facing the leftist newly alliance, including the extreme left, as they now totalise 35,1 % and to defend the razor-thin majority.

In Brittany (Bretagne), the left-wing socialist Laurent Chesnais Girard is ahead with 21.3% of Republican Isabelle Gallenec with 16.1%. In Occitanie, it is the socialist Carole Delga outgoing president who is in the lead with a score of 29.5% ahead of Jean Paul Garraud of the National rally (Extreme Right) with 22.9% followed by Aurelien Pradie Republican with 11.9%. In New Aquitaine, Alain Rousset, regrouping Socialists and Communists, is in the lead with 28.6%, ahead of Edwige Diaz of the National Rally with 17.9%, followed by Genevieve Darrieussecq of LREM. In Corsica, it is the socialist Gilles Simonei who wins with a share of 29.6% followed by Laurent Marcangeli with 25.6%.

In Ile de France, the young Jordan Bardella, vice president of the National Rally of Marine le Pen arrives in second position behind Valerie Pecesse with 13.7%, well below the polls which gave him the favorite. The abstention was therefore favorable to the Republican right and participated in the failure of the parties of the extreme right, the National Rally of Marine le Pen and LREM, the party of the presidential majority of Emmanuel Macron. The outcome of the 1st round of these regional elections, so far, surprisingly, reshuffle the cards of the two favorite candidates of the upcoming Presidential elections of 2022 ... against all odds.

**Article online:**

<https://www.uspa24.com/bericht-18917/the-republicans-won-6-out-of-13-regions-in-1st-round-of-the-regional-elections.html>

**Editorial office and responsibility:**

V.i.S.d.P. & Sect. 6 MDSiV (German Interstate Media Services Agreement): Rahma Sophia Rachdi & Jedi Foster

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