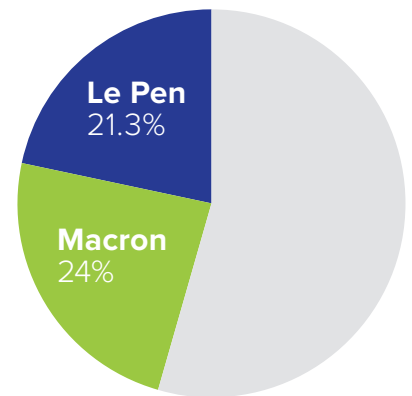


Fragomen: French Election Update

24 APRIL, 2017

Introduction

Emmanuel Macron and Marine Le Pen have both advanced to the final round of the French presidential election, which will be held on 7 May, 2017. Mr. Macron obtained 24% of the vote, with Ms. Le Pen obtaining 21.3%. It is the first time in six decades that neither candidate has represented either of France's main parties. For Le Pen and her far right National Front Party this is only the second time that it has made it to the final round of votes. She has stepped aside as leader of her party, but it is assumed that this is a temporary move. Macron created his own political party, En Marche! in April 2016.



Emmanuel Macron

Emmanuel Macron's campaign has focused on the economy: encouraging economic growth, facilitating entrepreneurship, decrease public spending and focusing on investment.



Proposed immigration policy supports immigration programmes would promote skilled immigration and foreign investment



Continued support or streamlined processes for highly skilled foreign students



Supportive of the new immigration law implemented in November 2016, and would continue to support the implementation of the new "Talents Passport" scheme



Focus on integration into French society and requiring French language acquisition



Modification of the asylum application process to reduce processing time to eight weeks



Reinforced border protection. Mr. Macron has not commented on any possible extensions of the state of emergency and temporary borders, currently in place until 15 July, 2017



Reinforcement of European-wide cooperation in the fight against terrorism, including the creation of 5,000 new border police positions

Marine Le Pen

Marine le Pen's campaign has focused heavily on nationalism, protection of the local work force and separation from the EU. Le Pen proposes a near total ban on legal immigration, with a goal to reduce immigration by 95%.



Proposal to remove of the prospect of dual nationality for French citizens



Plans to re-establish national borders and leave the Schengen zone



Reduce legal immigration to a maximum of 10,000 individuals per year maximum, including family reunification and foreign students



Wants to remove the possibility for undocumented migrants to regularise their immigration status



Plans to eliminate the automatic right to citizenship for individuals born in France to foreign parents



Limit asylum and refugee applications to those made outside of the country

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