# France prepares for snap parliamentary elections amidst far-right surge



France is poised for snap parliamentary elections, with the first round scheduled for June 30 and the second on July 7, 2023. President Emmanuel Macron called the elections following his party's disappointing performance in the European Parliament elections. Opinion polls indicate that Macron’s party is trailing behind the far-right National Rally (RN) and a newly formed left-wing alliance.

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz has expressed concerns about a potential far-right victory in these elections. In an interview with ARD, Scholz noted his hope that non-RN parties would prevail but emphasized that the decision ultimately rests with French voters.

The National Rally, currently polling at around 35%, has been gaining unprecedented levels of support. The party's core message focuses on anti-immigration, opposition to Islam, and skepticism towards the European Union. Despite efforts to soften its image, the RN's historical roots include controversial figures, such as a co-founder who was a member of the Nazi Waffen-SS.

In response to the far-right's rising popularity, widespread protests have erupted across France. Thousands have demonstrated in cities nationwide, from Paris to smaller locales, expressing opposition to the RN through various rallies and marches.

The outcome of these elections remains uncertain due to France’s two-round voting system, which complicates predictions about which party might secure a majority in the lower house of parliament and, consequently, the prime minister's position.