

Politics in France, Prof. Baumgartner, notes for class on February 18, 2008

The highest levels of French political life are very heavily dominated by men.

Segolene Royal was the first female major party candidate for President, and the first to make it to the second round of balloting. Many women have appeared as candidates from smaller parties, however. The current (2008) government of France includes the largest percentage of women at high levels of the government in history. The National Assembly similarly is heavily dominated by men, with the current level of 19 percent female constituting a historical record.

The 2000 Law on Parity requires equal numbers of men and women to appear on ballots, but only in those elections that use proportional representation, which does not include the National Assembly. Some statistics:

Women in the National Assembly

Year	Size of National Assembly	Female Deputies	Percent Women	
1958	579		8	1
1962	482		8	2
1967	487		11	2
1968	487		8	2
1973	490		8	2
1978	491		20	4
1981	491		26	5
1986	577		34	6
1988	577		33	6
1993	577		35	6
1997	577		63	11
2002	577		71	12
2007	577		107	19

Women in Government

Year	Government (Prime minister)	Number of cabinet positions	Number of women	Percent female ministers
1981	Pierre Mauroy	44	6	14
1984	Laurent Fabius	44	6	14
1986	Jacques Chirac	42	4	10
1988	Michel Rocard	42	6	14
1993	Edouard Balladur	30	3	10
1997	Lionel Jospin	28	10	36
2000	Lionel Jospin	33	11	33
2004	Jean-Paul Raffarin	44	9	20
2007	Francois Fillon	15	7	47