
LE PEN RAISES THE STAKES BY CHALLENGING MACRON'S ROLE AS COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

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Far right is warning it will use budget as lever to influence French presidents authority over defense policy.

French far-right leader Marine Le Pen is questioning President Emmanuel Macron's authority as head of the armed forces, days ahead of crucial elections his party is likely to lose, just as he is seeking to recast himself as one of Ukraine's staunchest military allies.

Le Pen's explosive remarks come with the far right on the brink of success in France's snap legislative elections, which would usher in a fractious cohabitation between the liberal president Macron and a potential far-right prime minister (probably Jordan Bardella), causing mayhem for French governance in a range of sectors — including defense.

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