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## FRENCH FAR RIGHT CLAIMS MOMENTUM FOR PRESIDENCY AFTER LOCAL ELECTIONS

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Politico (23 March 2026)

Clea CAULCUTT

*Marine Le Pen's National Rally failed to win big target cities such as Marseille, Toulon and Nîmes, but the party still thinks it has the upper hand nationwide.*

The far-right National Rally may not have won the string of big target cities it was hoping for in Frances local election on Sunday, but its leaders said they had still built up a grassroots momentum that would propel them to victory in next years presidential contest.

The 2027 presidential election is seen as a decisive moment for the EU as the Euroskeptic and NATO-skeptic National Rally is the current favorite to win the race for the Elysée. This weeks municipal elections are being closely scrutinized to gauge whether Marine Le Pens anti-immigration party is still Frances predominant political force.

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