Beat: Politics

SOCIO DEMOCRAT MEP GLUCKSMANN'S WINS WITH 66 % CROWNED AT SOCIALIST ELECTION

A LANDSLIDE INSIDE A SHRINKING HOUSE

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USPA NEWS - Raphael Glucksmann's victory is first and foremost the triumph of a European lawmaker and convinced social democrat who has, in one evening, become the legitimate presidential candidate of France's non-Melenchon left. But his success is simultaneously a defeat for the Socialist Party. The candidate who crushed the primary does not come from the PS, while its First Secretary, Olivier Faure, was humiliated in a contest organised by his own political family. François Hollande, meanwhile, chose not to submit himself to the primary's rules, preferring to remain outside the ring while preserving his political freedom. The result admits no ambiguity. Raphael Glucksmann won the social-democratic primary in the first round with 66.17 per cent and 79,613 votes. Olivier Faure finished a distant second on 14.46 per cent, followed by Segolene Royal on 7.62 per cent, Emmanuel Maurel on 5.92 per cent and Jerome Guedj (Socialist MP) on 5.83 per cent.

A LANDSLIDE WITHIN A LIMITED ELECTORATE
Glucksmann has unquestionably won the ballot. However, the 79,613 votes cast for him remain without common measure with the millions required to reach the Elysee. His victory is clear, legitimate and politically significant; it is not yet a national mandate.

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By crossing the absolute-majority threshold immediately, Glucksmann eliminated the need for the second round planned for the following weekend. The leader of Place publique is now the presidential candidate backed by the Socialist Party, Place publique and the Republican and Socialist Left.

Yet the organisation of the vote also matters. The entirely electronic ballot had been disrupted two days before the result by a cyberattack targeting the voting platform. An artificial surge of connections, attributed to automated bots, saturated access to the website. The organising committee said that the attack had disrupted access but had not compromised the integrity of the votes already recorded.
Originally scheduled to close on Saturday 10 October at 8 p.m., the ballot was prolonged until Sunday 11 October at 6 p.m. so that registered voters who had been blocked or delayed could still participate. The vote was therefore extended rather than postponed in its entirety.

Participation was not uniformly priced at €15. Members of the Socialist Party, Place publique and the Republican and Socialist Left who were up to date with their party subscriptions could vote directly. Non-members registering through the Choisir 2027 platform paid €15, with a reduced contribution of €10 for students, jobseekers and non-taxable voters.

The organisers ultimately reported approximately 120,000 participants from an electoral roll of about 134,000 registered voters. Turnout was therefore substantial among those eligible to participate, despite the technical disruption. But the electorate remained very limited compared with the 2.8 million people who took part in the 2011 Socialist primary eventually won by François Hollande.

That comparison is essential. Sixty-six per cent represents a landslide inside this primary; 79,613 votes do not yet constitute a national popular mandate. Glucksmann has acquired procedural legitimacy within his political bloc, not a blank cheque from France. A primary rewards ideological clarity among sympathisers; a presidential election requires the ability to persuade far beyond one political household.

GLUCKSMANN'S VICTORY, THE SOICALIST PARTY (PS)'S DEFEAT

The most striking political fact is not simply that Raphael Glucksmann won, but that the Socialist Party lost control of its own succession. Olivier Faure, its First Secretary, secured only 14.46 per cent after leading the party for several years. He nevertheless acknowledged that "a very clear majority" had emerged and accepted that Glucksmann was now the elected candidate of the three parties associated with the primary.

This was not a routine defeat. It was a direct disavowal of the Socialist leadership and of Faure's attempt to preserve a strategy of left-wing unity. The primary electorate chose the contender who had most clearly advocated a break with La France insoumise.

Glucksmann's victory consequently establishes a recognisable political line: pro-European, social-democratic, ecological and republican, but resolutely outside Jean-Luc Melenchon's political orbit. That choice may restore coherence to the moderate left. It may also deepen the division of an already fragmented camp, with Glucksmann and Mélenchon each claiming to embody the route towards victory.

Socialist (Ex Wife of Former President Francois Hollande), Segolene Royal, who finished third, expressed her disappointment but accepted the result and indicated that she would support the winner in the name of unity. Emmanuel Maurel and Jerome Guedj also recognised Glucksmann's victory. Their endorsements may create an image of immediate reconciliation, but primary nights are traditionally more generous than presidential campaigns.

Marine Tondelier was less accommodating. The Ecologist leader pointedly recalled that Glucksmann had rejected the idea of a broader, popular and open primary, suggesting that his election risked producing withdrawal rather than genuine unity.

La France insoumise immediately seized upon the result as proof that the PS had disappeared from the national stage. LFI deputy Paul Vannier portrayed Glucksmann as a candidate seeking leadership inside a reconstructed Macronist bloc rather than across the left. The attack is brutal, but it also conceals an uncomfortable reality for LFI: the non-Melenchon left now has a candidate selected through a democratic process and carrying a clear political line.

THE FRANCOIS HOLLANDE QUESTION

François Hollande complicates the equation. The former president declined to participate in the primary and therefore did not play by its collective rules. He chose to remain outside the contest, retaining the freedom to observe its result without being bound by it.

Hollande nevertheless congratulated Glucksmann, describing the outcome as a large victory that clarified a political direction and represented a first step. Glucksmann responded by inviting the former president to join the new political dynamic.

But congratulations are not surrender. By staying outside the primary, Hollande preserved several options: he may support Glucksmann, attempt to negotiate a role in his campaign or continue hovering over the presidential race as a potential competitor. His refusal to participate weakens any later claim to represent the same political family, but it does not prevent him from making one.

This is why Glucksmann's victory is decisive but incomplete. He has defeated every candidate who accepted the primary's rules; he has not neutralised those who refused to enter the ring.

FROM LA CANTINE TO THE BATTLE FOR FRANCE

Shortly before 7 p.m., Raphaël Glucksmann appeared smiling at La Cantine, a cafe-restaurant in Paris's 20th arrondissement, where journalists, Socialist officials and jubilant supporters were waiting for him. Mediapart confirms that the primary winner first appeared in a café in the arrondissement, while images from the evening show him reuniting with one of his closest political supporters, Yannick Jadot, the Green senator for Paris and former member of the European Parliament. Standing near the bar, surrounded by cameras and applause, Glucksmann allowed himself a brief moment to savour the scale of his victory. But celebration rapidly gave way to presidential theatre: "This is only the beginning," he told the gathering, turning the warmth of a neighbourhood café into the opening scene of a national campaign.

Glucksmann presented the result as an unambiguous democratic mandate within his political family: "Tonight, democracy has spoken and the result is beyond dispute.

Our political family should be proud." He argued that the outcome carried a wider lesson: "A left faithful to its values can unite, govern and win. It can speak of justice, ecology and the Republic without renouncing anything." Then came the formal declaration that transformed the primary winner into a presidential contender: "With immense hope, I tell you tonight: I am the candidate of the democratic left in the 2027 presidential election."

His ambition, he insisted, was not to settle another quarrel inside an exhausted and fragmented left. "We are not here to win an argument on the left. We are here to win the presidential election: to turn the page on Macronism, prevent the far right and change people's lives." Glucksmann therefore defined himself as the candidate of social and fiscal justice, ecological transformation and democratic renewal, but also as the candidate of a double rupture: "I will be the candidate of the break with Macronism and with Jean-Luc Melenchon's hegemony over the French left."

That rupture with La France insoumise was not left deliberately vague. During his subsequent France 2 interview, Glucksmann declared that the primary had settled the political line: "There will be no agreement with LFI, but there will be an agreement with the democratic and republican left." He nevertheless reached out to François Hollande, telling the former president that he was welcome to join the new dynamic and adding: "We will go into battle united." The invitation carried its own implicit warning: the primary was over, a candidate had been chosen, and anyone wishing to participate in the reconstruction of the social-democratic left would now have to reckon with Glucksmann's victory.

"NO, MARINE LE PEN WILL NOT BE AR THE ELYSEE IN MAY 2027" GLUCKSMANN SAID

From La Cantine, his words also moved beyond the French left to identify what he described as the real enemy. The primary contenders, he argued, were no longer his adversaries; the danger now came from an extreme right nourished by Trumpism, Putinism, conspiracy theories, xenophobia and political demagoguery. His purpose, he said, was to unite the democratic camp and prevent those forces from capturing the Republic. Then, with the tone of a candidate already projecting himself into the second round, he delivered the evening's most direct challenge: "No, Madame Le Pen will not be at the Elysée in May 2027."

Glucksmann also promised that his presidential bid would not be built upon impossible commitments. "We are going to run a campaign without lying," he said, arguing that France's democratic crisis was too serious for promises that could never be honoured.

He called upon citizens to join him, acknowledged the "immense responsibility" created by his victory and proclaimed: "Tonight, the battle for France begins." The setting may have been intimate, a crowded café in Belleville, friends and supporters pressed around the bar, but the language was deliberately national, almost solemn.

His ambitions extended to the social crisis already unfolding outside the walls of La Cantine. Questioned about the high-school movement, Glucksmann said he supported the students' underlying demands and promised to place public education back at the centre of the national project. He has called for Parcoursup to be abolished and replaced, for absent teachers to be replaced, for salaries to be increased and for class sizes to be reduced, arguing that "the abandonment of public education, for France, is the abandonment of itself." He has simultaneously condemned violence during the protests and insisted that political leaders must respond to the anger of young people rather than simply march alongside them.

Finally, Glucksmann rejected the suggestion that a weak position in the opinion polls might eventually force him to withdraw. "There will be a ballot paper bearing my name," he promised, predicting that his campaign would create a dynamic capable of surprising its opponents. His closing words sought to bind together the fate of the left and that of the country: "With this primary, we have given strength to the left. Now we must restore power to France. This is only the beginning." He then added a final pledge intended to dispel any lingering doubts about his determination: "Nothing will make me give up."

In the space of a few minutes, Raphael Glucksmann attempted to change the meaning of the evening. La Cantine was no longer merely the café where a victorious candidate came to embrace his friends and savour an unexpected landslide. It became, at least for one night, the first informal headquarters of a presidential adventure the place where an internal Socialist contest ended and where Glucksmann declared that his battle for France had begun.

DISCLAIMER
This article is a political and electoral analysis based on the officially announced primary results, public statements by the candidates and their parties, the organisers' explanations concerning the cyberattack, and national polling available on 11 October 2026.

The primary establishes legitimacy within the participating social-democratic organisations, but its result cannot be extrapolated directly to the national presidential electorate. Opinion polls measure voting intentions at the time of fieldwork and should not be interpreted as predictions. François Hollande had not formally entered the 2027 presidential race at the time of publication.

SOURCES
Organising commission of the Choisir 2027 social-democratic primary: official results, electoral roll and participation figures.

Franceinfo, Euronews, Le Figaro and Le Monde: cyberattack against the electronic voting platform and extension of the ballot until Sunday 11 October at 6 p.m.

Primary regulations and reporting by France 24 and Le Figaro: eligibility requirements and €15 participation fee for non-members, reduced to €10 for eligible voters.

Ouest-France, TF1-LCI, Public Sénat, Libération, RTL, LCP, BFM TV and regional French media: results, campaign coverage and political reactions.

Public statements by Raphaël Glucksmann, Olivier Faure, Ségolène Royal, Emmanuel Maurel, Jérôme Guedj, François Hollande and Marine Tondelier.

National polling reported by TF1-LCI, Le Figaro, La Dépêche and other French media before the primary; these polls are used as contemporary snapshots rather than forecasts.

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