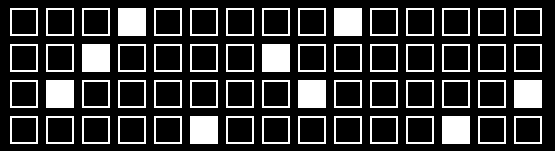
RE PUBLIC

DRAFT CONSTITUTION

The Deliberative Republic

Laws written by citizens drawn by lot



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The diagnosis

France’s Fifth Republic has delivered stability. It has also created a lasting imbalance.

- Power concentrated around the President
- A weakened Parliament (Articles 16 and 49.3 of the 1958 Constitution)
- Elections that poorly reflect social diversity
- Participation reduced to a vote every five years

Three transformations since 1958

The digital revolution

Social media and artificial intelligence are upending how opinion is formed.

Ecological collapse

Electoral short-termism blocks long-term decisions.

Authoritarianism through the ballot box

A democracy must be able to protect itself against its own drift.

A precedent: France’s Citizens’ Convention for Climate

150	**7**	**149**
citizens drawn by lot	three-day sessions	proposals adopted

Well-informed citizens deliberate seriously. But a purely consultative convention is not enough: its most far-reaching proposals were watered down, delayed or dropped.

The idea

Make sortition the normal way sovereignty is exercised.

- Free, informed, pluralist and protected deliberation
- Real representation of social diversity
- Laws that respect fundamental rights and scientific consensus
- Executive power under continuous oversight, and revocable

How a law is made

1	2	3	4
Agenda	**Thematic convention**	**Review**	**Implementation**
A convention sets the subjects for five years; petitions can add more.	150 citizens: training, hearings, counter-expertise, vote.	The Constitutional Council and, in case of manifest scientific error, a scientific council may suspend, never rewrite.	The administration carries it out; a citizens' authority reviews it every year.

Who executes, who oversees

- No president, no prime minister, no elected parliament: a college of ministers, chaired in rotation
- Ministers chosen by a convention drawn by lot, from vetted candidates
- A citizens’ authority that oversees law implementation and can question any office-holder
- An integrity court that can remove office-holders
- Independent justice: no instructions, no political appointments

What changes for you

Make the law

Any adult may be drawn by lot, with income and job guaranteed.

Set the agenda

A petition signed by one per cent of the civic body requires a convention to be considered.

Challenge

Anyone may challenge a law before the Constitutional Council.

Apply

Ministerial posts are open to all, after vetting.

Vote

Every constitutional amendment goes to a referendum.

Locally too

Local authorities are run by territorial conventions.

The safeguards

- Inviolable rights that cannot be rolled back, in a crisis or by amendment
- In a crisis, measures affecting freedoms are authorised by a convention drawn by lot in advance, for a limited time
- France stays in the European Union; major European choices return to citizens
- Foreign political funding is banned; information manipulation is penalised

What it costs, who serves

≈ €1.7bn	≈ 145,000	1 in 365
a year, against ≈ €3.7bn for the institutions it replaces	people drawn by lot each year, mostly at local level	chance of being drawn by lot in any given year

Costed item by item from budget laws and public data. The budget model can be downloaded from the website.

How to get there

1	2	3	4
Draft	**Opening**	**Deliberation**	**Referendum**
Published, commented on article by article, open to expert review.	A law or a referendum, under the 1958 rules, creates the constituent convention.	300 citizens on the Constitution, 150 on the Declaration of Rights.	Then in place within one month.

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The text is open

Read it, comment on every article, propose amendments.

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