

*NBC Nightly News with Hallie Jackson*

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6:31:18 p.m. [TEASE]

9 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking News; Senate Campaign Scandal]

HALLIE JACKSON: Campaign controversy. In one of the most high-profile Senate races in the country, the Democrat candidate's explicit texts and what his wife is now saying.

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6:37:41 p.m.

2 minutes and 26 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking News; Explicit Texts Threaten Key Senate Race]

JACKSON: Also tonight, a growing political controversy involving the Democrat running for one of the most closely watched Senate seats in the country, whose wife is now responding after reports he sent sexually explicit texts to several women. Here's Julie Tsirkin.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking News; Key Senate Candidate Under Scrutiny Over Explicit Texts]

JULIE TSIRKIN: Tonight, the wife of embattled Maine Senate candidate Graham Platner is speaking out.

AMY GERTNER: I just really wanted to make sure that everyone knows that Graham and I have a great marriage.

TSIRKIN: Amy Gertner's marriage with the likely Democratic nominee now scrutinized after Platner's former campaign manager, Genevieve McDonald, said at the start of Platner's insurgent Senate bid, Gertner told her her husband had sent sexually explicit texts to other women, and that she feared it could eventually hurt his campaign, according to *The New York Times* and *Wall Street Journal*.

GERTNER: I find it really shameful that there's a group of media outlets and people who are willing to spread gossip instead of talking about real issues that Graham is running on.

TSIRKIN: The texts are the latest in a string of controversies for the veteran and oyster farmer, hoping to defeat incumbent Republican Senators Susan Collins in November.

SENATOR CORY BOOKER (D-NJ) [on ABC's *This Week*, 05/31/26]: Yeah, I have concerns that guy has questions to answer.

TSIRKIN: NBC also confirming Platner once used the messaging app kik. His profile features a suggestive shirtless mirror selfie, a spokesperson saying he deleted the app and hasn't been active on the account in years. Platner also faced backlash last fall over this tattoo on his chest, a skull and crossbones emblem historically linked to Nazi symbolism, which Platner says he didn't know at the time.

GRAHAM PLATNER [on 10/20/25]: I am not a secret Nazi.

TSIRKIN: He later covered the tattoo with a different one. Years ago, Platner also posted online criticizing police, suggesting victims of rape should "take some responsibility for themselves" and allegedly using anti-gay slurs.

PLATNER [in October 2025]: I am deeply sorry.

TSIRKIN: Democratic leaders see Maine as one of their best opportunities to take control of the Senate.

JACKSON: Julie is joining us now, and Julie, because this race is such a top target for Democrats come the midterms. It's been closely watched for months.

TSIRKIN: Very closely, Hallie. And Platner so far is not losing support among his voters. A new poll conducted before these latest revelations actually show Platner surging ahead of Susan Collins by nine points, Hallie.

JACKSON: Julie Tsirkin at the White House, thank you.