

ABC's *Good Morning America*

06/01/26

7:12:41 a.m.

3 minutes and 16 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Wife of Senate Candidate Defends Husband]

MARY BRUCE: And now to new trouble for a Democratic candidate in a key Senate race. Maine Senate candidate Graham Platner is fighting new claims about his personal conduct. Jay O'Brien is on Capitol Hill with the latest. Jay, good morning.

JAY O'BRIEN: Mary, good morning to you. This is one of the most closely watched Senate races in the country, critical to Democrats' hopes of taking back power here on Capitol Hill. And this morning, their presumptive candidate weathering yet another controversy. This morning, Graham Platner, the rising Democratic star and front-runner for the party's nomination to challenge Maine's longtime Republican Senator, Susan Collins, in hot water yet again. *The Wall Street Journal* and *New York Times* reporting Platner's wife, Amy Gertner, disclosed to his campaign her husband reportedly exchanged sexually explicit messages with as many as a dozen women. At a campaign event last night, Platner responding.

O'BRIEN: These people are going to try to make this race about anything but what it's supposed to be about, which is policy. They never want to talk about policy. Amy and I have a very loving and very happy marriage.

O'BRIEN: The candidate's wife reportedly finding the messages in the spring of 2025 before Platner's candidacy, and later notifying the campaign out of concern it could hurt Platner's high-stakes race. ABC News has not independently verified the reports.

AMY GERTNER: No marriage is perfect and I — I don't want a perfect marriage.

O'BRIEN: In a video posted by Platner's campaign, Gertner coming to her husband's defense, saying the two have been to counseling and arguing voters will ignore what she calls gossip.

GERTNER: People in Maine want affordable gas. They want to be able to see their doctor when they're sick. They want to be able to send, like, their kids to a nice school.

O'BRIEN: Without directly addressing the reports, Platner saying in a statement, "Amy and I went through something hard because of me. We did the work, and I'm grateful for her every hour of every day." An oyster farmer and Marine combat veteran Platner's candidacy has been plagued by a series of controversies, including crude, explicit social media posts he made years ago, which Platner has since apologized for, saying they were made when he was struggling with PTSD and depression. Also in a video that his campaign shared with Pod Save America, Platner is seen dancing in his brother's wedding in 2015, showing him with a chest tattoo resembling a Nazi symbol. Platner, saying he drunkenly got the tattoo in 2007 while on leave with other Marines.

PLATNER [on 10/20/25]: We got very inebriated, and we did what Marines on liberty do, and we decided to go get a tattoo. And we went to a tattoo parlor in Split, Croatia. And we chose a terrifying-looking skull and crossbones off the wall.

O'BRIEN: Platner, who said he didn't know the tattoo symbolism. later covering it up with a new design in October.

PLATNER [on 10/22/25]: This far more represents who I am now.

O'BRIEN: But this morning, some Democrats not satisfied with the candidate's explanations.

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

O'BRIEN: Platner is all but certain to win the primary next week and then take on Senator Susan Collins. Polls show this race could be close with some indicating Platner might even have an edge. It's why Democrats are so hyper-fixated on this state, Michael.

MICHAEL STRAHAN: All right, thank you so much for that.