

*CBS Mornings*

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[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: “Sexting” Scandal Could Impact Maine Senate Race]

VLADIMIR DUTHIERS: In politics, a potential controversy is shaking up a crucial U.S. Senate race. Graham Platner, a Democrat running for Senate in Maine, has been one of the most talked-about candidates in the midterms. Now, *The Wall Street Journal* says his wife warned his campaign last year that he sent explicit text messages to other women during their marriage. Caitlin Huey Burns is on Capitol Hill, Caitlin, good morning.

CAITLIN HUEY-BURNS: Good morning to you, Vlad. Well, Republicans have the majority here in the U.S. Senate, but Democrats have been counting on this popular, progressive Graham Platner to oust the state’s long-term Republican Senator, Susan Collins, in November. And just a week ahead of his primary, Platner is facing a new controversy that’s dividing Democrats in one of the most competitive races in the country.

GRAHAM PLATNER [in campaign ad]: My name is Graham Plattner, and I’m running for U.S. Senate in Maine to defeat Susan Collins.

HUEY-BURNS: Marine veteran Graham Platner launched his Maine Senate campaign with this video, featuring the oyster farmer on the back of his boat —

PLATNER [in campaign ad]: I’m not pretending to have all the answers.

HUEY-BURNS: — and walking with his wife, Amy Gertner.

PLATNER: Amy and I have a very loving and very happy marriage.

HUEY-BURNS: Standing beside his wife’s Sunday in a video captured by Portland Maine’s TV station WMTW, Platner responded to reports about sexually explicit text messages. His campaign acknowledged Platner sent several women early in their marriage.

PLATNER: We talked about things in Amy and I’s marriage that we’ve gone through over the years. We talked about that because that’s our marriage, and we discussed it with the campaign.

HUEY-BURNS: In a video, she defended her husband.

AMY GERTNER: Graham and I have a great marriage. Being married is hard.

HUEY-BURNS: But fellow Democrats say Platner needs to explain himself.

SENATOR CORY BOOKER (D-NJ) [on ABC’s *This Week*, 05/31/26]: I have concerns that guy

has questions to answer, and that's what campaigns are for.

HUEY-BURNS: Platner already had been forced to answer questions about now-deleted Reddit posts, in which he called himself a "communist" and asked, "why don't Black people tip?"

NARRATOR [in Janet Mills ad]: Graham Platner —

HUEY-BURNS: In an ad, his primary opponent Janet Mills showed Platner's chest tattoo, which he has covered up, that's widely recognized as a Nazi symbol and called out another past post.

NARRATOR [in Janet Mills ad]: To avoid rape, women should "act like an adult."

HUEY-BURNS: But even Platner's explanation led to another apology.

PLATNER [on 04/15/26]: I am sorry. [SCREEN WIPE] I am not a perfect person, and I continue to try to be better.

HUEY-BURNS: Now, even after those past controversial statements, Platner continued to lead in the polls. His primary opponent, the Democratic governor of Maine, Janet Mills suspended her campaign, but her name will remain on the ballot in next week's Democratic primary, Gayle.

GAYLE KING: All right, Caitlin, thank you very much.