

ABC's World News Tonight with David Muir

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6:30:59 p.m. [TEASE]

12 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: U.S. Senate Candidate Under Fire.

WHIT JOHNSON: The closely watched Senate race that could decide control of the Senate. Growing questions tonight about Maine Democratic candidate Graham Platner. After several women have come forward with disturbing allegations.

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6:36:03 p.m.

2 minutes and 59 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: U.S. Senate Candidate Under Fire]

JOHNSON: Turning now to the closely watched Senate race that could decide control of the Senate. Growing questions about Maine Democratic candidate Graham Platner after reports of several women coming forward with disturbing allegations. Platner now responding. ABC's Selena Wang reporting from Maine tonight.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking News; U.S. Senate Candidate Under Fire; Democrat Graham Platner Faces New Allegations]

SELINA WANG: Tonight, the Democratic candidate in one of the year's most closely watched Senate races, battling a firestorm of controversy. Graham Platner and oyster farmer and former Marine is running to unseat Maine Republican Susan Collins. But Platner's past now coming back to haunt him. First, a series of sexist Reddit posts now deleted. Then, reports he exchanged sexual text messages with at least six women shortly after he was married in 2023. Platner's wife Amy standing by him.

AMY GERTNER: I want my marriage and I want to be married to Graham.

WANG: Overnight, *The New York Times* reporting several of Platner's ex-girlfriends describe "unsettling behavior." One claiming Platner regularly grabbed her by the shoulders, sometimes hard enough to leave marks. And, on one occasion, yanked her out of a cab by her wrist. She said during one argument, Platner "twisted her arm behind her back, shoved her into a bedroom and held the door closed from the other side so she couldn't get out."

SENATOR SUSAN COLLINS (R-ME): The allegations in the latest story are troubling and I believe that Graham Platner has a lot of questions to answer.

WANG: Platner fiercely denies any violence but admits to mistakes in his past, speaking with ABC affiliate WMTW.

GRAHAM PLATNER: I'm very happy to talk about incredibly uncomfortable things in my life, but when things come along that are just made up or lies, I'm very much going to push back against those.

WANG: He was already facing questions about why he got a tattoo resembling a Nazi symbol on his chest while he was in the Marine some 18 years ago. Platner insists he only recently became aware of the Nazi connection.

PLATNER: I got it covered up within days cause I don't want that on my body.

WANG: It all puts national Democrats in quite a bind, winning Maine is crucial in their effort to retake the Senate. Senator Bernie Sanders standing by Platner.

SENATOR BERNIE SANDERS (I-VT) [on CNN, 06/02/26]: I'm sure he's not a saint. And by the way, let's not forget he has acknowledged – this guy served four tours of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan. He has acknowledged that he came back with PTSD.

WANG: But Senator Elissa Slotkin, exasperated.

SENATOR ELISSA SLOTKIN (D-MI) [on MS NOW, 06/05/26]: I look forward to the day where I am not answering every single week a question about bad behavior by another dude. I – I just – I'm looking forward to that day.

WANG: And, Whit, Graham Platner is not the Democratic nominee yet. The primary is on Tuesday. And Maine's governor Janet Mills is still on the ballot. Now, she suspended her campaign back in April. But with all the scandals swirling around Platner, she's making sure Democrats know that they can still vote for her if they want to, Whit.

JOHNSON: All right, Selena Wang. Thank you.