

*CBS Evening News with Tony Dokoupil*

06/05/26

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

20 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking News; Platner Facing New Allegations]

TONY DOKOUPIL: Reaction rolling in after new allegations against Graham Platner, the Maine oyster farmer and frontrunner for the state's Democratic nomination for Senate. Multiple ex-girlfriends describe him as volatile just days after a sexting scandal appeared. Tonight, Platner's denial of physical violence and what he says about the rest.

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6:31:53 p.m.

3 minutes and 4 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: New Allegations]

DOKOUPIL: Graham Platner, if you don't know, is an oyster farmer and the centerpiece of the Democrats' plans to retake the U.S. Senate. He is also a changed man, he says, full of regret about his past. The trouble is that past keeps coming up. This week, *The New York Times* reported that three women who had been romantically involved with Platner described the relationship as toxic and detailed behavior they found unsettling and at times emotionally wrenching. And while Platner has denied anything physical, that follows another report about text messages the women not his wife appeared, and still earlier, revelations about drugs, drinking, and tattoo getting. That's all needed explaining. CBS News congressional correspondent Caitlin Huey-Burns has been gathering reaction for us today. Caitlin, good evening.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking News; New Allegations Against Maine Senate Candidate Graham Platner]

CAITLIN HUEY-BURNS: Good evening, Tony. This is the second time just this week that Platner is facing major controversy, but he insists he is not dropping out of the race, as all of this is really testing Democrats tolerance for misconduct. Just four days ahead of the Senate primary, many Maine residents say they are sticking with Democratic candidate Graham Platner, despite the latest allegations against him.

MAINE VOTER CARL WRUBEL: He's not a perfect candidate. He's owned up to a lot of the stuff that he's done in the past.

MAINE VOTER AMY YOUNG: Nobody is perfect. There is not a person out there who is absolutely perfect. Mother Teresa was not perfect.

HUEY-BURNS: A former girlfriend, Lyndsey Fifield, told *The New York Times* that when she dated Platner over a decade ago, he “never hit: her but “regularly grabbed her by the shoulders, sometimes hard enough to leave marks.: And that during one argument, “he twisted her arm behind her back, shoved her into a bedroom, and held the door closed.”

GRAHAM PLATNER [on MS NOW's *All In with Chris Hayes*, 06/04/26]: There are some allegations in this piece that I just want to be kind of unequivocal about, are simply not true.

HUEY-BURNS: Platner has also insisted he didn't realize that a chest tattoo he got as a marine and has since covered up is widely recognized as a Nazi symbol, but Fifield told *The New York Times* he did know.

PLATNER [on MS NOW's *All In with Chris Hayes*, 06/04/26]: Anything alleging physicality, anything alleging that I knew what my tattoo was, these are the statements of someone who is politically motivated.

HUEY-BURNS: Fifield has worked for Republican campaigns, but denied any connection to Republican Maine Senator Susan Collins, who Platner would face this fall if he wins Tuesday's primary. But a second woman, a Maine Democrat, who also said she dated Platner, told *The New York Times* she found some of his behavior “reckless.”

MS NOW's MYCHAEL SCHNELL [TO PLATNER, on 06/02/26]: Do you believe you deserve to represent Maine?

HUEY-BURNS: Platner is also facing criticism within his own party.

SENATOR JOHN FETTERMAN (D-PA): Some Democrats will defend that mess. I will not.

HUEY-BURNS: Yet other high-profile senators like Bernie Sanders and Chuck Schumer are standing by Platner, and as for his likely general election opponent, Susan Collins, she said today that these new allegations are troubling and that Platner has a lot of questions to answer. Tony?

DOKOUPIL: Caitlin, thank you very much.