

*NBC Nightly News with Jose Diaz-Balart*

06/06/26

6:30:58 p.m. [TEASE]

10 seconds

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

JOSE DIAZ-BALART: A controversial Senate candidate and one of the most high-profile races in the country. Now, he's fighting for his political life and pushing back against new allegations.

(...)

6:39:40 p.m.

1 minute and 52 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking News; Maine Senate Candidate Defends Past]

JOSE DIAZ-BALART: Now to Maine and one of the most high-profile Senate races in the country. Democratic candidate Graham Platner speaking out, defending himself against new allegations with a primary just days away. Monica Alba has the latest.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking News; Maine Senate Candidate Defends Past on Campaign Trail]

GRAHAM PLATNER: Since the beginning, Maine, you had my back.

MONICA ALBA: Speaking to supporters late Friday night, Democratic Senate candidate Graham Platner appearing to address new allegations of toxic and unsettling behavior from three women, who spoke with *The New York Times* about past romantic relationships with him.

PLATNER: As every single piece of that past and journey gets dug up, litigated, and weaponized, you have my back.

ALBA: It's the latest scandal for the combat veteran and oyster farm owner-turned-politician, running to unseat five-term incumbent Republican Susan Collins, who called the accusations troubling. But some of his supporters had been able to overlook them.

UNIDENTIFIED ELDERLY MALE MAINE VOTER It's refreshing to have someone actually own up to stuff that they've done and say, yeah, that wasn't such a great idea. I'm working to be a better person.

ALBA: Alex Seitz-Wald covers politics for Maine's *Mid-Coast Villager* newspaper. [TO SEITZ-WALD] It's not the first controversy for Plattner, but could this be a bit of a breaking point?

ALEX SEITZ-WALD: I do think this scandal is hitting differently for supporters. It's created this

perception that there might be another shoe that's going to drop.

ALBA: With three days until the primary, Democratic leadership is largely sticking by Platner, though some are voicing concerns.

CONGRESSWOMAN DEBBIE DINGELL (D-MI) [on NBC News NOW's *Meet the Press NOW*, 06/05/26]: I'm not comfortable with that candidate. I'm not going to defend someone who has the history of violence against women.

ALBA: Platner, while saying in the past he was not a perfect boyfriend, denies "anything alleging physicality." And, come Tuesday, is likely to become a key part of Democrats' hopes to win back the Senate. Monica Alba, NBC News.