

*CBS Evening News with Tony Dokoupil*

06/09/26

6:39:24 p.m.

2 minutes and 15 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Pivotal Primaries]

MATT GUTMAN: Now, this is primary day in four states, voters heading to the polls in Nevada, South Carolina, North Dakota, and Maine, which features a nationally watched U.S. Senate race. It's no secret that Democrats are trying to win back the Senate in November, and their candidate is Maine — in Maine is one who recently admitted to a sexting scandal and is now fighting off allegations from several former girlfriends. Our Caitlin Huey-Burns is in Maine tonight.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking News; High-Stakes Primary Night]

CAITLIN HUEY-BURNS: Many Maine voters told us today they were willing to look past Graham Platner's controversies if it would help Democrats win back power in Washington.

UNIDENTIFIED MAINE VOTER: I think it's so important that the Democrats capture this Senate seat that I'm willing to vote for a candidate whom I think is quite imperfect.

HUEY-BURNS: Platner himself did some last-minute door-knocking, continuing to make his case after allegations from several former girlfriends appeared in *The New York Times*, accusing him of unsettling and toxic behavior. One alleged he grabbed her and left marks.

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, an oyster farmer and Marine veteran, has acknowledged he sent sexually explicit text messages to other women early in his marriage. His wife has defended him, and the two appear in a campaign video released today. Just last night, his former political director warned that Platner should not be a U.S. senator, writing: "He exhibits a pattern of dishonest behavior that's impossible to ignore." Platner is still expected to win tonight, but with control of the U.S. Senate on the line in November, the questions about his past could be a liability as he tries to take out the veteran Republican Susan Collins.

SENATOR SUSAN COLLINS (R): Allegations against Graham Platner are extremely troubling and serious, and he owes the people of Maine a detailed answer.

HUEY-BURNS: Platner has caught fire among progressives here, who say they want a senator who can buck President Trump. Bernie Sanders is Platner's top supporter, and he said this week that, despite the controversies, he will do everything he can to help Platner get elected, Matt.

GUTMAN: Caitlin, I'm sure you will keep us posted on those results.