

*NBC Nightly News with Tom Llamas*

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6:31:16 p.m. [TEASE]

8 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Key Test for Senate Democrats]

TOM LLAMAS: The critical vote today, the Democratic Senate candidate facing multiple scandals. Can his campaign survive until the general election?

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6:40:24 p.m.

2 minutes and 24 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Key Test for Senate Democrats]

LLAMAS: We are also watching, tonight, a key election that could determine whether Democrats can retake the Senate this November. Maine Democrat Graham Platner is poised tonight to win his primary even as he faces a series of scandals. Ryan Nobles is in Maine for us tonight.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Key Test for Democrats in Maine Senate Primary]

RYAN NOBLES: Tonight, the major test for Graham Platner: Will his scandals dampen Democrats' desire to nominate him to take on Republican Susan Collins in the high-stakes Maine Senate race?

GRAHAM PLATNER: And the reason they keep getting everything wrong is they think this is a race about me, but it isn't. This is a race about us.

NOBLES: The Marine vet-turned-oyster farmer has tapped into a wave of progressive support, but also faces several controversies, including past social media posts where he blamed victims for sexual assault. His tattoo resembling a Nazi SS symbol, which he says he did not know the meaning of, and covered up after the backlash and accusations from a trio of former girlfriends to *The New York Times* that described his behavior as toxic and unsettling. One saying he "twisted her arm behind her back and shoved her into a bedroom."

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.

NOBLES: Collins going after Platner today.

SENATOR SUSAN COLLINS: The allegations against Graham Platner are extremely troubling and serious.

NOBLES: Some Maine Democrats telling us they do have concerns.

MAINE VOTER JUDY SIDES: Some of the latest things that have come out about him being a woman [sic], make me somewhat concerned about his feelings about equality of women.

NOBLES: But most we spoke to remain willing to give him the benefit of the doubt.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE MAINE VOTER: I think he represents the working class.

NOBLES [TO UNIDENTIFIED MALE MAINE VOTER]: Do you think of what he could bring to the table outweighs any concerns you have in that regard?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE MAINE VOTER: I think so. I mean, he seems like a really down-to-earth guy. [SCREEN WIPE] You know — [LAUGHS] — it's just like, you know, I hate saying this, but sometimes I feel like it's a lesser of two evils.

LLAMAS: And Ryan, walk our viewers through this, that Maine seat is so critical for Democrats' hopes of winning back the Senate.

NOBLES: Yeah, that's right, Tom. This year's Senate map favors Republicans, so they need every pick-up opportunity they can, and Maine is a key part of their plan to take back the majority, especially with Susan Collins, the incumbent, a Republican representing a blue state.

LLAMAS: Ryan Nobles on the campaign trail once again.