

NBC's *Today*  
06/10/26  
7:00:43 a.m. [TEASE]  
30 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Maine Event]

SAVANNAH GUTHRIE: Maine event. Graham Platner wins the Democratic nomination in Maine's crucial Senate showdown and takes on the scandal surrounding his campaign in his victory speech.

GRAHAM PLATNER: If you believe, as I do, that we can change our politics and change our country, then you must also believe that people can change.

GUTHRIE: This morning, his chances of unseating Republican incumbent Susan Collins and how that could decide the Senate's balance of power.

(...)

7:06:20 a.m.  
3 minutes and 17 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking Overnight; Platner Wins to Set Up Maine Senate Showdown]

CRAIG MELVIN: Well, let's turn now to those overnight election results from some key primary races, including the high-stakes Senate contest in Maine. This morning, NBC News is projecting Democrat Graham Platner, will face incumbent Republican Susan Collins in November, a midterm battle that will have some major implications for the fight of control of the Senate. NBC's chief Capitol Hill correspondent Ryan Nobles joins us now with more from Maine. Ryan, good morning.

RYAN NOBLES: Hey, Craig, good morning, and Graham Platner's win here in Maine last night was certainly not a surprise, but it did come after a series of scandals that rocked his campaign. Those scandals, in many ways, seem to strengthen his bond with a Democratic base, and now he's prepared to take his progressive message into November. This morning, the stage is set for a bruising general election battle in Maine with political novice Graham Platner capturing the Democratic nomination aiming to unseat five-term Republican Senator Susan Collins this fall.

GRAHAM PLANTER: She serves Donald Trump. She serves the Epstein class. She serves her corporate donors. [SCREEN WIPE] She does not serve us, and so we will defeat Susan Collins.

NOBLES: The oyster man and Marine vet has energized progressives despite facing multiple scandals, alluding to the controversies overnight.

PLATNER: If you believe as I do, that we can change our politics and change our country, then you must also believe that people can change.

NOBLES: His campaign confirming last month that he set multiple women sexually explicit text messages at the beginning of his marriage. And last week, several former girlfriends told *The New York Times* Platner's behavior was sometimes toxic and unsettling.

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 seizing on the reports.

SENATOR SUSAN COLLINS (R-ME): I mean, allegations against Graham Platner are extremely troubling and serious.

NOBLES: Some Democrats here told us they're conflicted, and worried the scandals could haunt him.

MAINE VOTER JUDY SIDES: If the political machine in Washington gets after him, like they get after people, he could have a hard time.

NOBLES: But many are still backing Platter.

UNIDENTIFIED MAINE VOTER: I hate saying this, but sometimes I feel like it's a lesser of two evils.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking Overnight; Republican Hilton Advances in California Gov Race]

NOBLES: Across the country, another key matchup taking shape. NBC News projects Republican, former Fox host Steve Hilton will face off against former Biden cabinet secretary Xavier Becerra.

XAVIER BECERRA: We hope that folks stay engaged and that we have an even bigger turnout for the November general election.

NOBLES: The British-born Hilton has been backed by President Trump —

STEVE HILTON: We need a governor that doesn't wish for things that actually makes things happen.

NOBLES: — with coast-to-coast showdowns ahead for fall's midterm elections. And of course, elsewhere around the country, we saw races in South Carolina, and incumbent Lindsey Graham seeking a fifth term fended off a challenge from a wealthy MAGA challenger. Graham was able to win easily. He'll take on a Democratic challenger in the fall in that very red state and back here

in Maine, this Senate race could be the difference in determining who wins the majority in the fall, Craig.

MELVIN: All right, Ryan Noble's for is there in Maine. Ryan, thank you.