

*CBS Mornings*

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[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: New Allegations Against Senate Candidate Platner]

NATALIE MORALES: Well, this morning Maine Senate nominee Graham Platner faces new sexual misconduct allegations and a wall of opposition now from fellow Democrats. They're calling on him to drop out of the race. Platner is also accused of interfering with the process of choosing a replacement. Caitlin Huey-Burns is in Maine. Caitlin, good morning.

CAITLIN HUEY-BURNS: Good morning to you, Natalie. Well, it's getting messy here in Maine. The Platner campaign says that they reached out to the Maine Democratic Party to try and understand what the process to replace him might look like and they insisted that voters, not party leaders, should decide who that is. All of this as we're learning new details from one of his accusers. Graham Platner is still holding on in Maine's U.S. Senate race despite mounting allegations of sexual and physical abuse, and growing calls for him to step aside.

LYNDSEY FIFIELD [on CNN's *The Lead*, 07/07/26]: It terrifies me to think of him having any type of power politically because what is he going to do with the testimony in his office.

HUEY-BURNS: Lyndsey Fifield, who says she dated Platner more than a decade ago, told *The Washington Post* he had repeatedly removed condoms without their consent while the two had sex. She had previously told *The New York Times* Platner had gotten rough with him and spoke about it with CNN Tuesday.

FIFIELD [on CNN's *The Lead*, 07/07/26]: It was domestic abuse.

HUEY-BURNS: All of this comes after another woman came forward to *Politico*, accusing Platner of rape. Platner has categorically denied both women's allegations. He has now lost nearly all of his big-name supporters, like Senator Bernie Sanders who just a month ago had this to say.

SENATOR BERNIE SANDERS (I-VT) [on 06/01/26]: Graham Platner is playing an extraordinarily strong campaign.

HUEY-BURNS: Now, Sanders is joining the chorus of Democrats urging Platner to step aside. Pennsylvania Senator John Fetterman, who had preferred more moderate candidate Governor Janet Mills in the primary, blamed progressives.

SENATOR JOHN FETTERMAN (D-PA) [on CBS News 24/7's *The Takeout*, 07/07/26]: They pushed out and rejected their sitting governor, an absolute, committed Democrat. It wasn't that long she was celebrated within our party.

HUEY-BURNS: Now, some Democratic voters here say they're concerned about whether the party still has a chance to flip the seat held by long-time Republican incumbent Susan Collins.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE MAINE VOTER: I just feel like the odds of him being able to beat her are a lot less than I feel like for the people of Maine. The right thing to do is to drop out.

HUEY-BURNS: Now, Platner has until Monday to withdraw from the race so that the Maine Democratic Party can pick his replacement. And party officials here are reiterating that Platner will have no role in figuring out who the new nominee will be or determining that process, Nate.

NATE BURLESON: Caitlin, thank you.