

NBC's *Today*

07/08/26

7:01:13 a.m. [TEASE]

17 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: New Pressure]

CRAIG MELVIN: New pressure. Calls mounting for Democrat Graham Platner to drop out of Maine's high-stakes Senate race amid troubling new allegations. Just ahead, what his ex-girlfriend now claims, and how his campaign is responding this time.

(....)

7:13:57 a.m.

2 minutes and 47 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Growing Pressure on Platner to Exit Senate Race]

MELVIN: Also this morning, Graham Platner is facing new calls to drop out of Maine's high-stakes battle for the U.S. Senate. The Democratic nominee was hit with a new accusation of non-consensual sexual conduct, an accusation which he denies. NBC's Ryan Nobles has that for us. Ryan, good morning.

RYAN NOBLES: Craig, good morning. This situation really has become a waiting game for Democrats in Maine. They are paralyzed and unable to move forward in what may be the most important race on the Senate map. Only Graham Platner can decide if it is time for him to quit the race, and he has still not made up his mind.

GRAHAM PLATNER [on 06/09/26]: Thank you, Maine.

NOBLES: A new bombshell rocking the critical Senate race in Maine that could determine control of Congress. Maine's Democratic Senate nominee, Graham Platner, is facing mounting pressure this morning from top Democrats to end his campaign. It comes as another woman stepped forward overnight with new allegations of non-consensual sexual conduct. Platner's ex-girlfriend, Lindsey Fifield, telling *The Washington Post* that he repeatedly removed protection without consent during sex, saying: "He would do it in a sneaky way. He wouldn't tell me." Platner's campaign calling the accusation "categorically false and politically motivated." Fifield previously accused Platner of aggressive physical conduct, especially when he was drinking, which he also denied. Fifield telling CNN Platner later apologized to her for his behavior.

LYNDSEY FIFIELD [on CNN's *The Lead*, 07/07/26]: I'm hoping more people will come forward, at least saying he was known for being very rough with people. I mean, like, he apologized sober the next day on many of these occasions.

NOBLES: This after another former romantic partner of Platner's, Jenny Racicot, accused him of

rape, saying he forced himself on her five years ago.

JAKE TAPPER [on CNN's *The Lead*, 07/06/26]: Did Graham Platner rape you?

JENNY RACICOT: By definition, yes, absolutely.

NOBLES: Platner denies her allegations, too. A source familiar with Platner's thinking tells NBC News he's still undecided about whether to step down in the race against GOP incumbent Susan Collins. Two of his top Democratic supporters, Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders, releasing statements saying it is time for him to step aside, a sentiment echoed by many Maine Democrats.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE MAINE VOTER: I would tell him, nice try, buddy, but get out.

NOBLES: But some supporters are sticking with him.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE MAINE VOTER: We have to go with what we have.

NOBLES: Now, Platner has just six days to step down to allow the state party to pick his replacement. He wants the party to choose someone who shares his progressive political views, but the party is yet to even figure out the process to pick a new candidate, and they can't move forward until Platner decides to end his campaign, Craig.

MELVIN: Ryan Nobles for us there in Washington. Ryan, thank you.