

ABC's *Good Morning America*

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7:01:03 a.m. [TEASE]

11 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Time Running Out; Race to Replace Platner]

MICHAEL STRAHAN: Breaking overnight. Time running out. The race to replace Graham Platner after he dropped out of the crucial Maine senate race after he was accused of sexual assault.

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7:08:55 a.m.

2 minutes and 55 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking Overnight; Platner Drops Out of Senate Race]

STRAHAN: Now to breaking news overnight. Embattled Maine Senate candidate Graham Platner dropping out of the race on a mounting pressure after one accused him of sexual assault. Democrats are now racing to replace him on the ballot. Our Jay O'Brien is tracking the latest for Washington. Good morning, Jay.

JAY O'BRIEN: Michael, good morning to you. Three days after that accusation of sexual assault, which he denies, and unrelenting pressure to get out of the race, even from top supporters, Graham Platner now ending his campaign kicking off an all-out scramble amongst Maine Democrats to replace him. Overnight, in the most closely-watched Senate race in the nation, Maine Democrat Graham Platner's scandal-plagued campaign coming to a dramatic end.

GRAHAM PLATNER: We believe that, for the movement to continue, it can't be me. And for that reason, we are suspending campaign operations.

O'BRIEN: The announcement following an arduous three-day collapse of Platner's candidacy after an ex-girlfriend accused him of sexual assault, which he denies.

PLATNER: The things that have been claimed did not happen.

O'BRIEN: Jenny Racicot telling *Politico* she dated Platner on and off starting in 2019. She claims that, in 2021, he showed up at her home "almost blackout drunk" and says Platner forced her to have sex against her will.

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

JENNY RACICOT [on CNN's *The Lead*, 07/06/26]: By definition, yes. Absolutely.

O'BRIEN: A chorus of Democrats, including top supporters like Senator Bernie Sanders pushing Platner to drop out. Many had previously stuck by him when other alleged parts of Platner's past came to light, including another former girlfriend who accused him of abusive behavior, which he has denied. Also, sexual messages Platner acknowledged sending to multiple women shortly after he was married in 2023, and questions about a chest tattoo resembling a Nazi image Platner says he drunkenly got on leave with other Marines in 2007, which he later covered up, claiming he didn't know its significance. An oyster farmer and Marine combat veteran, Platner bringing a progressive, anti-establishment jolt to the race to unseat Maine's longtime Republican senator, Susan Collins, a seat Democrats almost certainly need to flip to take back control of Congress. After a standoff with state Democrats, Platner taking parting shots at party leaders who, by Maine law, now have just over two weeks to replace him on the ballot.

PLATNER: Party apparatchiks are not the ones to make these decisions. These decisions need to be made in the open by the people of this state, the people who got us here.

O'BRIEN: Last night, the state Democratic Party said that they will name a new nominee in a convention. By Maine law, they have until July 27 to do that, Michael.

STRAHAN: Yeah. Time is running out there, Jay. Thank you for that.