



MEMORANDUM

TO: Interested Parties

RE: **Democrats Are Rallying Because Maine Can Decide the Senate**

DATE: June 10, 2026

OVERVIEW

"...the path to a Democratic Senate majority runs through Maine... [it is] the only G.O.P.-held seat on the ballot in a state that Vice President Kamala Harris won..." - *The New York Times*, June 5, 2026

Maine has become more than a battleground state in this year's fight for control of the Senate. It has become a linchpin. Because Democrats cannot win the majority without it, they have fully rallied around Graham Platner, an extremely flawed, far-left candidate who secured the nomination last night. Platner has captured his party's financial backing, outraging Senator Collins in every quarter since entering the race. We must match both the energy and the money to retain the seat.

For Democrats, this race is not about the individual on the ballot; it is entirely about control of the Senate. Although Platner faces a series of damaging stories, including an infamous Nazi tattoo and abuse allegations from multiple women that would have ended most campaigns, national Democrats have rallied around him. In fact, the day after the abuse allegations broke, Platner raised \$200,000 in what his campaign said was its best fundraising day of the cycle. Democrats do not need to love their nominee; they just need his vote to implement their extreme agenda in Congress.

The political fundamentals in Maine remain challenging, and it is a fatal mistake to assume Platner is too damaged to win. He is currently leading. Vice President Harris won the state by 7 points, and the National Democrats view this as their only path to regaining control. Senator Collins has won tough races before and can win this one, but only if we meet this moment with total urgency.

DEMOCRATS ARE CONSOLIDATING

The most important development of the last week is not another damaging story about Platner. It is the Democrat response to it. They are not abandoning him. They are propping him up.

National Democrats, donors, operatives, and activists are building a permission structure for voters to support Platner anyway: yes, he has problems, they say, but Susan Collins is worse, Donald Trump is worse, the Senate is at stake, and Democrats have to win.

They are saying it publicly:

Rep. Ro Khanna: "Let there be no confusion. From Schumer to Sanders, the Democratic Party is unified to defeat Susan Collins."

New York Times: "Major Democratic donors in recent weeks have largely resigned themselves to Mr. Platner's being the nominee..."

Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse: "Seems like a lot of nothing."

Rob Flaherty, senior Democratic operative: "Gotta do what you gotta do."

Flaherty: "It sucks we're here, but we're here, and you gotta try to play the cards you're dealt."

James Carville: "We've got a fucked up guy who could be 100x more fucked up than he is and he'd never be as fucked up as what we've got in Washington... We gotta win this."

Politico: “Platner’s supporters have largely rallied around his cause, dismissing the latest reporting as inconsequential when compared to the magnitude of the policy stakes in the race.”

Maine State Rep. Valli Geiger: “He was a mean boyfriend when he got out of the military and was drinking. Susan Collins was the defining vote for the Big Beautiful Bill.”

Maine Voter Galen Low: “I didn’t like hearing some of the things I’ve heard, but then I recognize that we’re people, and as people, sometimes we do things we’re not proud of. But that doesn’t mean we can’t admit it and move on.”

This is not a party abandoning its nominee. This is a party rationalizing, accepting, and preparing to fight.

THE MOST EXTREME NOMINEE IN MAINE’S HISTORY

Graham Platner is the most left-wing Senate nominee Maine has ever seen. His platform aligns directly with national progressives, featuring: Medicare for All, the Green New Deal, Universal Basic Income, government-funded universal childcare, free college, and a wide-open pathway to citizenship for illegal immigrants. Taken together, these proposals would cost taxpayers nearly \$150 trillion. National Democrats do not view Platner as a candidate to be judged by his personal conduct or political liabilities; they view him purely as a vehicle for Senate control. They are accepting Platner “as is” because they believe the ultimate prize, a vote for Chuck Schumer for Majority Leader and the ability to advance their agenda, is worth it. Their coalition is consolidating, their donors are engaging, and they are preparing to spend whatever is necessary to win.

CONCLUSION

The lesson is simple: Graham Platner is wounded, but Democrats are not treating him as disposable.

They are treating him as a vehicle for Senate control. National donors and supporters should not mistake Democrat discomfort for Democrat retreat. The party is consolidating, the money is moving, and the grassroots are already rationalizing the choice.

Republicans need to match that urgency immediately. **Define Platner. Defend Collins. Resource Maine.**

Senator Collins has proven time and time again, through her work ethic and commitment to the people of Maine and America, that she will prevail.

This race can be won, but it will not win itself.