

# Maine oyster farmer’s Senate bid makes national splash



Graham Platner, of Sullivan, says he’s a different type of candidate who is well-positioned to connect with everyday working people. (CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

A political newcomer and former Marine from Hancock County, 40-year-old Graham Platner joins a field of a half-dozen little-known Democrats hoping to unseat Republican Sen. Susan Collins in 2026.

By RACHEL OHM  
Staff Writer

It took less than 24 hours for Hancock County oyster farmer Graham Platner to go from political unknown to national progressive darling. Since Platner announced Tuesday that he would challenge five-term incumbent Susan Collins for her U.S. Senate seat, his campaign has generated significant attention from national media and online influencers. Some conservatives have already branded him “Maine’s Mamdani,” a reference to the New York City mayoral candidate Zohran Mamdani, who surprised many by winning a Democratic primary two months ago.

“This is far beyond anything I could have imagined,” Platner said in an interview Thursday. “So many people have been reacting positively to a message of, frankly, things I’ve been saying to my wife and friends for years.”

Platner, 40, is among a half dozen Democrats running to unseat Collins, none of whom is well known. But unlike the others, his campaign has racked up attention quickly. The New York Times, Politico, NBC News, MSNBC and Fox News all covered Platner’s campaign launch Tuesday and the buzz about him on social media has been substantial.

“National media attention doesn’t decide elections — Mainers do.”

**JORDAN WOOD**  
*Bristol Democrat who’s also seeking to challenge Susan Collins next year*

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## TODAY’S ALMANAC

August 22, 2025

Today is the 234th day of 2025. There are 131 days left in the year.

**Today in history:**  
On Aug. 22, 1851, the schooner America outraced more than a dozen British vessels off the English coast to win a trophy that came to be known as the America’s Cup.

**Also on this date:**  
In 1791, the Haitian Revolution began as enslaved people of Saint-Domingue rose up against French colonizers.

In 1910, Japan annexed Korea, which remained under Japanese control until the end of World War II.

In 1922, Irish revolutionary Michael Collins was shot to death, apparently by Irish Republican Army members opposed to the Anglo-Irish Treaty that Collins had co-signed.

In 2007, A Black Hawk helicopter crashed in Iraq, killing all 14 U.S. soldiers aboard.

**Today’s Birthdays:** Author Annie Proulx is 90. Baseball Hall of Famer Carl Yastrzemski is 86. Pro Football Hall of Fame coach Bill Parcells is 84. Writer-producer David Chase is 80. Retired CBS newsmen Steve Kroft is 80. International Swimming Hall of Famer Diana Nyad is 76. Baseball Hall of Famer Paul Molitor is 69. Rock guitarist Vernon Reid is 67. Country singer Collin Raye is 65.



Evan Trask bolts sections of fencing Wednesday in the agricultural area where farm animals will be on display beginning this weekend at the Windsor Fairgrounds. (PHOTOS BY JOE PHELAN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER)

# WINDSOR FAIR BEGINS NEW ERA ON SATURDAY



Longtime Windsor Fair President Tom Foster, left, has been a fair trustee since 1969. He’s stepping down as his son, Dan Foster, takes the reins. This year’s fair runs through Labor Day.

Tom Foster, 80, president of the annual agricultural exposition for 32 years, is passing the baton to his son, Dan Foster.

By KEITH EDWARDS  
Staff Writer

WINDSOR — The start of central Maine’s largest agricultural fair is only days away and for the first time in 32 years Tom Foster will not be in charge. For more than three decades, Foster served as president of the Windsor Fair board, continuing a long family tradition.

Now, the torch is being passed to a new generation as the Windsor Fair opens Saturday for its 137th annual run.

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# Appeals court tosses civil fraud penalty in Trump case

Upholding a finding that he fraudulently exaggerated his wealth for decades, the ruling spares the president from a potential half-billion-dollar fine.

By JENNIFER PELTZ  
and MICHAEL R. ISAK  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — A New York appeals court on Thursday threw out President Donald Trump’s massive financial penalty while narrowly upholding a judge’s finding that he engaged in fraud by exaggerating his wealth for decades. The ruling spares Trump from a potential half-billion-dollar fine but bans him and his two eldest sons from serving in corporate leadership for a few years.

Trump, in a social media post, claimed “total victory” in the case, which stemmed from a civil lawsuit brought by New York Attorney General Letitia James.

“I greatly respect the fact that the Court had the Courage to throw out this unlawful and disgraceful Decision that was hurting Business all throughout New York State,” the Republican wrote.

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# Killed in crash, owner of Gray brewery remembered as ‘everybody’s biggest fan’

Stacy Strattard, 64, who co-owned Birchwood Brewing, was hit and killed by a car Saturday.

By MORGAN WOMACK  
Staff Writer

GRAY — The memory of Stacy Strattard lives on everywhere at Birchwood Brewing.

From the soft chatter of people huddled around the bar, cupping glasses of beer and sharing stories about her, to friends stopping by

with cards and floral arrangements. Sunflowers, Strattard’s favorite, brighten the dimly lit room.

Strattard, 64, was hit and killed by a car in New Gloucester on Saturday. On Thursday at the brewery, where Strattard was a

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A framed photograph of Stacy Strattard has a place of honor at Birchwood Brewing in Gray, where she was co-owner. “She was like everybody’s mom,” her daughter, Katie Maschino, said. (DEREK DAVIS/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER)

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