

# Maine US Senate 2026

## THE ISSUES

SUSAN COLLINS

REPUBLICAN · INCUMBENT



GRAHAM PLATNER

DEMOCRAT



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See <a href="#">guides.vote</a> for online guides with links and sources.	<a href="https://susancollins.com">susancollins.com</a>	<a href="https://grahamforsenate.com">grahamforsenate.com</a>
<b>ABORTION</b> Ban or legal?	<b>Mixed.</b> <a href="#">Introduced</a> a bill to codify abortion rights, with protections for providers with “religious objections to performing abortions.” <a href="#">Voted against</a> an abortion rights <a href="#">bill</a> ; said it did <a href="#">not</a> include “conscience protections.” Overturning Roe v. Wade <a href="#">was</a> a “radical jolt to the country.”	<b>Legal.</b> “I <a href="#">support</a> a strong federal guarantee of the right to choose.” <a href="#">Called</a> the anniversary of Roe v. Wade “a grim reminder that freedom of choice has been stripped from millions of women.”
<b>CLIMATE CHANGE</b> Should climate change be a top priority?	<b>Mixed.</b> <a href="#">Sponsored</a> a <a href="#">bill</a> to ban <a href="#">offshore drilling</a> in Gulf of Maine. <a href="#">Voted</a> to <a href="#">fund</a> battery production; holds “ <a href="#">great promise</a> in the fight against climate change.” <a href="#">Voted</a> to <a href="#">open up</a> 1.7 million acres of public lands for coal leasing. <a href="#">Voted</a> against <a href="#">\$369 billion</a> in clean energy <a href="#">investments</a> . <a href="#">Voted</a> to not <a href="#">maintain</a> existing wind & solar tax credits. <a href="#">Voted</a> to <a href="#">extend</a> the residential clean energy tax credit.	<b>Yes.</b> “Will <a href="#">fight</a> for urgent action on climate change. We see it;...without sustained action, everything is at risk.” <a href="#">Would</a> “invest heavily in building a new clean energy supply and a modern grid to bring power where it’s needed,” <a href="#">with</a> “a huge buildout of domestic clean energy production.” <a href="#">Getting</a> “off fossil fuels...would make America self-sustaining.”
<b>CRIMINAL JUSTICE</b> How to ensure effectiveness and fairness in law enforcement?	After George Floyd’s death, <a href="#">sponsored</a> a <a href="#">bill</a> to use <a href="#">incentives</a> to increase use of body cameras, improve training, and diminish chokeholds, without requiring such reforms. <a href="#">Voted</a> against <a href="#">funding</a> local law enforcement hiring programs.	<b>No position found.</b>
<b>ECONOMY</b> Cut or increase government investment in, and regulation of, the economy?	<b>Mostly increase.</b> <a href="#">Calls</a> for expanded access “to robust workforce training.” <a href="#">Introduced</a> a bill to end trade practices that undercut American specialty crops. <a href="#">Voted</a> for \$1 trillion in new <a href="#">infrastructure projects</a> , including road repair, bridges, broadband internet, and rail lines. <a href="#">Voted</a> to not put funds toward <a href="#">building</a> 7 million homes.	<b>Increase.</b> <a href="#">Calls</a> for publicly funded programs like the Civilian Conservation Corps to rebuild “our crumbling infrastructure.” <a href="#">Says</a> public investment is necessary to solve the housing crisis. Would launch a “National Whole Home <a href="#">Repair Program</a> ...to cover the full range of work that would bring old housing into the present.”
<b>ENVIRONMENT</b> Loosen or tighten environmental rules?	<b>Mostly tighten.</b> <a href="#">Voted</a> to <a href="#">keep</a> a 20-year <a href="#">protection</a> against mining upstream from the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. <a href="#">Voted</a> against <a href="#">opening</a> the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge’s Coastal Plain to oil drilling. <a href="#">Voted</a> to <a href="#">undo</a> controls on companies that emit <a href="#">seven</a> major hazardous pollutants.	<b>Tighten.</b> <a href="#">Would</a> “stand up against efforts to dismantle the Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act.” <a href="#">Says</a> both acts should be strengthened “so that enforcement against massive polluters...does not depend upon the whims of whoever happens to be President.” “We definitely need to <a href="#">protect</a> public lands.”
<b>GUN LAWS</b> Loosen or tighten gun laws?	<b>Tighten.</b> <a href="#">Voted</a> to <a href="#">expand</a> background checks, add serious dating partners to laws that bar domestic abusers from purchasing guns, and implement red flag <a href="#">laws</a> . <a href="#">Introduced</a> a bill making it a crime to act as a straw purchaser of guns; would reduce violence “without infringing upon...rights.”	<b>Tighten.</b> <a href="#">Supports</a> red flag <a href="#">laws</a> that “don’t impede the ability of legal gun owners to have access to their firearms.” Says a three-day waiting <a href="#">period</a> “is a bit excessive” but supports it if that’s what Mainers want. <a href="#">Supports</a> extreme risk protection orders & universal background checks.

ISSUES	COLLINS (R)	PLATNER (D)
<b>HEALTHCARE</b> Increase or decrease government support for healthcare?	<b>Mostly increase.</b> <a href="#">Voted</a> to <a href="#">extend</a> Affordable Care Act subsidies. <a href="#">Introduced</a> a bill to raise taxes on <a href="#">ultrawealthy</a> income earners to help rural hospitals facing Medicaid cuts. <a href="#">Introduced</a> a bill to lower the cost of insulin. <a href="#">Voted</a> against the Big Beautiful <a href="#">Bill</a> because of “the <a href="#">harmful</a> impact it will have on Medicaid.” <a href="#">Voted</a> against <a href="#">allowing</a> government negotiation of Medicare drug prices.	<b>Increase.</b> <a href="#">Says</a> healthcare “is a human right.” “No one in America need go <a href="#">bankrupt</a> over an illness.” <a href="#">Calls</a> for an end to “the power of the private insurance industry over our government.” Would “ <a href="#">oppose</a> ANY cuts to Medicare and Medicaid” and “ <a href="#">work to</a> pass improved Medicare for ALL.”
<b>IMMIGRATION</b> How to handle immigration?	<a href="#">Voted</a> for <a href="#">\$70 billion</a> to <a href="#">fund</a> ICE, and then nearly <a href="#">\$70 billion</a> more for ICE and CPB. <a href="#">Voted</a> to rescind <a href="#">billions</a> of dollars in ICE funding and put those funds to Medicaid. <a href="#">Voted</a> to <a href="#">transfer</a> ICE funds to fund <a href="#">DACA</a> applications, and voted <a href="#">against</a> <a href="#">redirecting</a> ICE funds to child care block grants.	<a href="#">Calls</a> for an end to “the mass deportation machine.” “ <a href="#">ICE</a> as an organization needs to be dismantled.... We need to rebuild how we do immigration enforcement in this country.” <a href="#">Wants</a> “strong border security and a path to citizenship. We cannot do one without the other.”
<b>IRAN WAR</b> Support the war in Iran?	<b>Mixed.</b> In March, <a href="#">voted</a> against <a href="#">limiting</a> Trump’s power to wage war in Iran without congressional approval. In April, at the 60-day mark, <a href="#">supported</a> an effort to end the operation. “Further <a href="#">military action</a> against Iran must have a clear mission.”	<b>No.</b> <a href="#">Would</a> “fight to stop this senseless war... Nobody wants this war.” “The ability to <a href="#">declare war</a> needs to be in the hands of the body that is most representative of the American people.... who shoulder the burden.”
<b>LABOR</b> Make it easier or harder for unions to organize workers?	<b>Easier.</b> <a href="#">Voted</a> to <a href="#">restore</a> federal employees’ collective bargaining rights. <a href="#">Sponsored</a> the Protect America’s Workforce <a href="#">Act</a> , to repeal Trump’s executive order restricting union rights at federal agencies.	<b>Easier.</b> “I... <a href="#">believe</a> in expanding the power of organized labor.” Says unions provide “ <a href="#">higher wages</a> ” and lead to “better <a href="#">conditions</a> for workers who aren’t even in labor unions.” Federal-funded projects “should be <a href="#">built</a> by union labor.”
<b>LGBTQ RIGHTS</b> Limit or expand LGBTQ rights?	<b>Mixed.</b> <a href="#">Introduced</a> a <a href="#">bill</a> providing federal recognition of same-sex and interracial marriages. <a href="#">Called</a> it “common-sense legislation” that “provides certainty to millions of loving couples.” <a href="#">Voted</a> for a federal <a href="#">ban</a> on transgender athletes participating in <a href="#">women’s sports</a> .	<b>Expand.</b> “ <a href="#">Equality</a> under the law cannot be denied because of sex.” <a href="#">Supports</a> “passing...federal LGBTQ anti-discrimination legislation.” <a href="#">Opposes</a> efforts to prevent, “in a wholesale way,” transgender girls from playing in girls’ sports. “I do not think banning is the answer.”
<b>MINIMUM WAGE</b> Raise the federal minimum from \$7.25 per hour?	<b>Raise.</b> In 2023, <a href="#">introduced</a> a <a href="#">bill</a> to gradually raise the federal minimum wage to \$11 by 2028, indexing future increase to inflation. “I <a href="#">recognize</a> the difficulties for anyone who is trying to make ends meet while earning the federal minimum wage.”	<b>Raise.</b> <a href="#">Says</a> the federal minimum wage should be raised, indexed to inflation “so we never again see the buying power of the American worker eroded as we have over the 20 years since we last raised the wage.” “We’ve <a href="#">watched</a> this state become essentially unlivable for working-class people.”
<b>TAXES</b> Raise or lower taxes on corporations and wealthier individuals?	<b>Mixed.</b> In 2017, <a href="#">voted for</a> Trump tax cuts, which included the <a href="#">largest</a> one-time cut in the corporate tax rate and large tax breaks for the wealthy. In 2025, voted <a href="#">against</a> extending those cuts. In 2021, <a href="#">voted</a> against <a href="#">increasing</a> taxes on corporations and the wealthy to <a href="#">pay</a> for family services, health, and environment programs.	<b>Raise.</b> <a href="#">Calls</a> the federal tax code a “billionaire welfare” system. <a href="#">Wants</a> “a wealth tax on the ultra-rich” and a “cost of living tax cut for the rest of us.” <a href="#">Would</a> end capital gains tax breaks by treating capital gains like wages, and make large corporations pay federal corporate taxes.
<b>VOTING RULES</b> Make voting harder or easier?	<b>Mostly harder.</b> <a href="#">Voted</a> to <a href="#">require</a> citizenship proof when registering to vote in federal elections. “The <a href="#">law</a> is clear that in this country only American citizens are eligible to vote in federal elections.” Later <a href="#">voted</a> to not <a href="#">require</a> proof. <a href="#">Supports</a> voter ID. <a href="#">Requiring</a> “an ID at the polls...will improve the security of our federal elections.”	<b>Easier.</b> <a href="#">Called</a> the U.S. Supreme Court decision limiting the Voting Rights Act “disastrous.” <a href="#">Supported</a> the defeat of a Maine referendum requiring photo IDs and tighter rules for absentee voting. “It’s <a href="#">essential</a> that we allow people to vote from a distance,” because “transportation is an issue...in rural Maine.”

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