CITIZEN INTELLIGENCE ARCHIVE

Senate Race File #001 — Maine

Session 2 Update | August 2026

SESSION 2 UPDATE — CANDIDATE SWAP, FULL REBUILD

> **MAJOR CHANGE SINCE SESSION 1:** Graham Platner won the June 9 Democratic primary outright (72%), but withdrew on July 8, 2026 following a sexual assault allegation, which he denies. The Maine Democratic Party held a nominating convention; former Maine Senate President **Troy Jackson** won in a landslide (566–5 delegate vote) and is the presumptive nominee pending formal ballot substitution. This file replaces Platner's profile entirely with a new Jackson profile. Collins' section is refreshed with updated 2026-cycle figures.

> **AIPAC STATUS:** Collins remains CONFIRMED FLAGGED — now with more precise, larger figures than Session 1 likely had (AIPAC accounted for nearly 20% of her 2025 fundraising; cumulative career AIPAC total reported around $647,000). Jackson has publicly pledged not to accept any AIPAC funding and has adopted Platner's sharper Israel-Gaza positions since the switch — a genuine, stated-position clean read, not just an absence of data.

Maine's Senate seat is held by six-term-seeking Republican Susan Collins, who chairs the powerful Senate Appropriations Committee. This is one of the most expensive and closely watched Senate races in the country — ad spending in this single race is projected to approach $384 million. Both the primary and general elections use ranked-choice voting. General election: November 3, 2026.

SUSAN COLLINS (R)

Republican incumbent | U.S. Senator since 1997 | Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee | Age 73 | Caribou, Maine

Collins is Maine's longest-serving member of Congress and the longest-serving Republican woman in the Senate. She chairs the Senate Appropriations Committee, one of the most powerful positions in Congress. She is widely viewed as one of the most vulnerable Republican incumbents on the 2026 map, in a state Trump has not carried.

THE FACTS — VOTING RECORD

Israel & Foreign Policy

Collins has voted to send unconditional military aid to Israel, including a package reported at $41 billion, and has co-sponsored resolutions affirming Israel's "right to self-defense." She voted to increase federal funding for defensive arms to Iran-adjacent conflicts and did not support measures aimed at holding the Netanyahu government accountable, according to her opponents' framing during the primary — voters should weigh the underlying votes directly.

The Strategic No Pattern

Consistent with this archive's existing "Strategic No" model for Collins: voting yes on the procedural vote that advances a bill, then voting no on final passage after the bill already has enough votes to pass —

creating political cover without actually stopping anything. This pattern remains the throughline of her legislative record and is unchanged by this update.

THE FACTS — FOLLOW THE MONEY

SOURCE	NOTES	FLAG
AIPAC — direct and bundled contributions	AIPAC accounted for nearly 20% of all money Collins raised in 2025 — more than $538,000–$603,000 bundled from 300+ individual donors in a single reporting period, per Bangor Daily News and Zeteo reporting on FEC filings. Cumulative career AIPAC total has been reported at approximately $647,000.	■ **CONFIRMED FLAGGED**
Billionaire-funded super PAC network	Her allied super PAC ("Pine Tree Results" and related groups) has drawn contributions reported from Palantir co-founder Alex Karp, Melinda French Gates, New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft, Elizabeth Uihlein, Apollo Global Management's Marc Rowan, and Blackstone CEO Stephen Schwarzman — roughly $10 million from billionaires and their spouses combined, per Maine AFL-CIO's review of FEC filings. Winning for Women Action Fund has separately booked $16 million in pro-Collins ads.	■ **FLAGGED**
Total raised (2026 cycle)	Approximately $12.2 million, with $2.3 million in Q1 2026 alone. More than $8 million cash on hand entering the general election.	**NOTE**

AIPAC MONEY: **CONFIRMED FLAGGED** — nearly 20% of her 2025 fundraising, among the largest AIPAC-tied hauls in this archive.

BILLIONAIRE / DARK MONEY: **FLAGGED** — roughly $10 million from billionaire donors and spouses through allied super PACs.

> **ARCHITECT ANALYSIS — SUSAN COLLINS (updated):** Collins remains the archive's clearest case of both automatic disqualifying flags landing on the same candidate at serious scale. Nearly one dollar in five she raised in 2025 came through AIPAC. Her allied super PAC's billionaire roster reads like a list of private equity and finance titans, several with direct business interests in the votes she casts as Appropriations chair. The Strategic No pattern remains the throughline: she can point to procedural votes that look moderate while the substance goes the other way.

TROY JACKSON (D) — NEW NOMINEE

Democratic nominee (replacing Graham Platner) | Former Maine Senate President 2018–2024 | Fifth-generation logger | Age 57 | Allagash, Maine

Troy Jackson is a fifth-generation logger who began his political career during a 1998 logging blockade protesting the hiring of Canadian temporary workers over local labor. He served in the Maine Senate for two non-consecutive stints (2008–2014, 2016–2024), including six years as Senate President — one of the most powerful positions in Maine government. He won his state Senate district by 20 points in a district that has also voted for both Collins and Trump, a genuine cross-partisan track record.

Record — Labor & Working Class

Jackson has built his career around labor rights advocacy, consistent with his background as a union-aligned logger. He has taken the "People's Pledge" in prior campaigns, committing to reject corporate and dark money — a position he is carrying into this Senate race.

Abortion — A Real Evolution Worth Noting

Early in his legislative career, Jackson held socially conservative positions on abortion. Maine Right to Life gave him perfect scores in 2003 and 2010, and in 2011 he was the only Democrat in the Maine Senate to vote for a fetal personhood bill. He has since said he "made mistakes early on in understanding" the issue, voted against a similar fetal personhood bill in 2017, and voted in 2019 for a bill guaranteeing MaineCare and private insurance coverage of abortion care. Voters should weigh this evolution directly rather than treat either his early record or his current position as the whole story.

Israel — New Position Since Entering This Race

Jackson said little publicly about Israel-Palestine policy during his two decades in the state legislature. Since becoming the Senate nominee, he has adopted several of Platner's sharper positions: using the term "genocide" to describe Israel's war in Gaza, and calling for an end to U.S. military aid to Israel on his campaign website. He has stated he will not accept AIPAC funding. Notably, he did not mention Israel or AIPAC at all in his nomination acceptance speech, even as a rival candidate used her own remarks to directly criticize Collins' Israel voting record — a silence some Maine Jewish community members have read as calculated distance from the issue rather than a settled position. Voters should watch whether this evolving position holds under general-election scrutiny.

THE FACTS — FOLLOW THE MONEY

SOURCE	NOTES	FLAG
AIPAC	Jackson has publicly pledged not to accept AIPAC funding. No AIPAC contributions have been reported.	**CLEAN — stated pledge, consistent with available records**
Small donors / grassroots	Since winning the nomination, Jackson's campaign reports 30,000+ new donors and roughly $2 million raised in the days following the convention alone, per Bangor Daily News. His prior campaign (for governor, before switching to this Senate race) reported 5,000+ contributions from all 16 Maine counties and backing from 40+ labor unions including the Maine AFL-CIO.	**CLEAN**
People's Pledge — a real complication	Jackson has publicly committed to rejecting corporate and dark money ("People's Pledge"). However, reporting from his prior gubernatorial campaign (The Maine Wire, May 2026) found his campaign directly received $2,500 from an out-of-state investment-firm millionaire, who separately donated $50,000 to a PAC ("Working Mainers First") supporting his candidacy. It is not yet confirmed whether this PAC or donor relationship carries into his current Senate bid — this needs a direct follow-up check before this profile is treated as final.	**PENDING FOLLOW-UP — pledge vs. record gap flagged in a prior race, not yet confirmed for this one**
		■ WATCH

National Democratic infrastructure	Senate Majority PAC (Schumer-aligned) and national Democrats are actively rallying financial support behind his campaign following the late nominee switch.	

AIPAC MONEY: **CLEAN, BY STATED PLEDGE** — consistent with available records; recommend one follow-up check closer to the general election as more FEC filings post.

DARK MONEY / CORPORATE PAC: **PENDING FOLLOW-UP** — a pledge vs. record gap was documented in his prior (gubernatorial) campaign; needs direct confirmation for the Senate race specifically before treating his "no corporate PAC" claim as fully verified here.

> **ARCHITECT ANALYSIS — TROY JACKSON (new profile):** Jackson enters this race as a genuine working-class counterpoint to Collins — a fifth-generation logger who has out-performed Democratic baselines in a district that also votes for Collins and Trump. His labor record is real and well-documented. Two things are worth watching rather than assuming settled: his rapid evolution on Israel policy since stepping into a race his predecessor built partly around that issue, and whether the corporate-money tension documented in his governor's race (a $2,500 direct contribution and $50,000 PAC donation from the same out-of-state millionaire) shows up again in this one. Neither disqualifies him under the framework — but a "clean money" claim should be checked against his actual filings, the same standard applied to every candidate in this archive regardless of party.

STATUS: SESSION 2 MAJOR REBUILD. Jackson's nomination is presumptive pending formal ballot substitution (deadline was July 27, 2026 — confirm this has been finalized before publication). Collins' money picture is refreshed with more precise figures. Jackson's corporate-PAC pledge needs one more direct check against his current Senate filings before this profile is considered fully closed.

CHANGELOG (Session 2, August 2026):
— MAJOR: Replaced Graham Platner's profile entirely — he withdrew July 8, 2026 following a sexual assault allegation he denies
— Added new Troy Jackson profile: background, labor record, abortion-position evolution, new Israel positioning
— Confirmed Jackson's public AIPAC-rejection pledge; flagged a pledge-vs-record question carried over from his prior gubernatorial run, not yet confirmed for this race
— Refreshed Collins' AIPAC figures with more precise 2026-cycle numbers (~20% of 2025 fundraising, ~$647K career total) and full billionaire-donor list for her allied super PAC
— Confirmed the "Strategic No" model (existing framework term) still applies to Collins' current record

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— Uma | PixelMagic / MindTraveler | People Over Party