

U.S. Senate

Collins seeks a sixth term. Graham Platner won the June 9 Democratic primary but withdrew in July; the party nominated Troy Jackson at a July 25 convention.

Susan Collins

REPUBLICAN · INCUMBENT

U.S. senator since 1997; chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Troy Jackson

DEMOCRAT · CHALLENGER

Former Maine Senate president (2018–2024) and fifth-generation logger from Allagash.

Where the candidates stand on the issues Pope Leo XIV has raised, in their own words and votes. Bracketed numbers link to sources. We do not rate, score, or endorse candidates.

WAR & PEACE

POPE LEO XIV *Leo invited citizens of every country involved in the war with Iran to contact their leaders and members of Congress “to work for peace and to reject war and violence.”* Remarks at Castel Gandolfo, Apr. 7, 2026 (Vatican News via The Good Newsroom)

SUSAN COLLINS

Voted against several Iran war powers resolutions in March 2026, then, after the 60-day War Powers Act mark, voted for resolutions to end hostilities absent congressional authorization, saying presidential war authority “is not without limits.”

[1] FactCheck.org: Democratic ad attacks Collins on health care, Iran war (May 2026)
[2] Bangor Daily News: Collins pushes back on Iran war votes (May 2026)

VOTING RECORD

Yes Iran war powers resolution (H.Con.Res. 86), June 2026
Yes Iran war powers resolution (H.Con.Res. 89), Sept. 2026
Yes Russia sanctions bill (H.R. 5334), Aug. 2026

TROY JACKSON

Calls the war in Gaza a genocide and would end U.S. military funding for Israel. Opposes the 2026 Iran war, blaming it for rising fuel costs, and has criticized Collins’ “refusal to stand up to Donald Trump on the Iran war.”

[1] Jackson campaign: Priorities
[2] JNS: Jackson on Israel and Gaza (July 2026)
[3] Jackson campaign: Collins and the Iran war

AI & THE DIGNITY OF WORK

POPE LEO XIV *“No one can be reduced to productivity, to cognitive performance, or to mere data.”* Magnifica Humanitas presentation, May 25, 2026

SUSAN COLLINS

Voted with a 99–1 majority in July 2025 to strip a proposed moratorium on state AI regulation from the reconciliation bill.

[1] Senate roll call vote 363, Blackburn amendment (July 1, 2025)

TROY JACKSON

Supports the PRO Act to make union organizing easier; as Senate president passed collective-bargaining rights for loggers and haulers. Holds a 100% Maine AFL-CIO score. No stated position on AI.

[1] Jackson campaign: Priorities
[2] Jackson campaign: Troy at a Glance

RECORD IN OFFICE

Yes LD 151 (2021), allowing farmworkers to organize for collective bargaining (Senate concurrence vote)

THE POOR & THE SAFETY NET

POPE LEO XIV *The preferential choice for the poor is “a source of extraordinary renewal both for the Church and for society.”* [Dilexi Te](#), Oct. 4, 2025

SUSAN COLLINS

Voted against final passage of the 2025 reconciliation law (H.R. 1) with its Medicaid and SNAP changes. Opposed tying enhanced ACA subsidies to the 2025 shutdown fight, later proposing a two-year extension with an income cap.

[1] Senate roll call vote 372, H.R. 1 (July 1, 2025)

[2] FactCheck.org: Democratic ad attacks Collins on health care, Iran war (May 2026)

VOTING RECORD

No One Big Beautiful Bill Act (H.R. 1), July 2025 — tax cuts with Medicaid and SNAP changes

TROY JACKSON

Supports and would co-sponsor the Medicare for All Act; backs expanding the Child Tax Credit and EITC, and lifting the Social Security payroll cap.

[1] Jackson campaign: Priorities

[2] The American Prospect: Troy Jackson is looking forward (Aug. 2026)

LIFE OF THE UNBORN

POPE LEO XIV *Abortion “cuts short a growing life and refuses to welcome the gift of life.”* [Address to the Diplomatic Corps](#), Jan. 9, 2026

SUSAN COLLINS

Supports abortion rights; with Sen. Murkowski, introduced legislation in 2022 to codify Roe v. Wade. Supported Justice Kavanaugh’s 2018 confirmation, saying she believed he would uphold Roe.

[1] CBS News: Collins and Murkowski, who support abortion rights, react to Dobbs draft (2022)

VOTING RECORD

Yes Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act (S. 6), Jan. 2025 — vote to advance the bill (failed, 52–47; 60 needed)

TROY JACKSON

Supports a federal statutory right to abortion; co-sponsored Maine’s 2023 law (LD 1619) expanding abortion access. Opposed abortion early in his legislative career and has said he changed his view.

[1] Jackson campaign: Priorities

[2] Jackson campaign: Troy at a Glance

[3] Bangor Daily News: Jackson’s evolution on abortion (July 2026)

RECORD IN OFFICE

Yes LD 1619 (2023), allowing abortion after viability when a physician deems it necessary

THE DEATH PENALTY

POPE LEO XIV *Someone who opposes abortion but favors the death penalty “is not really pro-life.”* [AP via PBS NewsHour](#), Sept. 30, 2025

SUSAN COLLINS

No public position found.

TROY JACKSON

No public position found.

IMMIGRANTS & REFUGEES

POPE LEO XIV *“Defending human life also includes welcoming, protecting and assisting immigrants.”* [Letter on the 250th Anniversary of the United States](#), June 25, 2026

SUSAN COLLINS

Voted for the Laken Riley Act (2025), requiring detention of immigrants charged with theft and certain crimes. After a fatal ICE shooting in Biddeford in July 2026, urged DHS to “cease all non-urgent vehicle stops.”

[1] Senate roll call vote 7, S. 5 (Jan. 20, 2025)

[2] ABC News: Immigration enforcement a flashpoint in Maine Senate race (July 2026)

VOTING RECORD

Yes Laken Riley Act (S. 5), Jan. 2025 — requires detention of undocumented immigrants charged with theft and certain crimes

Yes Secure America Act (S. 2), June 2026 — reconciliation funding for ICE and Customs and Border Protection

TROY JACKSON

Calls for abolishing ICE, calling it “a rogue agency”; supports an immigration system focused on due process and genuine public-safety threats rather than broad raids and deportations.

[1] Jackson campaign: Priorities

[2] ABC News: Immigration enforcement a flashpoint in Maine Senate race (July 2026)

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY & EDUCATION

POPE LEO XIV *Religious freedom is “the right of every person to worship according to conscience.”* [Letter on the 250th Anniversary of the United States](#), June 25, 2026

SUSAN COLLINS

No campaign statement found. See voting record below.

VOTING RECORD

No One Big Beautiful Bill Act (H.R. 1), July 2025 — created a federal tax credit for donations to K–12 scholarship organizations

TROY JACKSON

No campaign statement found. See voting record below.

RECORD IN OFFICE

Yes LD 798 (2019), repealing religious and philosophical exemptions from school, college and health care worker immunization requirements

CARE FOR CREATION

POPE LEO XIV *“We cannot love God, whom we cannot see, while despising his creatures.”* [AP](#), Oct. 1, 2025

SUSAN COLLINS

Her Senate office says she has “worked to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and spur the creation of clean energy jobs,” while emphasizing high heating costs for Maine households that rely on fuel oil.

[1] [Sen. Collins: Energy & Environment](#)

VOTING RECORD

Yes Resolution overturning EPA approval of California vehicle-emission rules (H.J.Res. 87), May 2025

TROY JACKSON

No campaign statement found. See voting record below.

RECORD IN OFFICE

Yes LD 99 (2021), requiring the state to divest assets invested in the fossil fuel industry

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