

KINSELLA: Don't support bad people who do bad things

But people who are good - or who claim to be good - shrugging about a bad person doing bad things in politics? That shouldn't happen

Author of the article:

Warren Kinsella

Published Jul 07, 2026 • 3 minute read



Democratic U.S. Senate candidate Graham Platner speaks to voters at a town hall at the Elks Lodge 188 on June 7, 2026 in Portland, Maine. Platner is the presumptive Democratic

nominee and will face incumbent Sen. Collins (R-ME) for Maine's U.S. Senate seat in the general election. PHOTO BY LAURA BRETT /Getty Images

Look: bad people do bad things.

True in politics, true in real life.

In politics, being bad or doing bad things isn't always fatal. Bad people sometimes win. Donald Trump, Richard Nixon et al. It happens.

But people who are good – or who claim to be good – shrugging about a bad person doing bad things in politics? That shouldn't happen.

Justin Trudeau, for example. He wore racist blackface and was alleged by a woman to have groped her. He hid both until they leaked out.

For me, those were disqualifying events. Forget about becoming Prime Minister – Trudeau should have never, ever been green-lit as a Liberal candidate. If his surname had been different, he wouldn't have been.

But his party's caucus and his party's members defended him. They shrugged. They looked the other way. They traded principles for power.

Me, a lifelong Liberal, couldn't. I'd spent decades fighting racism and sexism and their variants and I couldn't just shrug. So I left.

And, in the end, I found Trudeau's followers more nauseating than Trudeau himself. He was just being who he was: an entitled, spoiled son of a millionaire Prime Minister.

But his Liberal followers? The ones who shrugged? They were the worst kind of hypocrites. Because they'd exonerated Trudeau for the sort of things for which they'd excoriated Conservatives.

Which brings us to the Democrats.

Democrats swooned over Platner

Full disclosure, as they say: like the Canadian Liberals, I've worked for the American Democrats. I thought I knew them – the Maine Dems in particular. I'd volunteered for them the most.

I don't recall ever meeting Graham Platner. Maybe I did. Last Fall, I heard he was seeking the nomination as one of his party's two representatives in the U.S. Senate. The party's brightest lights swooned over him: plain-talking oyster farmer, former Marine, progressive talker who accused Israel of genocide.

Then, in October, some deleted Reddit posts came to light. Demeaning comments about women, jokes about sexual assault, racist rhetoric: it was bad, but the Democrats continued to sing Platner's praises. Senators Bernie Sanders, Elizabeth Warren, Ruben Gallego, Ro Khanna and organized labour stuck with him. "He's my kind of man," said Warren.

And then the Nazi Totenkopf tattoo came out.

Platner had it tattooed on his chest. People saw it when someone released a photo of him, shirtless.

For those who don't know, the "Totenkopf" is German for "death's head." It was the symbol of the SS-Totenkopfverbände – the Death's Head Units in the Schutzstaffel, Adolf Hitler's paramilitary organization in Nazi Germany. They killed more people than anyone else in World War II – somewhere between 10 and 12 million. Mainly Jews.

And, for twenty years, Graham Platner – a self-described military buff – had the symbol tattooed right on his chest. And, when questioned, he pretended he didn't know what it meant.

That, for me, was it. That was disqualifying, right then and there, and I said so. Said I wouldn't help the Maine Democrats again if Platner became the nominee. A few weeks ago, they made him their nominee anyway.

They kept supporting him

And the Democratic Party? They kept on supporting Graham Platner.

They kept on doing that even after it was revealed he'd been sexting minors on Kik. After he wished death on another soldier. After lying about why he enlisted. And – notably – lying about his relationships with women.

Several women came forward with stories about inappropriate behaviour and sexual misconduct. The media mostly minimized the women's stories or gaslit them. *The New York Times* even tried to discredit Lyndsey Fife, a woman who had dated Platner, because she was a Republican.

That was too much for Jenny Racicot, who is an actual hero. She's a Democrat and had dated Platner, too. But when she saw how the Times and others in the media had treated Fife, she stepped forward this week. Graham Platner raped her, she alleged. Platner started cancelling campaign events and – as of this writing – hasn't yet quit his Senate run. (But he will.)

And most of those Democrats who had endorsed him? They started to hurriedly withdraw their endorsements. A credible allegation of rape, they'd concluded, was disqualifying.

Pro tip, Democrats: next time a candidate shows up with a Nazi tattoo? Don't support him.

And, as a general rule, don't support bad people who do bad things.