

REPUBLICAN

NATIONAL COMMITTEE

July 20, 2026

Ken Martin
Chair, Democratic National Committee
430 South Capitol Street SE
Washington, DC 20003

Charles F. Dingman
Chair, Maine Democratic Party
320 Water Street, 3rd Floor
Augusta, ME 04330

Dear Chairmen Martin and Dingman:

We have followed the past week's developments in Maine with deep concern. The public discussion over the process to replace Graham Platner as Maine's Democrat nominee for U.S. Senate has raised real questions among voters about transparency, fairness, and whether they will have any meaningful voice in selecting his replacement.

Your own side has said it best. Public reporting describes the effort as a "scramble." Local Democrat officials admit the logistics are "daunting." Others are pleading for a more "uniform process" amid the "extremely tight window" in which delegates are being selected and asked to choose a nominee just days before the state's ballot-access deadline.

For his part, Mr. Platner announced the suspension of his campaign by insisting that his replacement come from "the people of Maine" through a system that is "open, transparent and democratic" and that reflects the voices of those who supported him.

We also know that this convention comes at a difficult time financially for you, with the DNC \$18 million in debt. Finding the resources necessary to run a nominating convention must be tough.

So, in a spirit of generosity we hope will not go unnoticed, the RNC formally offers our election integrity resources and personnel to ensure a process worthy of Democrat voters' confidence. Mainers deserve a nomination that is fair, accessible, and free from disenfranchisement – and it never hurts to have professionals in the room.

The RNC has a deep bench of experienced election attorneys, trained observers, a dedicated State Election Integrity Director, and nationwide election integrity resources – all standing by to assist with convention procedures, delegate credentialing, ballot-counting transparency, and election law compliance. We built this operation to protect elections from exactly this kind of chaos. We simply never expected the loudest cries for help to come from inside your own house.

As our friends on the left never tire of reminding us, "*democracy dies in darkness.*" We are offering to turn on the lights.

In that spirit, we also request clarification on whether your nominating convention will include the basic safeguards every election deserves: voter identification, proof of residency, and independent observation. We ask in a spirit of thoroughness, not suspicion. Mostly thoroughness.



We further understand that proxy voting will not be permitted. I'm pleased to hear your party discover, at last, the merits of in-person voting — and to learn that when the stakes are highest for Democrats, you too believe there is no substitute for showing up and casting a ballot yourself.

Democrats have spent years urging Americans to trust the process, trust the results, and defend democracy. If you meant a word of it, you will have no trouble welcoming our help to verify all three.

The RNC stands ready to help this convention live up to the standard Mr. Platner himself set: open, fair, and truly democratic. Because if there are “no kings” in America, there should be no handpicked successors either.

Respectfully,

Joe Gruters

Chairman

Republican National Committee

Jim Deyermond

Chairman

Maine Republican Party