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**MAJOR NATIONAL PROGRESSIVE ORGANIZATIONS  
LINE UP TO ENDORSE BETSY SWEET FOR U.S. SENATE**

*"I am honored to work side by side with Justice Democrats, Democracy For America and an amazing set of congressional leaders who believe that fundamental change is not only possible but required,"* says Betsy Sweet, candidate for U.S. Senate in Maine.

PORTLAND, MAINE (July 10, 2019) - Justice Democrats, the organization that helped elect Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, announced today that they will be endorsing Betsy Sweet in the Democratic primary for U.S. Senate in Maine. Sweet is the first candidate for U.S. Senate in the country endorsed by Justice Democrats. The endorsement follows on the heels of the Democracy For America endorsement of Sweet.

In her announcement [speech](#), Sweet highlighted protecting a woman's right to choose, health care for all, getting big money out of politics, and the urgent need for bold action on the climate crisis as four reasons for why she is challenging Susan Collins.

**Statement from Justice Democrats ED Alexandra Rojas on the grassroots group's endorsement of Sweet:**

"Betsy has spent her entire life fighting for working families all across the state of Maine," said Rojas. "It's clear that Susan Collins has to be replaced with a bold progressive champion who will fight to enact Medicare for All, a Green New Deal, and free college."

"We are proud to endorse Betsy Sweet as she fights for Medicare for All, a Green New Deal, free college, and ending mass incarceration and deportation," said Alexandra Rojas, executive director of Justice Democrats. "This moment demands courage, strength and a new generation of leadership that is actually going to put aside political ambition, and present solutions that match the scale and urgency of the crisis we face."



**Statement from DFA CEO Yvette Simpson on the grassroots group's endorsement of Sweet:**

"Betsy Sweet is the kind of bold leader who can harness the grassroots energy that's been growing in Maine for years, and finally replace one of Donald Trump's key enablers in the U.S. Senate, Susan Collins.

"When Susan Collins cast her vote to confirm Brett Kavanaugh to the U.S. Supreme Court, she made it clear that she stands with Donald Trump and Mitch McConnell, and not with women in Maine and across the country. Americans are hungry for change and they are sick and tired of being sold out by politicians like Susan Collins who put their political interests ahead of the people's interests.

"Unlike Susan Collins, Betsy Sweet knows who she's fighting for and who she's fighting against. Sweet has spent her life defending the rights of women, people with disabilities, victims of sexual assault and discrimination, and all Mainers who want to live in a clean environment. In the U.S. Senate, she'll be an unabashed champion for abortion rights, Medicare for All, a \$15 minimum wage, organized labor, and criminal justice reform.

"In 2014, far too many National Democrats made a huge mistake by giving Susan Collins a pass on what should have been a reelection fight. In 2020, we can't just fix that mistake by ending Susan Collins' career, we must replace her with someone who'll be a strong fighter for our shared progressive values and committed to helping us win back the rights that Collins's votes have helped destroy.

"We're supporting Betsy Sweet on day one of her campaign because we believe she's the inclusive populist leader that Mainers and our country need in the U.S. Senate to clean up the mess made by the Trump-Collins agenda." -- **Yvette Simpson, CEO, Democracy for America**

A former director of the Maine Women's Lobby and the Maine Commission for Women, as well as a small business owner, Sweet has spent her career advocating for people with disabilities, the elderly, women, children, and low-income individuals and families. She gained statewide prominence in 2018, when she ran in the Democratic primary for Governor. Sweet was the only person to run as a clean elections candidate and helped to write the 1996 Maine Clean Election



Act. Sweet was the first major candidate to [announce](#) her candidacy for U.S. Senate against Susan Collins on June 13, 2019.

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