



Congressional Votes on The Epstein Files

Senate Confirms Secretary Alex Acosta, Blocks Epstein Files Release

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This table shows votes cast by five politically endangered U.S. senators on issues related to Jeffrey Epstein. They are Republicans Dan Sullivan of Alaska, Susan Collins of Maine, Pete Ricketts of Nebraska and Jon Husted of Ohio and Democrat Jon Ossoff of Georgia. Their closely contested races in the 2026 midterms will do much to determine which party runs the Senate starting in 2027. Races for open Senate seats in states such as Iowa, Michigan and Texas also will heavily influence party control of the Senate in the next Congress.

			Issue 1 To Confirm Labor Secretary Alex Acosta	Issue 2 To End Debate on Alex Acosta Nomination	Issue 3 To Block Release of Epstein Files
NV = Did Not Vote					
Dash = Not Yet in Office					
Dan Sullivan	R	AK	YES	YES	YES
Jon Ossoff	D	GA	–	–	NO
Susan Collins	R	ME	YES	YES	YES
Pete Ricketts	R	NE	–	–	YES
Jon Husted	R	OH	–	–	YES

Issue 1 Senate Confirms Alex Acosta as Donald Trump's First Secretary of Labor

Voting 60 for and 38 against, the Senate on April 27, 2017, confirmed Alex Acosta as secretary of labor in the first Trump administration. Acosta resigned the cabinet post on July 19, 2019, after details of his soft prosecutorial treatment of Epstein years earlier became a national news story. In 2008, while he

served as U.S. attorney for the Southern District of Florida, Acosta approved a deal that quashed an imminent federal indictment of Epstein while allowing him to plead guilty to state charges of soliciting prostitution from a 14-year-old girl. A yes vote was to confirm Acosta as secretary of labor.

Issue 2 Senate Votes End Debate on Alex Acosta Nomination

Voting 61 for and 39 against, the Senate on April 26, 2017, invoked cloture (ended debate) on the confirmation of Alex Acosta as secretary of labor in the first Trump administration. Acosta was later to resign from the cabinet over his lenient handling of a criminal case against Jeffrey Epstein in 2008.

But his suspicious ties to Epstein were discussed by only one senator, California Democrat Dianne Feinstein, in lengthy debate on his nomination on the Senate floor. A yes vote was to close debate on the Acosta nomination.

Issue 3 **Senate Republicans Block the Epstein Files Transparency Act**

The Senate on Sept. 10, 2025, voted, 51 for and 49 against, to table (kill) a Democratic amendment adding the Epstein Files Transparency Act to the fiscal 2026 National Defense Authorization Act (S 2296). At the time of this vote, the transparency bill was buried in the GOP-led House

Judiciary Committee. Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., sponsored the amendment. Republicans Rand Paul of Kentucky and Josh Hawley of Missouri joined all 47 Democrats in support of the amendment and 51 other Republicans voted to kill it.

A yes vote was to block the Epstein Files Transparency Act.