



US Congress
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Congressional Votes on The Epstein Files

Senate Confirms Blanche & Acosta, Blocks Release of The Epstein Files

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US Congress VoteFacts.com

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 Texas, North Carolina and Iowa also will shape 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	Issue 4 To Confirm Attorney General Todd Blanche
NV = Did Not Vote						
Dash = Not Yet in Office						
Dan Sullivan	R	AK	YES	YES	YES	YES
Jon Ossoff	D	GA	–	–	NO	NO
Susan Collins	R	ME	YES	YES	YES	NO
Pete Ricketts	R	NE	–	–	YES	YES
Jon Husted	R	OH	–	–	YES	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.

Issue 4 **Senate Rejects Todd Blanche as U.S. Attorney General**

The Senate defeated the nomination of Todd Blanche as U.S. attorney general over Democrats' objections to the Justice Department's handling, under his direction, of the widening scandal surrounding convicted sex-offender Jeffrey Epstein's criminal ring. In part, critics cited Blanche's decision to transfer Epstein accomplice Ghislaine Maxwell from a maximum-security prison in Florida to a minimum-security facility in Texas; the department's lax compliance with the Epstein Files Transparency Act; its failure to bring charges based on newly

released evidence of sex crimes in The Epstein Files; and his apparent indifference to concerns expressed by Epstein victims in a closed-door meeting with him.

Former Atty. Gen. Pam Bondi told the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform that Blanche, her deputy, "supervised [the] entire process" of responding to the Epstein Files Transparency Act after it became law in November 2025.

A yes vote was to confirm Blanche as attorney general.