

TULSI GABBARD

MEDIA TOOLKIT

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PERSONAL BACKGROUND

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Personal Information

Full Name	Tulsi Tamayo Gabbard
Date of Birth	April 12, 1981 (43 years old)
Primary Address	15202 Dormax Circle Leander, TX 78641
Education	Hawaii Pacific University (BS)



Social Media

Facebook	Tulsi Gabbard
Twitter	@TulsiGabbard
Instagram	Tulsi Gabbard
LinkedIn	Lee Zeldin
Website	Tulsi Gabbard
TikTok	Tulsi Gabbard
Rumble	The Tulsi Gabbard Show
YouTube	Tulsi Gabbard
Medium	Tulsi Gabbard

TIMELINE

April 12, 1981: Born in Leloala, American Samoa. (Gabbard, Tulsi, [United States House Of Representatives](#), Accessed 12/18/24)

2002-2004: Member of the Hawaii House of Representatives from the 42nd District. (Gabbard, Tulsi, [United States House Of Representatives](#), Accessed 12/18/24)

April 2003-October 2020: Served In The Hawaii Army National Guard. (Zenaida Serrano, "State Legislator 'Honored' To Serve Country," [The Honolulu Advertiser](#), 4/20/03; "Tulsi Gabbard Leaves Hawaii National Guard For California Unit," [ArmyTimes](#), 10/19/20)

2004: Deployed for a 12-Month Tour In Iraq. (Tulsi Gabbard, "London Visit Makes Loss Clear," [The Honolulu Advertiser](#), 8/8/05)

2009: Graduated from the Hawaii Pacific University with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. (Gabbard, Tulsi, [United States House Of Representatives](#), Accessed 12/18/24; "Bachelor's of Science in Business Administration," [Hawai'i Pacific University](#), Accessed 12/18/24)

2010-2012: Member of the Honolulu, Hawaii, City Council. (Gabbard, Tulsi, [United States House Of Representatives](#), Accessed 12/18/24)

May 2011: Announced Her Candidacy For Hawaii's 2nd Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives. ("Tulsi Gabbard Announces Candidacy For U.S. Congress," [KHON 2](#), 5/26/11)

August 2012: Won the Democratic Primary For Hawaii's 2nd Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives. (2012 Primary Elections Results, [The Honolulu Star Advertiser](#), Accessed 12/18/24)

November 2012: Won the General Election for Hawaii's 2nd Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives. (Elections 2012 Frontpage, [The Honolulu Star Advertiser](#), Accessed 12/18/24)

January 2013: Unanimously elected to a four-year term as a Vice Chair of the Democratic National Committee. ("Hawaii Rep. Tulsi Gabbard To Help Lead DNC," [Hawaii News Now](#), 1/23/13)

November 2014: Won Re-Election for Hawaii's 2nd Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives. (The Green Papers: Hawaii 2014 General Election, [The Green Papers](#), Accessed 12/18/24)

February 2016: Resigned as DNC Vice Chair to endorse Bernie Sander's candidacy for the Democratic Party nomination for President. (Congresswoman Quits Democratic National Committee, Endorses Bernie Sanders," [Reuters](#), 2/28/16)

November 2016: Won Re-Election for Hawaii's 2nd Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives. ("Hawaii U.S. House 2nd District Results: Tulsi Gabbard Wins," [The New York Times](#), 8/1/17)

November 2018: Won Re-Election for Hawaii's 2nd Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives. ("Rep. Tulsi Gabbard Wins Hawaii's 2nd Congressional District Seat," [The Washington Post](#), 11/9/18)

February 2019: Announced her candidacy for President of the United States. (Dan Merica and Arletta Saenz, "Tulsi Gabbard Officially Launches 2020 Campaign After Rocky Start," [CNN](#), 2/2/19)

March 2020: Dropped out of the 2020 Presidential Election and endorsed former Vice President Joe Biden. (Rebecca Morin, and Jason Lalljee, "Tulsi Gabbard Ends Presidential Campaign, Backs Joe Biden," [USA Today](#), 3/19/20)

2020-Present: Served in the United States Army Reserve. (Gabbard, Tulsi, [United States House Of Representatives](#), Accessed 12/18/24)

January 2021: Launched her own podcast, *This is Tulsi Gabbard*. (Chad Blair, "Tulsi Gabbard Launches A Podcast," [CivilBeat](#), 1/21/21)

October 11, 2022: Announced she was leaving the Democratic Party. (Isabella Murray and Mark Osborne, "Tulsi Gabbard Announces She Is Leaving Democratic Party, Calling It An 'Elitist Cabal Of Warmongers,'" [ABC News](#), 10/11/22)

August 26, 2024: Endorsed President Trump's re-election campaign for President of the United States. (Jeremy Yurow, "Tulsi Gabbard Endorses Trump: Why The Former Hawaii Democrat Is Backing Him" [USA Today](#), 8/26/24)

November 13, 2024: Announced as President Trump's nominee to serve as Director of National Intelligence. ("Trump Chooses Tulsi Gabbard For Director Of National Intelligence," [The New York Times](#), 11/13/24)

CAREER BACKGROUND

Political Career Highlights

Member Of The Hawaii State House Of Representatives, Served As The Youngest State Legislator In Hawaii When First Elected

From 2002 Through 2004, Gabbard Served As A Member Of The Hawaii State House Of Representatives. "GABBARD, Tulsi, A Representative from Hawaii; born in Leloaloa, American Samoa, April 12, 1981; B.S.B.A., Hawaii Pacific University, Honolulu, Hawaii, 2009; member of the Hawaii state house of representatives, 2002-2004; Hawaii Army National Guard, 2003-2020; United States Army Reserve, 2020-present; staff, Senator Daniel Kahikina Akaka of Hawaii; member of the Honolulu, Hawaii, city council, 2010-2012; elected as a Democrat to the One Hundred Thirteenth and to the three succeeding Congresses (January 3, 2013-January 3, 2021); was not a candidate for reelection to the One Hundred Seventeenth Congress in 2020, but was an unsuccessful candidate for the Democratic nomination for President of the United States." (Gabbard, Tulsi, [United States House Of Representatives](#), Accessed 12/18/24)

In 2002, Gabbard Was The Youngest State Legislator In Hawaii When She Was First Elected To The Hawaii State Legislature. "Despite being just 31 years old, Gabbard is already considered a rising star in the Democratic Party. She will be the first Hindu member, and, along with Democratic Representative-elect Tammy Duckworth, one of the first female combat veterans to serve in Congress. Gabbard got her start in politics, when she was elected to the Hawaii state legislature at age 21, making her the youngest female state representative ever elected in the U.S." (Grace Wyler and Walt Hickey, "12 Fascinating People Who Are Heading To Congress Next Year," [Business Insider](#), 12/8/12)

Gabbard Filed For Re-Election But Did Not Campaign For A Second Term Due To Serving In Iraq With The Army National Guard From 2004 to 2005. "State Rep. Tulsi Gabbard Tamayo, a National Guard soldier who volunteered for service in Iraq after she had filed for re-election, said yesterday she will not campaign for a second term. 'After thorough research, it is clear that Department of Defense rules will prohibit me from performing my legislative responsibilities while on active military duty in Iraq,' she said at a press conference yesterday at the state Capitol. State law, however, requires that Tamayo's name remain on the ballot. She declined to say whether she will resign if elected, or whether she will endorse another candidate for her office. Because Department of Defense regulations limit campaign activities, Tamayo, D-42nd (Waipahu, Honouliuli, 'Ewa), said she felt prohibited from disclosing much about her political intentions. She said she had stopped all political activities after being placed on active duty two weeks ago. During the press conference, Tamayo called the possibility of being elected and being unable to perform her duties 'unacceptable.' 'My goal is to actually be of service, not just to hold onto my position,' she said. However, in a written statement she distributed at the press conference, she indicated she has made plans in the event she is elected. 'My fellow legislators have assured me that they will cover for me, that they will be involved in my district and make certain that the people of my district are well taken

care of while I'm on active military duty and in Iraq,' she wrote." (Karen Blakeman, "Guard Soldier Tamayo Won't Campaign" [The Honolulu Advertiser](#), 8/30/04)

Served As A Member Of The Honolulu, Hawaii City Council

From 2011 Through 2012, Gabbard Served As A Member Of The Honolulu, Hawaii City Council. "GABBARD, Tulsi, A Representative from Hawaii; born in Leloaloa, American Samoa, April 12, 1981; B.S.B.A., Hawaii Pacific University, Honolulu, Hawaii, 2009; member of the Hawaii state house of representatives, 2002-2004; Hawaii Army National Guard, 2003-2020; United States Army Reserve, 2020-present; staff, Senator Daniel Kahikina Akaka of Hawaii; member of the Honolulu, Hawaii, city council, 2010-2012; elected as a Democrat to the One Hundred Thirteenth and to the three succeeding Congresses (January 3, 2013-January 3, 2021); was not a candidate for reelection to the One Hundred Seventeenth Congress in 2020, but was an unsuccessful candidate for the Democratic nomination for President of the United States." (Gabbard, Tulsi, [United States House Of Representatives](#), Accessed 12/18/24)

In September 2012, Gabbard Spoke At The Democratic National Convention While Still Only A Candidate For The U.S. House

In September 2012, Gabbard Spoke At The Democratic National Convention While Still Only A Candidate For The U.S. House. ("WATCH: Tulsi Gabbard Speaks At DNC," [KHON2 News](#), 9/4/12)



From 2013 Through 2021, Gabbard Served As The Hawaii Representative To The U.S. House, Where She Served On Committees Including Armed Services, Foreign Affairs, And Homeland Security

In 2012, Gabbard Was Elected To The United States House Of Representatives To Represent Hawaii At Only 31 Years Old. “Despite being just 31 years old, Gabbard is already considered a rising star in the Democratic Party. She will be the first Hindu member, and, along with Democratic Representative-elect Tammy Duckworth, one of the first female combat veterans to serve in Congress. Gabbard got her start in politics, when she was elected to the Hawaii state legislature at age 21, making her the youngest female state representative ever elected in the U.S.” (Grace Wyler and Walt Hickey, “12 Fascinating People Who Are Heading To Congress Next Year,” [Business Insider](#), 12/8/12)

From 2013 Through 2021, Gabbard Served As The Hawaii Representative To The United States House Of Representatives. “GABBARD, Tulsi, A Representative from Hawaii; born in Leloaloa, American Samoa, April 12, 1981; B.S.B.A., Hawaii Pacific University, Honolulu, Hawaii, 2009; member of the Hawaii state house of representatives, 2002-2004; Hawaii Army National Guard, 2003-2020; United States Army Reserve, 2020-present; staff, Senator Daniel Kahikina Akaka of Hawaii; member of the Honolulu, Hawaii, city council, 2010-2012; elected as a Democrat to the One Hundred Thirteenth and to the three succeeding Congresses (January 3, 2013-January 3, 2021); was not a candidate for reelection to the One Hundred Seventeenth Congress in 2020, but was an unsuccessful candidate for the Democratic nomination for President of the United States.” (Gabbard, Tulsi, [United States House Of Representatives](#), Accessed 12/18/24)

During Her Time In Congress, Gabbard Served On The House Committees For Armed Services, Financial Services, Foreign Affairs, And Homeland Security. (Gabbard, Tulsi, [United States House Of Representatives](#), Accessed 12/18/24)

▼ Committee Assignments

- House Committee – Armed Services
- House Committee – Financial Services
- House Committee – Foreign Affairs
- House Committee – Homeland Security

In October 2022, Gabbard Left The Democratic Party, Citing Her Discontent With The Party’s Political Direction

In October 2022, Gabbard Left The Democratic Party, Citing Her Discontent With The Party’s Political Direction. “In October 2022, Gabbard made headlines when she announced her departure from the Democratic Party, citing her growing discontent with the party’s direction. Declaring herself an Independent, she stated her dedication to serving the interests of the American people above partisan loyalties.” (Matt Seldon, “Trump Appoints Lieutenant Colonel Tulsi Gabbard As Director Of National Intelligence,” [Homeland Security Today](#), 11/15/24)

In October 2024, Gabbard Officially Joined The Republican Party, Praising President Trump's Vision For The Country

In August 2024, Gabbard Endorsed President Trump For Re-Election, And In October 2024, Gabbard Officially Joined The Republican Party, Praising President Trump's Vision For The Country. "In August 2024, Gabbard publicly endorsed Donald Trump for a second presidential term and later joined his transition team as co-chair. In October, she officially joined the Republican Party, influenced by Trump's leadership and his vision for the country. Her support was framed as part of her commitment to a 'country-first' approach, aligning with what she described as a return to the values of security and peace." (Matt Seldon, "Trump Appoints Lieutenant Colonel Tulsi Gabbard As Director Of National Intelligence," [Homeland Security Today](#), 11/15/24)

Military Career Highlights

In April 2003, Gabbard First Enlisted In The Hawaii Army National Guard, Where She Served For 17 Years Before Joining The U.S. Army Reserve

In April 2003, Gabbard First Enlisted In The Hawaii Army National Guard. "State Rep. Tulsi Gabbard Tamayo knows what it's like to serve the state. Now she'll serve the country. Gabbard Tamayo, D-42nd (Waipahu, Honouliuli, 'Ewa), took the oath of enlistment into the Hawai'i Army National Guard on the House floor Friday. 'In history, some generations have been given everything, and now in this generation where there's a war on terrorism, I'm honored to have the opportunity to give something. ... I promise my constituents that my service to the military will not in any way get in the way of my serving them,' said Gabbard Tamayo, 22. Gabbard Tamayo will undergo nine weeks of basic training in Texas beginning June 2, a month after the Legislature adjourns. Rep. K. Mark Takai, D-34th (Pearl City, Newtown, Royal Summit), is also in the National Guard and has been serving for four years. Gabbard Tamayo said she will have an administrative position with the medical command, where Takai, a captain, serves as a preventive medical officer." (Zenaida Serrano, "State Legislator 'Honored' To Serve Country," [The Honolulu Advertiser](#), 4/20/03)

Gabbard Served For 17 Years With The Hawaii National Guard, During Which She Was Deployed To Iraq And Kuwait, Receiving A Combat Medical Badge In 2005, Before Joining The U.S. Army Reserve. "Congresswoman and former presidential candidate Tulsi Gabbard has left the Hawaii Army National Guard for a new assignment with a California-based Army Reserve unit, military officials said. Gabbard's new part-time assignment as an Army Reserve civil affairs officer follows 17 years with the Hawaii National Guard, The Honolulu Star-Advertiser reported Sunday. ... She has said a deployment to Iraq and Kuwait with the Hawaii Guard greatly shaped her outlook. She received a Combat Medical Badge in 2005 for 'participation in combat operations under enemy hostile fire in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom III,' the Hawaii National Guard said." ("Tulsi Gabbard Leaves Hawaii National Guard For California Unit," [ArmyTimes](#), 10/19/20)

As Of November 2024, Gabbard Is A Lieutenant Colonel In The U.S. Army Reserve And The Battalion Commander Of The 1/354 Regiment In Tulsa, Oklahoma

As Of November 2024, Gabbard Is A Lieutenant Colonel In The U.S. Army Reserve And The Battalion Commander Of The 1/354 Regiment In Tulsa, Oklahoma. "Former Congresswoman, Lieutenant Colonel Tulsi Gabbard, has been appointed by President-elect Donald Trump as the Director of National Intelligence (DNI). This role places her at the head of the U.S. Intelligence Community, where she will oversee agencies that provide vital information and analysis to support national security. The announcement highlights Gabbard's lengthy career in public service, military experience, and her recent shift from the Democratic to the Republican Party. Gabbard brings over two decades of military service to the position. She currently serves as a Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve and is the Battalion Commander of the 1/354 Regiment in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Her military experience includes three overseas deployments to war zones in the Middle East and Africa, where she served in roles focused on medical support and leadership. This background in military operations and security has been a significant influence throughout her career." (Matt Seldon, "Trump Appoints Lieutenant Colonel Tulsi Gabbard As Director Of National Intelligence," [Homeland Security Today](#), 11/15/24)

NOMINATION ATTACKS

LACK OF INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY EXPERIENCE

Gabbard Has Been Criticized For A Lack Of Formal Intelligence Experience, Discounting Her Military And Congressional History

CLAIM: Gabbard Has No Formal Intelligence Experience And Has Been Opposed By Former Diplomats And Intelligence Officials

After Her Nomination To Be Director Of National Intelligence, Gabbard Was Criticized For Not Having Formal Intelligence Experience. “Donald Trump was expected to pick an outsider to lead the U.S. intelligence community. He exceeded expectations by choosing Tulsi Gabbard. The former Democratic member of Congress from Hawaii has many critics and no formal intelligence experience. She’s known chiefly for her opposition to American wars abroad — and sympathetic views on autocrats like Russia’s Vladimir Putin and Syria’s Bashar al-Assad. The president-elect’s announcement of her nomination as Director of National Intelligence stunned members of Congress, along with current and former members of the intelligence community. One senior former intelligence official, who was granted anonymity to discuss the pick, described the choice as ‘left turn and off the bridge.’” (John Sakellaris, “‘Left Turn And Off The Bridge’: Trump’s Spy Pick Stuns Intel World,” [Politico](#), 11/13/24)

In November 2024, Nearly 100 Former Diplomats, National Security Officials And Intelligence Officials Wrote To Senate Leaders Criticizing Gabbard’s Nomination. “On Thursday, nearly 100 former diplomats, national security officials and intelligence officials wrote to Senate leaders expressing alarm at Gabbard’s nomination. The former officials, who have served under both Democratic and Republican administrations, urged closed-door confirmation hearings to allow lawmakers to carry out a full review of government information about Gabbard. ‘Several of Ms. Gabbard’s past actions call into question her ability to deliver unbiased intelligence briefings to the President, Congress, and to the entire national security apparatus,’ the letter stated.” (Dan De Luce and Julia Jester, “Would Tulsi Gabbard Bring A Pro-Russian Bias To Intelligence Reporting?” [NBC News](#), 11/16/24)

FACT: Gabbard’s Maintenance Of A Top-Secret Security Clearance, Decades Of Service In The Military, And Experience With Intelligence In Congress Has Prepared Her To Serve As DNI

Gabbard Has Served 17 Years In The Hawaii National Guard, Including Deployment To The Horn Of Africa, Kuwait, And Iraq. “Gabbard served 17 years in the Hawaii National Guard and subsequently joined an Army reserve unit. She has deployed to the Horn of Africa, Kuwait and Iraq, and she has said those experiences nurtured a deep skepticism of U.S. interventionism.” (John Sakellaris, “‘Left Turn And Off The Bridge’: Trump’s Spy Pick Stuns Intel World,” [Politico](#), 11/13/24)

Gabbard Currently Possess An Active Top Secret Security Clearance And Serves As A Lieutenant Colonel In The U.S. Army Reserve. “A spokesperson for the Trump transition team said Gabbard, a lieutenant colonel in the Army Reserve, has an active top secret security clearance and has never

breached the confidentiality rules around classified information. 'As someone who served for eight years in the U.S. House of Representatives and attended many classified briefings, there is zero evidence that confidentiality has ever been violated,' said spokesperson Alexa Henning. Asked about the case of congressional staffers in 2018 who were concerned she might not safeguard the Syrian defector's anonymity, she said: 'This is another smear by anonymous officials with no proof.'" (Dan De Luce, "Democrats And Republicans In Congress Worried That Gabbard Might Leak To Assad Regime," [NBC News](#), 12/6/24)

During Her Time In The House Of Representatives, Gabbard Served On The Armed Services, Foreign Affairs, And Homeland Security Committees. (Gabbard, Tulsi, [United States House Of Representatives](#), Accessed 12/18/24)

▼ Committee Assignments

- House Committee – Armed Services
- House Committee – Financial Services
- House Committee – Foreign Affairs
- House Committee – Homeland Security

In December 2024, More Than 250 Veterans, Including Current Members Of Congress, Signed An Open Letter Endorsing Her Nomination As Director Of National Intelligence. "Director of National Intelligence (DNI) designee Tulsi Gabbard began her charm offensive with key senators on Monday — and got a boost from hundreds of veterans while seeking to allay concerns about her views on Syria in the wake of the Assad regime's collapse. More than 250 veterans — including current members of Congress and former federal officials — signed an open letter endorsing her for the DNI position to coordinate between the government's 17 intelligence agencies. 'While most Americans know Tulsi as a fearless and principled Congresswoman who stood up to entrenched political systems, we know her as a fellow veteran — one whose worldview was forged through the crucible of serving in combat zones and a lifelong devotion to service,' the veterans wrote in the letter published Monday. Prominent veterans such as Reps. Eli Crane (R-Ariz.); Brian Mast (R-Fla.), who is set to helm the House Foreign Affairs Committee; former acting Secretary of Defense Chris Miller and others had signed the letter, which was first reported by Fox News. 'Tulsi's life exemplifies a rare blend of selflessness, courage, and leadership — qualities desperately needed to reform and strengthen our intelligence community,' the letter added." (Ryan King and John Christenson, "Hundreds Of Veterans Back Tulsi Gabbard As Spy Boss While She Mounts Charm Offensive With GOP Senators," [The New York Post](#), 12/9/24)

In December 2024, Brian O'Neill, A Former Senior Intelligence Official, Noted That The Wide Number Of Intelligence Officials Supporting Gabbard Will Help Ensure Her Success As DNI. "Even so, Brian O'Neill, a former senior intelligence official with experience in senior policymaker briefing, expressed confidence that career intelligence officials can support Gabbard with 'a constant barrage of new information' that will help shape her understanding of emerging world events. 'New appointees in such roles always bring preconceptions, but like her predecessors, she will be subject to comprehensive briefings grounded in solid evidence provided by individuals of high integrity and expertise,' O'Neill said." (Lucien Bruggeman, "Tulsi Gabbard's Views On Russia Shaped In Part By Kremlin Propaganda Outlet, Ex-Aides Say," [ABC News](#), 12/4/24)

RUSSIAN ASSET

Gabbard Has Been Accused Of Being A Russian Asset, With Her Statements Being Praised By Russian State Media

CLAIM: Gabbard Has Been Criticized For Allegedly Pro-Russian Positions And Has Been Praised By Russian State Media For Her Comments

While In Congress, Gabbard Criticized Sanctions As Counter Productive To Peace With Russia, And Criticized The United States' "Hostility Toward Putin." "By 2017, however, her tune had changed. In a lengthy memo to campaign staff laying out her views on foreign policy, a copy of which was obtained by ABC News, Gabbard blamed the U.S. and NATO for provoking Russian aggression and bemoaned the United States' 'hostility toward Putin.' 'There certainly isn't any guarantee to Putin that we won't try to overthrow Russia's government,' she wrote in the memo from May 2017, titled 'fodder for fundraising emails / social media.' 'In fact, I'm pretty sure there are American politicians who would love to do that,' she wrote. She also condemned the very sanctions she had previously supported, writing that, 'historically, the U.S. has always wanted Russia to be a poor country.' 'It's a matter of respect,' she wrote. 'The Russian people are a proud people and they don't want the U.S. and our allies trying to control them and their government.' Gabbard's sentiment in the 2017 memo is 'basically the Russian playbook,' said Ivo Daalder, a former U.S. ambassador to NATO during the Obama administration. 'It's dangerous," said Daalder. "That strain of thinking is not unique to Tulsi Gabbard, but it is certainly not where you would think a major figure in any administration would like to be, intellectually.'

In December 2022, Former Aides Claimed Gabbard Regularly Read And Shared Articles From Russia Today, Which Has Been Characterized As "The Kremlin's Principal International Propaganda Outlet." "Since becoming President-elect Donald Trump's choice for director of national intelligence, Tulsi Gabbard's rosy posture toward Moscow has prompted some Democratic critics to suggest that she could be 'compromised,' or perhaps even a 'Russian asset' -- claims the ex-Hawaii representative and Army officer has forcefully denied. But former advisers to Gabbard suggest that her views on Russia and its polarizing leader, Vladimir Putin, have been shaped not by some covert intelligence recruitment as far as they know -- but instead by her unorthodox media consumption habits. Three former aides said Gabbard, who left the Democratic Party in 2022, regularly read and shared articles from the Russian news site RT -- formerly known as Russia Today -- which the U.S. intelligence community characterized in 2017 as 'the Kremlin's principal international propaganda outlet.'" (Lucien Bruggeman, "Tulsi Gabbard's Views On Russia Shaped In Part By Kremlin Propaganda Outlet, Ex-Aides Say," [ABC News](#), 12/4/24)

Gabbard Has Previously Claimed That President Biden's Goal Was To End Vladimir Putin's Control Of The Russian Government, In Addition To Clips Of Her Played By Russian State Media. "Vladimir Solovyov, a popular talk show host, called her 'our girlfriend' in a segment in 2022. The program included an interview Ms. Gabbard did with Tucker Carlson in which she claimed that Mr.

Biden's goal was to end Mr. Putin's control of the Russian government, according to Julia Davis, the creator of the Russian Media Monitor, which tracks Kremlin propaganda. In fact, Ms. Gabbard honed her pro-Russia views on Mr. Carlson's show on Fox News before his program was canceled. She became a regular guest and occasionally filled in as host when Mr. Carlson was away. Clips from her appearances on Mr. Carlson's show that repeated Kremlin talking points were quickly picked up by Russian state media. In some cases, she echoed story lines that Russia's propagandists created, which the Russians then recycled on their own media as evidence that the conspiracy theories they had manufactured were true. For the Kremlin, it was a virtuous cycle." (Steven Lee Myers, Jim Rutenberg, and Julian E. Barnes, "How Tulsi Gabbard Became A Favorite Of Russia's State Media," [The New York Times](#), 11/18/24)

Gabbard Has Been Called By At Least One Commentator On Kremlin State Media As "Russia's Girlfriend." "By 2022, at the outset of the latest Russia-Ukraine conflict, Gabbard suggested on X that Russia's invasion was justified by Ukraine's potential bid to join NATO, 'which would mean US/NATO forces right on Russia's border' -- a narrative perpetuated by Russian propaganda channels, including RT, and denounced by the U.S. and NATO as 'false.'" Gabbard's messaging has at times aligned so closely with Kremlin talking points that at least one commentator on Kremlin state media has referred to her as 'Russia's girlfriend.'" (Lucien Bruggeman, "Tulsi Gabbard's Views On Russia Shaped In Part By Kremlin Propaganda Outlet, Ex-Aides Say," [ABC News](#), 12/4/24)

In February 2019, Website's Allegedly Used By The Russian Government To Influence The 2016 Presidential Election Had Posted Numerous Articles Supportive Of Gabbard. "The Russian propaganda machine that tried to influence the 2016 U.S. election is now promoting the presidential aspirations of a controversial Hawaii Democrat who earlier this month declared her intention to run for president in 2020. An NBC News analysis of the main English-language news sites employed by Russia in its 2016 election meddling shows Rep. Tulsi Gabbard of Hawaii, who is set to make her formal announcement Saturday, has become a favorite of the sites Moscow used when it interfered in 2016. Several experts who track websites and social media linked to the Kremlin have also seen what they believe may be the first stirrings of an upcoming Russian campaign of support for Gabbard. Since Gabbard announced her intention to run on Jan. 11, there have been at least 20 Gabbard stories on three major Moscow-based English-language websites affiliated with or supportive of the Russian government: RT, the Russian-owned TV outlet; Sputnik News, a radio outlet; and Russia Insider, a blog that experts say closely follows the Kremlin line. The CIA has called RT and Sputnik part of 'Russia's state-run propaganda machine.'" (Robert Windrem and Ben Popken, "Russia's Propaganda Machine Discovers 2020 Democratic Candidate Tulsi Gabbard," [NBC News](#), 2/2/19)

No Evidence Of Russia Collaborations Has Ever Been Produced During Gabbard's Military Or Congressional Career

FACT: No Collaboration Between Gabbard And Russia Has Ever Been Proven, And Gabbard Has Criticized Russian Military And Political Actions During Her Congressional Tenure

According To *The New York Times*, "No Evidence Has Emerged That She [Gabbard] Has Ever Collaborated In Any Way With Russia's Intelligence Agencies." "No evidence has emerged that

she has ever collaborated in any way with Russia's intelligence agencies. Instead, according to analysts and former officials, Ms. Gabbard seems to simply share the Kremlin's geopolitical views, especially when it comes to the exercise of American military power." (Steven Lee Myers, Jim Rutenberg, and Jilian E. Barnes, "How Tulsi Gabbard Became A Favorite Of Russia's State Media," [The New York Times](#), 11/18/24)

According To NBC News, "A Spokesperson For The Trump Transition Team Said Gabbard, A Lieutenant Colonel In The Army Reserve, Has An Active Top Secret Security Clearance And Has Never Breached The Confidentiality Rules Around Classified Information." "A spokesperson for the Trump transition team said Gabbard, a lieutenant colonel in the Army Reserve, has an active top secret security clearance and has never breached the confidentiality rules around classified information. 'As someone who served for eight years in the U.S. House of Representatives and attended many classified briefings, there is zero evidence that confidentiality has ever been violated,' said spokesperson Alexa Henning. Asked about the case of congressional staffers in 2018 who were concerned she might not safeguard the Syrian defector's anonymity, she said: 'This is another smear by anonymous officials with no proof.'" (Dan De Luce, "Democrats And Republicans In Congress Worried That Gabbard Might Leak To Assad Regime," [NBC News](#), 12/6/24)

In 2014, After Russia Annexed Crimea, Gabbard Released A Statement Calling For "Meaningful American Military Assistance For Ukrainian Forces" And "Stiffer, More Painful Economic Sanctions For Russia." "In 2014, when Russian troops annexed Crimea, Gabbard -- then a first-term Democratic U.S. representative from Hawaii -- released a statement advocating for 'meaningful American military assistance for Ukrainian forces' and for the U.S. to invoke 'stiffer, more painful economic sanctions for Russia.' The consequences of standing idly by while Russia continues to degrade the territorial integrity of Ukraine are clear,' she wrote at the time. 'We have to act in a way that takes seriously the threat of Russian aggression against its peaceful, sovereign neighbor.'" " (Lucien Bruggeman, "Tulsi Gabbard's Views On Russia Shaped In Part By Kremlin Propaganda Outlet, Ex-Aides Say," [ABC News](#), 12/4/24)

Politico: "Asked Whether She Believes Russian President Vladimir Putin Is A U.S. Adversary, Gabbard Responded Without Hesitation: 'Yes.'" "Hunt asked Gabbard about an NBC report that Russian propaganda outlets appeared to favor her as a candidate. Gabbard insisted the story, which was based on an analysis comparing Russian outlets' coverage of various Democratic candidates, was based on unreliable sourcing and had been debunked. Asked whether she believes Russian President Vladimir Putin is a U.S. adversary, Gabbard responded without hesitation: 'Yes.'" (Matthew Choi, "Gabbard Refuses To Say If Assad Is A U.S. Adversary," [Politico](#), 2/6/19)

PRESIDENT BASHAR AL-ASSAD

In 2017, Gabbard's Met With Former Syrian President Bashar al-Assad In An Unannounced Trip To Syria

In January 2017, Gabbard Met With Syrian President Assad, Saying The Opportunity To Meet Him Was Based On Her Concern For The Suffering Of The Syrian People

In January 2017, Gabbard Met With Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, After Which She Dismissed His Opposition As "Terrorists." "Democrats were silent on Thursday as Tulsi Gabbard, one of the party's sitting lawmakers in Congress, announced that she had met with Bashar al-Assad during a trip to war-torn Syria and dismissed his entire opposition as 'terrorists.' Gabbard, a Democratic congresswoman from Hawaii, disclosed her meeting with the Syrian president on Wednesday, during what her office called a 'fact-finding' mission in the region. 'Initially I hadn't planned on meeting him,' Gabbard told CNN's Jake Tapper. 'When the opportunity arose to meet with him, I did so, because I felt it's important that if we profess to truly care about the Syrian people, about their suffering, then we've got to be able to meet with anyone that we need to if there is a possibility that we could achieve peace. And that's exactly what we talked about.'" (Sabrina Siddiqui, "Tulsi Gabbard Reveals She Met Assad In Syria, Without Informing Top Democrats," [The Guardian](#), 1/26/17)

- **Gabbard: "When The Opportunity Arose To Meet With Him, I Did So, Because I Felt It's Important That If We Profess To Truly Care About The Syrian People, About Their Suffering, Then We've Got To Be Able To Meet With Anyone That We Need To If There Is A Possibility That We Could Achieve Peace. And That's Exactly What We Talked About."** (Sabrina Siddiqui, "Tulsi Gabbard Reveals She Met Assad In Syria, Without Informing Top Democrats," [The Guardian](#), 1/26/17)

Gabbard's Office Said Her Visit To Syria Was Approved By The House Ethic Committee

In January 2017, Gabbard's Office Said Her Visit To Syria Was Approved By The House Ethic Committee. "Gabbard's office said her visit was approved by the House ethics committee. A spokesman for the committee declined to comment, although under its rules members have a period of 15 days following the completion of a trip to make public their approval letter and financial disclosures related to privately funded travel." (Sabrina Siddiqui, "Tulsi Gabbard Reveals She Met Assad In Syria, Without Informing Top Democrats," [The Guardian](#), 1/26/17)

In January 2017, Gabbard Said "Whatever You Think Of President Assad, The Fact Is That He Is The President Of Syria" And There Had To Be Dialogue With Him To Resolve The Conflict

In January 2017, Gabbard Said "Whatever You Think Of President Assad, The Fact Is That He Is The President Of Syria" And There Had To Be Dialogue With Him To Resolve The Conflict. "Gabbard framed her sit-down meeting with Assad as part of a necessary dialogue in order to

resolve the Syrian conflict. The war began after a series of pro-democracy protests in March 2011 were swiftly and brutally put down by the Assad regime. The war has since devolved into a brutal and complex war, fueled by sectarian, political and international divisions. 'Whatever you think of President Assad, the fact is that he is the president of Syria,' Gabbard said. 'In order for any possibility of a viable peace agreement to occur, there has to be a conversation with him.' Gabbard said her trip to the region was born from 'the suffering of the Syrian people that has been weighing heavily on my heart.' But in 2015, she was one of just 47 Democrats who sided with Republicans and backed a GOP-sponsored measure that would essentially block Syrian and Iraqi refugees from resettling in the US. Gabbard was also a vocal critic of the Obama administration – which repeatedly called for Assad to step down – for arming Syrian rebel groups." (Sabrina Siddiqui, "Tulsi Gabbard Reveals She Met Assad In Syria, Without Informing Top Democrats," [The Guardian](#), 1/26/17)

Gabbard: "The Syrian People Will Determine His Outcome And What Happens With Their Government And Their Future." "When Tapper noted the crimes Assad has been accused of, Gabbard defended her choice to meet with him. 'Whatever you think about President Assad, the fact is that he is the president of Syria,' she said. 'In order for any peace agreement, in order for any possibility of a viable peace agreement to occur, there has to be a conversation with him. The Syrian people will determine his outcome and what happens with their government and their future.'" (Pamela Engel, "A High-Profile Democratic Congresswoman Says She Met With Assad On Her Secret Trip To Syria," [Business Insider](#), 1/25/17)

Gabbard's Trip Was Initially Paid For By A Pro-Assad Regime Party, Which She Later Repaid In Full, With Her Initial Silence On The Trip's Itinerary Being Attributed To Security Concerns

Gabbard's Trip Was Initially Paid For By A Pro-Assad Regime Party, Which She Later Repaid In Full, With Her Initial Silence On The Trip's Itinerary Being Attributed To Security Concerns.

"Gabbard did not tell most of her Democratic colleagues about the trip. Syrian-Americans linked to a pro-regime party paid for her flight and hotel and organized her meetings. After news of the trip became public and Gabbard came under criticism, she said she repaid the cost of the trip in full. The Trump transition spokesperson said Gabbard handled the trip in accordance with congressional rules. 'She did everything that was required of any Member (of Congress) going on foreign travel by getting the itinerary and trip approved by House Ethics Committee prior to travel and submitting post trip reports upon returning,' Henning said. 'She also met with the U.S. Ambassador in Lebanon.' Henning added: 'Due to security concerns and active terrorist activity that would compromise the safety of everyone on the trip if it were leaked in advance, she kept the trip under close hold.'" (Dan De Luce, "Democrats And Republicans In Congress Worried That Gabbard Might Leak To Assad Regime," [NBC News](#), 12/6/24)

In February 2019, Gabbard Said Her Meeting With Assad Was Important In The Pursuit Of Peace

In February 2019, Gabbard Said Her Meeting With Assad Was Important In The Pursuit Of Peace.

"She also said her meeting with Assad, which drew criticism in light of the Syrian leader's record of human rights violations, was important in 'the pursuit of peace.' Gabbard had invited Syrian Kurdish leader Ilham Ahmed, co-president of the Syrian Democratic Council, as her guest to President Donald Trump's State of the Union address Tuesday. The move was a jab at Trump's plans to withdraw U.S. troops from Syria, which some have argued could expose Kurds in the country to

Turkish aggression. 'She recognized why I met with him and agreed with that meeting,' Gabbard said of Ahmed. 'Because she knows how important it is that we be willing to meet with adversaries or potential adversaries, not just our friends, if we are serious about the pursuit of peace.'" (Matthew Choi, "Gabbard Refuses To Say If Assad Is A U.S. Adversary," [Politico](#), 2/6/19)

Comments On Bashar Assad

In August 2019, Gabbard Said That President Bashar Assad Was "A Brutal Dictator. Just Like Saddam Hussein. Just Like Gadhafi In Libya"

In August 2019, Gabbard Said That President Bashar Assad Was "A Brutal Dictator. Just Like Saddam Hussein. Just Like Gadhafi In Libya" "Rep. Tulsi Gabbard on Thursday called Syrian leader Bashar Assad a 'brutal dictator' as her previous comments about the leader face increased scrutiny following a breakout performance at Wednesday's Democratic presidential debate. 'He's a brutal dictator. Just like Saddam Hussein. Just like Gadhafi in Libya,' the congresswoman from Hawaii, who's an Iraq War veteran, told CNN's Chris Cuomo on 'Prime Time.' 'The reason that I'm so outspoken on this issue of ending these wasteful regime-change wars is because I have seen firsthand this high human cost of war and the impact that it has on my fellow brothers and sisters in uniform. I will do anything and everything that I possibly can to stop sending our men and women in uniform into harm's way, fighting in these wasteful, counterproductive wars.'" (Paul LeBlanc, "Tulsi Gabbard: Bashar Assad Is 'A Brutal Dictator,'" [CNN](#), 8/1/19)

- Gabbard: "The Reason That I'm So Outspoken On This Issue Of Ending These Wasteful Regime-Change Wars Is Because I Have Seen Firsthand This High Human Cost Of War And The Impact That It Has On My Fellow Brothers And Sisters In Uniform. I Will Do Anything And Everything That I Possibly Can To Stop Sending Our Men And Women In Uniform Into Harm's Way, Fighting In These Wasteful, Counterproductive Wars." (Paul LeBlanc, "Tulsi Gabbard: Bashar Assad Is 'A Brutal Dictator,'" [CNN](#), 8/1/19)

VIDEO: In February 2019, Gabbard Commented That While Assad Is A Brutal Dictator, The U.S. Should Not Be Waging Regime-Change Wars. ""There are brutal dictators in the world. Assad of Syria is one of them. That does not mean the United States should be waging regime-change wars around the world," (CNN This Morning With Kasie Hunt, [X](#), 2/15/19)

In An MSNBC Interview, However, Gabbard Said "Assad Is Not The Enemy Of The United States Because Syria Does Not Pose A Direct Threat To The United States."

VIDEO: In An MSNBC Interview, Gabbard Said "Assad Is Not The Enemy Of The United States Because Syria Does Not Pose A Direct Threat To The United States." INTERVIEWER: "Do you think Assad is our enemy?" GABBARD: "Assad is not the enemy of the United States because Syria does not pose a direct threat to the United States." INTERVIEWER: "What would you say he is, to the United States, if you can not say if he is an adversary or an enemy, what is he to us. You can describe it however you want to describe it." GABBARD: "My point is that whether it's Syria or any of these other countries, we need to look at how their interests are counter-to or aligned with ours."

INTERVIEWER: "Are Assad's interests aligned with ours?" GABBARD: "What are Assad's interests?"

INTERVIEWER: "Assad seems interested in the slaughter primarily of his own people in part."

(Democratic Wins Media, [X](#), 12/8/24) Minute 0:00-0:40

In February 2019, Gabbard Said Assad Is Not An Immediate Threat To The U.S. And Is Not An Enemy Of The U.S. As A Result. "Democratic presidential candidate Tulsi Gabbard on Wednesday declined to identify Syrian President Bashar Assad as an adversary of the U.S., doubling down on a 2017 meeting she had with the strongman whose military is engaged in a civil war with U.S.-backed rebels. Questioned about her stance on Assad by NBC News' Kasie Hunt, Gabbard, one of Hawaii's two House members, said Assad is not an enemy of the U.S. because, she said, he does not pose an immediate threat to the country. Pressed repeatedly, Gabbard declined to say whether Assad is a U.S. adversary, telling Hunt that 'you can describe it however you want to describe it.'" (Matthew Choi, "Gabbard Refuses To Say If Assad Is A U.S. Adversary," [Politico](#), 2/6/19)

When Asked If Assad Is An Adversary Of The United States, Gabbard Said Assad Is Not An Enemy Of The United States And Declined To Clarify. "Asked whether Assad is an enemy of the United States, Gabbard responded, 'No,' and would not clarify whether she thinks he is an adversary of the U.S. 'My point is that whether it is Syria or any of these other countries, we need to look at how their interests are counter to or aligned with ours,' Gabbard explained." (Matthew Choi, "Gabbard Refuses To Say If Assad Is A U.S. Adversary," [Politico](#), 2/6/19)

- **Gabbard: "My Point Is That Whether It Is Syria Or Any Of These Other Countries, We Need To Look At How Their Interests Are Counter To Or Aligned With Ours."** (Matthew Choi, "Gabbard Refuses To Say If Assad Is A U.S. Adversary," [Politico](#), 2/6/19)

In 2015, Gabbard Expressed Support For Russia Fighting In Support Of Assad, Citing Her Support For Their Attacks On Al-Qaeda

In 2015, Gabbard Expressed Support For Russia Fighting In Support Of Assad, Citing Her Support For Their Attacks On Al-Qaeda. "In 2015, when Russia entered the Syrian war on the side of the dictator Assad, Gabbard expressed support for the move, even as the civilian toll from Moscow's devastating airstrikes grew into the thousands. 'Al-Qaeda attacked us on 9/11 and must be defeated. Obama won't bomb them in Syria. Putin did. #neverforget911,' she wrote on Twitter. It was precisely because of her support for Assad and Russia's war that Moustafa was keen for her to attend the congressional delegation to southern Turkey to meet the victims of the conflict. 'From experience, everyone that we bring over to the border, and they see the victims, they always come back with a realistic view of what's happening and who is behind the mass displacement and killing and atrocities and so on, and so that was the objective,' he said. 'What was shocking was her lack of empathy. She'll sacrifice the facts, even when it came to little girls in front of her telling her they got bombed by a plane – it didn't matter.'" (Richard Hall and Andrew Feinberg, "Tulsi Gabbard's History With Russia Is Even More Concerning Than You Think," [The Independent](#), 11/26/24)

COMMENTS ON SYRIA

Criticism Of The Obama Administration In Syria

In 2013, Gabbard Opposed President Obama's Plans To Conduct Airstrikes In Syria And Questioned Evidence That Syrian Forces Used Chemical Weapons

In 2013, Gabbard Opposed President Obama's Plans To Conduct Airstrikes In Syria And Questioned Evidence That Syrian Forces Used Chemical Weapons. "In 2013, she opposed President Barack Obama's ultimately aborted plans for airstrikes against Syria. She later criticized the administration for failing to properly call out "Islamist extremists." She also questioned evidence showing that Syrian forces used chemical weapons in an attack that killed dozens." (Steven Lee Myers, Jim Rutenberg, and Jilian E. Barnes, "How Tulsi Gabbard Became A Favorite Of Russia's State Media," [The New York Times](#), 11/18/24)

During The Obama Administration, Gabbard Criticized Obama For Arming Rebel Groups In Syria To Fight Assad's Government

During The Obama Administration, Gabbard Criticized Obama For Arming Rebel Groups In Syria To Fight Assad's Government. "During his tenure, President Barack Obama repeatedly called for Assad to step down, and his administration established a modest program to train and aid rebel groups fighting against him. Obama argued that Assad had lost all political legitimacy and was viewed by his citizens as a brutal dictator. Gabbard, on the other hand, consistently criticized Obama for these policies and accused him and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton of an 'interventionist' foreign policy agenda. She said Wednesday that her trip further convinced her that the U.S. should stop aiding any rebels fighting against Assad in the war-torn country. She called the rebel groups 'terrorists.' 'The U.S. must stop supporting terrorists who are destroying Syria and her people. The U.S. and other countries fueling this war must stop immediately. We must allow the Syrian people to try to recover from this terrible war,' she said in her statement. 'We must end our war to overthrow the Syrian government and focus our attention on defeating al-Qaeda and ISIS,' her statement continued." ("Tulsi Gabbard Claims To Have Met With Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad," [ABC News](#), 1/25/17)

- Gabbard: "The U.S. Must Stop Supporting Terrorists Who Are Destroying Syria And Her People. The U.S. And Other Countries Fueling This War Must Stop Immediately. We Must Allow The Syrian People To Try To Recover From This Terrible War." ("Tulsi Gabbard Claims To Have Met With Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad," [ABC News](#), 1/25/17)
- Gabbard: "We Must End Our War To Overthrow The Syrian Government And Focus Our Attention On Defeating Al-Qaeda And ISIS." ("Tulsi Gabbard Claims To Have Met With Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad," [ABC News](#), 1/25/17)

Opposition To U.S. Military Operations In Syria

In February 2019, Gabbard Said She Was Not Interested In U.S. Troops In Syria And Said She Opposed Regime Change And Nation-Building Efforts Support By The U.S. "'Are Assad's

interests aligned with ours?’ Hunt asked, to which Gabbard replied, ‘What are Assad’s interests?’ ‘Assad seems interested in the slaughter, primarily, of his own people. How does that line up?’ Hunt said. Asked whether she thinks Assad is a ‘good person,’ Gabbard laughed and said: ‘No, I don’t.’ Gabbard said she ultimately does not want U.S. troops in Syria and that she is not interested in regime change and nation-building on the model of U.S. efforts in Iraq or Afghanistan. Gabbard has also expressed skepticism about the Assad regime’s widely reported and confirmed use of chemical weapons against its own people. As an Iraq veteran, Gabbard said, she wants solid evidence before weapons of mass destruction are used to justify intervention, citing the false reports of WMD in the lead-up to the invasion of Iraq in 2003.” (Matthew Choi, “Gabbard Refuses To Say If Assad Is A U.S. Adversary,” [Politico](#), 2/6/19)

Skepticism Of Syrian Government’s Use Of Chemical Weapons

After Her Meeting With Assad, Gabbard Said She Was “Skeptical” That Syria Was Responsible For A Chemical Weapons Attack Which Killed Dozens Of People

After Her Meeting With Assad, Gabbard Said She Was “Skeptical” That Syria Was Responsible For A Chemical Weapons Attack Which Killed Dozens Of People. “Following her meeting with Assad, Gabbard defended her trip in interviews at the time and said she was “skeptical” that Syria was responsible for a chemical weapons attack that killed dozens of people. U.S. intelligence agencies, the United Nations and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons concluded that the Assad regime was behind that attack, as well as multiple other attacks. She also embraced the Assad regime’s line that the war was a struggle against Islamist terrorists. Speaking about her trip in 2017, Gabbard told CNN that ‘people of all ages they asked me, “why is the United States and its allies supporting these terrorist groups who are destroying Syria, when it was Al-Qaeda who attacked the United States on 9/11 not Syria?” I didn’t have an answer for them.’” (Dan De Luce, “Democrats And Republicans In Congress Worried That Gabbard Might Leak To Assad Regime,” [NBC News](#), 12/6/24)

- **NBC News: “Speaking About Her Trip In 2017, Gabbard Told CNN That ‘People Of All Ages They Asked Me, “Why Is The United States And Its Allies Supporting These Terrorist Groups Who Are Destroying Syria, When It Was Al-Qaeda Who Attacked The United States On 9/11 Not Syria?” I Didn’t Have An Answer For Them.’”** (Dan De Luce, “Democrats And Republicans In Congress Worried That Gabbard Might Leak To Assad Regime,” [NBC News](#), 12/6/24)

Questionable Conduct With Syrian Refugees

In 2015, Gabbard Met With Syrian Refugees Who Survived An Airstrike With Burns All Over Their Bodies, During Which She Questioned If Assad Had Actually Bombed Them, Alarming Her Translator

In The Summer Of 2015, Gabbard Met Three Syrian Girls Who Survived An Airstrike With Burns All Over Their Bodies, Which Gabbard Questioned If The Girls Were Sure If It Was Assad Or Russia Who Bombed Them. “In the summer of 2015, three Syrian girls who had narrowly survived an airstrike some weeks earlier stood before Tulsi Gabbard with horrific burns all over their bodies. Gabbard, then a US congresswoman on a visit to the Syria-Turkey border as part of her duties for the

foreign affairs committee, had a question for them. 'How do you know it was Bashar al-Assad or Russia that bombed you, and not Isis?'" she asked, according to Mouaz Moustafa, a Syrian activist who was translating her conversation with the girls." (Richard Hall and Andrew Feinberg, "Tulsi Gabbard's History With Russia Is Even More Concerning Than You Think," [The Independent](#), 11/26/24)

- ***The Independent: "Gabbard, Then A US Congresswoman On A Visit To The Syria-Turkey Border As Part Of Her Duties For The Foreign Affairs Committee, Had A Question For Them. 'How Do You Know It Was Bashar Al-Assad Or Russia That Bombed You, And Not Isis?'" She Asked, According To Mouaz Moustafa, A Syrian Activist Who Was Translating Her Conversation With The Girls."*** (Richard Hall and Andrew Feinberg, "Tulsi Gabbard's History With Russia Is Even More Concerning Than You Think," [The Independent](#), 11/26/24)

The Translator, Mouaz Moustafa, Was Shocked By This Question, Saying "From That Point On, I'm Sorry To Say I Was Inaccurate In My Translations Of Anything She Said" As He Was Trying To Get The Girls Away "From This Devil." "It was a revealing insight into Gabbard's conspiratorial views of the conflict, and it shocked Moustafa to silence. He knew, as even the young children did, that Isis did not have jets to launch airstrikes. It was such an absurd question that he chose not to translate it because he didn't want to upset the girls, the eldest of whom was 12. 'From that point on, I'm sorry to say I was inaccurate in my translations of anything she said,' Moustafa told The Independent. It was more like: How do I get these girls away from this devil?" (Richard Hall and Andrew Feinberg, "Tulsi Gabbard's History With Russia Is Even More Concerning Than You Think," [The Independent](#), 11/26/24)

Concerns About Witness Protection During Gabbard Attended Congressional Hearing

In December 2024, NBC News Reported That Congressional Staffers Hid The Identity Of A Syrian Refugee Before A House Foreign Affairs Committee Meeting Due To Fears Gabbard Would Leak Information About The Witness. "In the spring of 2018, congressional staffers were anxious ahead of a House Foreign Affairs Committee meeting. A Syrian defector who had risked his life to expose atrocities committed by the Assad regime was due to appear behind closed doors at a private briefing for lawmakers. No cameras would be present, but congressional aides worried about one committee member, Democratic Rep. Tulsi Gabbard, who had repeatedly defended the Syrian regime and even met its leader, Bashar al-Assad, in an unannounced trip in 2017. The aides were concerned Gabbard might leak information about the defector, who had hidden his identity out of fear of reprisals from the Assad regime. Some worried that she might even reveal his identity to someone associated with the Syrian government, which at that point had killed hundreds of thousands of its own citizens, according to human rights groups. Both Democratic and Republican aides told the Syrians accompanying the defector, known as 'Caesar,' to ensure that he covered his face before Gabbard entered the room — just in case. 'It was Democratic and Republican staffers on the committee coordinating with me to figure out how do we make sure that Tulsi doesn't take a photograph of Caesar, or learn his real name, or record his voice,' said Mouaz Moustafa, executive director of the Syrian Emergency Task Force who helped organize Caesar's appearance and translated for the session. In the past, Caesar had spoken privately to members of Congress without

his face covered when Gabbard was not present. But not at the special briefing in the summer of 2018.” (Dan De Luce, “Democrats And Republicans In Congress Worried That Gabbard Might Leak To Assad Regime,” [NBC News](#), 12/6/24)

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

Voted In Favor Of Restriction Of Refugees From Syria and Iraq

In November 2015, Gabbard Voted In Favor Of Additional Restrictions On Refugees From Syria And Iraq. “House Democrats who voted on Thursday in favor of additional restrictions on refugees from Syria and Iraq applying for entry to the United States were met with constituents’ wrath on social media, with many commenters rejecting the notion that added barriers were necessary to national security. The Democrats were reproached for joining Republicans to give the legislation a veto-proof majority. The bill, called the American Security Against Foreign Enemies Act (Safe), would have to win a similarly large majority in the Senate to become law, which was considered unlikely. ... Tulsi Gabbard (Hawaii 2nd District) ...” (Tom McCarthy and Mahita Gajanan, “House Democrats Who Backed Refugee Bill Face Social Media Backlash,” [The Guardian](#), 11/20/15)

- **This Legislation Did Not Pass The Senate, While Gabbard Insisted Such Measures Were Necessary To Prevent Terrorist Attacks.** “But supporters attracted by Gabbard’s old-left anti-interventionism are likely to be less enamored with her stances on anti-terrorism measures. A 2015 vote on a bill that would subject Iraqi and Syrian refugees to the predecessor of Trump’s ‘extreme vetting’ won Gabbard friends in Republican circles. The bill — which did not pass the Senate — required every refugee admitted to the country to receive individual vetting that, according to Representative John Conyers at the time, ‘would effectively deny refugee status for Syrians and Iraqis who are victims of terrorism in their own homelands.’ ‘It’s important for anyone who really cares about keeping our refugee programs open to seriously consider the negative impact to such programs if a terrorist attack occurred and a refugee were involved,’ said Gabbard in a statement after the vote. She said this as progressive groups were, for the most part, lobbying the Obama (and then Trump) administrations to accept larger numbers of Syrian refugees.” (Eoin Higgins, “What Is Tulsi Gabbard Fighting For?” [New York Intelligencer](#), 10/18/18)

Missed A 2019 Vote On Syria

In October 2019, Gabbard Was Criticized For Failing To Vote On A House Resolution Condemning President Trump’s Withdrawal Of American Forces From Syria. “State Sen. Kai Kahele (D-Hilo) is criticizing Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard for failing to show up to vote today on a House resolution that condemns President Donald Trump’s withdrawal of American forces from northern Syria. The overwhelmingly bipartisan vote in favor of the resolution by the U.S. House of Representatives was a stinging rebuke of the president’s actions, which have left America’s Kurdish allies in Syria vulnerable to attack by Turkish forces and thrown U.S. policy in the region into disarray. Gabbard, who has been busy on the presidential campaign trail, was one of 14 representatives

Opens in a new tab absent from the vote. The measure passed 354 to 60.” (Sophie Cocke, “State Sen. Kai Kahele criticizes Tulsi Gabbard for missing House vote on Syria,” [Honolulu Star Advertiser](#), 10/16/19)

Gabbard’s Absence From This Vote Was Attributed To Her Running For President At The Time, Resulting In Her Missing Several Votes During This Period. “Gabbard’s absence from the vote on Syria was conspicuous given that military affairs and conflicts in the Middle East have been priorities of her career in Congress and salient themes in her presidential campaign. Representatives for Gabbard didn’t respond to requests that she comment on why she missed the vote and how she would have voted if she was in attendance. Gabbard was in Westerville, Ohio, last night for the Democratic presidential primary debate. The schedule Opens in a new tab posted on her presidential campaign website doesn’t list any events that she was personally expected to attend today. Gabbard was scheduled to hold a town hall at the University of Iowa Thursday, but her website listed the event as canceled. Gabbard’s campaign for the Oval Office, like other members of Congress running for president, has made her vulnerable to attacks that she isn’t paying attention to her constituents and the job she was elected to do. She’s missed more than half of the votes Opens in a new tab in the House since July, according to GovTrack.us. She also hasn’t held a town hall in Hawaii since April 2017.” (Sophie Cocke, “State Sen. Kai Kahele criticizes Tulsi Gabbard for missing House vote on Syria,” [Honolulu Star Advertiser](#), 10/16/19)

COMMENTS ON RELEVANT POLICY ISSUES _____

ANTI-WAR PHILOSOPHY

Calling For An End To Regime Change Wars & Willingness To Meet With Foreign Adversaries

During Her 2020 Presidential Run, Gabbard Made Opposing "Regime Change Wars" And Pledged To Meet With Putin And Assad To Help Avoid Conflict Abroad

During Her 2020 Presidential Run, Gabbard Made Opposing "Regime Change Wars" A Key Theme Of Her Campaign. "During a presidential run in 2020, Gabbard made opposing "regime change wars" central to her campaign. She staunchly opposed US involvement in Syria and made a trip to the country in 2017 to go on a fact-finding mission. While in Syria, she met with President Bashar al-Assad, enraging hawks in Washington. Gabbard also made clear during her campaign that while she opposed regime change wars, she was a hawk when it came to the war on terror. 'When it comes to the war against terrorists, I'm a hawk,' she said in 2016. 'When it comes to counterproductive wars of regime change, I'm a dove.'" (Dave DeCamp, "Trump Picks Tulsi Gabbard For Director Of National Intelligence," [AntiWar.com](https://www.antiwar.com). 11/13/24)

- **Gabbard: "When It Comes To The War Against Terrorists, I'm A Hawk. When It Comes To Counterproductive Wars Of Regime Change, I'm A Dove."** (Dave DeCamp, "Trump Picks Tulsi Gabbard For Director Of National Intelligence," [AntiWar.com](https://www.antiwar.com). 11/13/24)

During Her Presidential Campaign, Gabbard Said She Would Meet With Vladimir Putin Or Bashar al-Assad To Help Avoid Conflict And To Encourage Diplomacy. "During her campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination in 2020, Gabbard told an audience in New Hampshire that she would be prepared to meet Russian President Vladimir Putin or Syrian President Bashar al-Assad to help avoid conflict. But she said America's political culture has become hostile to the idea of diplomacy. 'I think it's dangerous that we are in a place now where our media culture and political culture are openly and roundly criticizing diplomacy,' Gabbard said. 'This is one of the reasons why we find ourselves in a perpetual state of ongoing regime change wars.'" (Dan De Luce and Julia Jester, "Would Tulsi Gabbard Bring A Pro-Russian Bias To Intelligence Reporting?" [NBC News](https://www.nbcnews.com), 11/16/24)

- **Gabbard: "I Think It's Dangerous That We Are In A Place Now Where Our Media Culture And Political Culture Are Openly And Roundly Criticizing Diplomacy. This Is One Of The Reasons Why We Find Ourselves In A Perpetual State Of Ongoing Regime Change Wars."** (Dan De Luce and Julia Jester, "Would Tulsi Gabbard Bring A Pro-Russian Bias To Intelligence Reporting?" [NBC News](https://www.nbcnews.com), 11/16/24)

Supported Withdrawal From Afghanistan

In October 2011, Gabbard Called For An Immediate And Safe Withdrawal Of Troops From Afghanistan, Saying It Was Time For The Afghan People To Take Responsibility For Their Country

In October 2011, Gabbard Called For An Immediate And Safe Withdrawal Of American Troops From Afghanistan. "On October 7, as America marked ten years at war in Afghanistan, Tulsi Gabbard called for an immediate and safe withdrawal of American troops from Afghanistan. Gabbard, a veteran of two tours of duty in the Middle East, is a congressional candidate in Hawai'i's second district. 'Our country has now been at war in Afghanistan for 10 years. Over 1700 patriotic troops have lost their lives. Thousands more have been seriously wounded or lost their limbs. The question facing us is not whether we can afford to leave; it is 'can we afford to stay?' I say we cannot. It is time to bring our troops home now," said Gabbard, a captain in the Hawai'i National Guard. In her announcement, Gabbard pointed to the unclear mission in Afghanistan and the fact that taxpayer money spent in Afghanistan could be put to more effective use in the United States. 'We achieved our original goal of entering Afghanistan. We've killed Bin Laden, decimated al-Qaeda in Afghanistan, and given the Afghan people the opportunity to have a democratic country if they choose. It is now time for the Afghan people to take responsibility for their own country,' said Gabbard." ("On 10th Anniversary, Tulsi Gabbard Calls For End To War In Afghanistan," [Hawaii Reporter](#), 10/7/11)

Gabbard: "Our Country Has Now Been At War In Afghanistan For 10 Years. Over 1700 Patriotic Troops Have Lost Their Lives. Thousands More Have Been Seriously Wounded Or Lost Their Limbs. The Question Facing Us Is Not Whether We Can Afford To Leave; It Is 'Can We Afford To Stay?' I Say We Cannot. It Is Time To Bring Our Troops Home Now." ("On 10th Anniversary, Tulsi Gabbard Calls For End To War In Afghanistan," [Hawaii Reporter](#), 10/7/11)

Gabbard: "We Achieved Our Original Goal Of Entering Afghanistan. We've Killed Bin Laden, Decimated Al-Qaeda In Afghanistan, And Given The Afghan People The Opportunity To Have A Democratic Country If They Choose. It Is Now Time For The Afghan People To Take Responsibility For Their Own Country." ("On 10th Anniversary, Tulsi Gabbard Calls For End To War In Afghanistan," [Hawaii Reporter](#), 10/7/11)

Support For Ending Funding Of Terrorist Associated Groups

In 2017, Gabbard Sponsored Legislation Which Prohibited The U.S. Government From Using Taxpayer Dollars To Support Groups Associated With Terrorist Groups Such As ISIS And Al Qaeda. "When it comes to the war against terrorists, I'm a hawk," but "when it comes to counterproductive wars of regime change, I'm a dove." She has also said "One of the main reasons I sought election to Congress was to stop our country's leaders from sending our young men and women into harm's way unless absolutely necessary." In keeping with her hawkish side, Gabbard criticized the Obama administration for not using the term "radical Islam" when talking about terrorism and for its handling of Syria. She once tweeted: "Al-Qaeda attacked us on 9/11 and must be defeated. Obama won't bomb them in Syria. Putin did. #neverforget911." She has also

sponsored a bill known as the Stop Arming Terrorists Act, which she introduced in 2017. It aims to “stop the U.S. government from using taxpayer dollars to directly or indirectly support groups who are allied with and supporting terrorist groups like ISIS and al Qaeda in their war to overthrow the Syrian government.” It didn’t come up for a vote before the 115th Congress ended back in January. (James M. Lindsay, “Meet Tulsi Gabbard, Democratic Presidential Candidate,” [Council on Foreign Relations](#), 2/21/19)

CRITICISM OF TRUMP ADMINISTRATION FOREIGN POLICY

Criticizing President Trump On Syria

In April 2017, Gabbard Criticized The Trump Administration’s Decision To Attack A Syrian Airfield As Reckless And “Short-sighted” In Response To A chemical Attack In Northern Syria.

“Rep. Tulsi Gabbard (D-Hawaii) on Thursday ripped the Trump administration’s decision to launch an attack on a Syrian airfield as reckless and ‘short-sighted.’ ‘This administration has acted recklessly without care or consideration of the dire consequences of the United States attack on Syria without waiting for the collection of evidence from the scene of the chemical poisoning,’ she said in a statement. ‘It angers and saddens me that President Trump has taken the advice of war hawks and escalated our illegal regime change war to overthrow the Syrian government. This escalation is short-sighted and will lead to more dead civilians, more refugees, the strengthening of al-Qaeda and other terrorists, and a possible nuclear war between the United States and Russia.’ Gabbard’s statement came after U.S. warships in the Mediterranean launched nearly 60 missiles at a military airfield in Syria. The attack was in retaliation for a chemical attack in northern Syria earlier this week that killed more than 70 civilians, including children, according to The New York Times.” (Max Greenwood, “Gabbard: US Attack On Syrian Airfield ‘Short-Sighted,’ Reckless,” [The Hill](#), 4/6/17)

Criticizing President Trump For Selling Our Troops

During Her 2020 Presidential Campaign, Gabbard Claimed President Trump Was Misleading The American People On His Foreign Policy And Criticized Him For Selling Our Troops To The Highest Bidder. “Gabbard targeted both President Trump and his critics in the foreign policy establishment in her remarks. She thinks the president is misleading the American people: ‘We must stand up, stand up against this administration that claims to believe in America first, but who sells our troops, our weapons, and our interests to whichever foreign country is the highest bidder.’ She thinks that his traditionalist critics are too eager for war: ‘We must stand up, stand up against powerful politicians from both parties, who sit in their ivory towers, thinking up new wars to wage, new places for people to die, wasting trillions of our taxpayer dollars, hundreds of thousands of lives, and undermining our economy, and our security, and destroying our middle class.’” (James M. Lindsay, “Meet Tulsi Gabbard, Democratic Presidential Candidate,” [Council on Foreign Relations](#), 2/21/19)

- **Gabbard: “We Must Stand Up, Stand Up Against This Administration That Claims To Believe In America First, But Who Sells Our Troops, Our Weapons, And Our Interests To Whichever Foreign Country Is The Highest Bidder.”** (James M. Lindsay, “Meet Tulsi Gabbard, Democratic Presidential Candidate,” [Council On Foreign Relations](#), 2/21/19)

Criticizing The Trump Administration On Iran

Iran Nuclear Deal

Gabbard Has Criticized President Trump, Saying It Was Wrong To Leave The Iran Nuclear Deal, Urging Him To Continue Pursuing Denuclearization Of The Korean Peninsula. "Gabbard thinks that President Trump erred in leaving the Iran nuclear deal and that his mistake will have consequences elsewhere. 'President Trump, I think, should continue to try to pursue negotiations with North Korea to denuclearize the Korean peninsula. However, he also has to recognize that things like pulling out of the Iran nuclear deal make it less likely that Kim Jong-un or North Korea will take him at his word.' She also thinks that Trump's decision to leave the INF Treaty is triggering a 'new Cold War' and exacerbating a "nuclear arms race." (James M. Lindsay, "Meet Tulsi Gabbard, Democratic Presidential Candidate," [Council on Foreign Relations](#), 2/21/19)

The Death Of Qasem Soleimani

Gabbard Criticized The Trump Administration For The Killing Of Qasem Soleimani, Saying "Is Our Country's National Security Better Off Because Of Donald Trump's Actions And Decision? And The Answer To That Is No." "In 2020, she said the Trump administration provided 'no justification whatsoever' during an intelligence briefing on the killing of Qassem Soleimani, the head of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps' elite Quds Force. He was assassinated in 2020 in a US air raid in Iraq outside Baghdad's international airport. The White House and the Pentagon confirmed the killing of Soleimani, saying the attack was carried out at Trump's direction and was aimed at deterring future attacks allegedly being planned by Iran. When Gabbard was asked by CNN if she believed Iran posed an imminent security threat, she said the central question that needed to be asked was: 'Is our country's national security better off because of Donald Trump's actions and decision? And the answer to that is no.' She accused Trump of leading the US down a path towards war with Iran in a CNN interview in which she said that was 'no justification whatsoever for this illegal and unconstitutional act of war that President Trump took', referring to the Soleimani assassination." ("Why Is Tulsi Gabbard, Trump's New Intel Tsar, So Controversial?" [Al Jazeera](#), 11/14/24)

RUSSIAN INVASION OF UKRAINE

Criticizing The Biden Administration/Military Industrial Complex For Enabling The Russian/Ukraine War

In February 2022, Gibbard Criticized President Biden And The Military Industrial Complex For Engaging In Policy Designed To Harm Russia And For Not Blocking Ukraine From Joining NATO

In February 2022, Gibbard Claimed That President Biden Supported Ukraine As A Member Of NATO, Calling Him A "Warmonger" For Not Ending This Crisis By Promising Ukraine Wouldn't Join NATO. "Former Rep. Tulsi Gabbard (D-HI) said President Joe Biden has failed to justify the U.S. push for Ukraine to be a member of NATO. In an interview with FOX News host Tucker Carlson on

Friday, Gabbard called Biden a 'warmonger' that wants to see a siege between the Russian and Ukrainian peoples. 'President Biden could end this crisis and prevent a war with Russia by doing something very simple,' Gabbard said to Carlson. 'Guaranteeing that Ukraine will not become a member of NATO. Because if Ukraine became a member of NATO, that would put U.S. And NATO troops directly on the doorstep of Russia, which, as Putin has laid out, would undermine their national security interests.' 'The reality is that it is highly, highly unlikely that Ukraine will ever become a member of NATO anyway,' the former Congresswoman said. 'The question is, why doesn't President Biden and NATO leaders actually just say that and guarantee it? Which begs the question of why are we in this position then? If the answer to this and preventing this war from happening is very clear as day.'" (Ian Schwartz, "Tulsi Gabbard: 'Warmonger' Biden Wants Russia To Invade Ukraine To Start New Cold War, Benefit Military-Industrial Complex," [RealClearPolitics](#), 2/11/22)

- **Gabbard: "Guaranteeing That Ukraine Will Not Become A Member Of NATO. Because If Ukraine Became A Member Of NATO, That Would Put U.S. And NATO Troops Directly On The Doorstep Of Russia, Which, As Putin Has Laid Out, Would Undermine Their National Security Interests."** (Ian Schwartz, "Tulsi Gabbard: 'Warmonger' Biden Wants Russia To Invade Ukraine To Start New Cold War, Benefit Military-Industrial Complex," [RealClearPolitics](#), 2/11/22)

In February 2022, Gabbard Blamed The Military Industrial Complex For Encouraging Biden To Enact "Draconian Sanctions, Which Are a Modern-Day Siege Against Russia." "'It just points to one conclusion that I can see which is they actually want to Russia to invade Ukraine. Why would they? Because number one, it gives the Biden administration a clear excuse to go and levy draconian sanctions, which are a modern-day siege against Russia and the Russian people. And number two, it cements this Cold War in place. The Military-Industrial Complex is one of the benefits from this,' Gabbard said. 'They clearly control the Biden administration, warmongers on both sides of Washington have been drumming up these tensions. If they get Russia to invade Ukraine, then again, it locks in this new Cold War,' Gabbard continued. 'The Military-Industrial Complex starts to make a ton more money than they have been in fighting al Qaeda or making weapons for al Qaeda. And who pays the price? The American people pay the price. The Ukrainian people pay the price. The Russian people pay the price. It undermines our own national security but the Military-Industrial Complex that controls so many of our politicians.'" (Ian Schwartz, "Tulsi Gabbard: 'Warmonger' Biden Wants Russia To Invade Ukraine To Start New Cold War, Benefit Military-Industrial Complex," [RealClearPolitics](#), 2/11/22)

After The Russian Invasion Of Ukraine, Gabbard Called For Moscow, Washington And Kyiv To Embrace "The Spirit Of Aloha" To End The War By Mandating Ukraine Be A Neutral Country

After The Russian Invasion Of Ukraine, Gabbard Called For Embracing "The Spirit Of Aloha, Respect And Love, For The Ukrainian People By Coming To An Agreement That Ukraine Will Be A Neutral Country." "Days after Russia launched an unprovoked full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, with missiles and artillery rounds raining down on Kyiv and other cities, former Democratic lawmaker Tulsi Gabbard posted a perplexing video message. 'It's time to put geopolitics aside and embrace the spirit of aloha, respect and love, for the Ukrainian people by coming to an agreement that Ukraine will be a neutral country—i.e. no military alliance with NATO or Russia,' the former

Hawaii congresswoman wrote on social media. Such an arrangement would 'allow the Ukrainian people to live in peace. Aloha.' Unlike her former colleagues in Congress and the leaders of Western democratic countries, Gabbard offered no condemnation of Russia and no reference to the unprovoked nature of the attack." (Dan De Luce and Julia Jester, "Would Tulsi Gabbard Bring A Pro-Russian Bias To Intelligence Reporting?" [NBC News](#), 11/16/24)

Politico: "Shortly After The Russian Invasion Of Ukraine, She Posted A Video On X Calling On Moscow, Washington, And Kyiv To 'Put Geopolitics Aside.' She Later Said The War Could Have Been Avoided If The West Had Guaranteed That Ukraine Would Never Become Part Of NATO."

"Her foreign policy views have frequently put her firmly outside the mainstream of U.S. national security experts in both parties. Shortly after the Russian invasion of Ukraine, she posted a video on X calling on Moscow, Washington, and Kyiv to 'put geopolitics aside.' She later said the war could have been avoided if the West had guaranteed that Ukraine would never become part of NATO."

(John Sakellaris, "'Left Turn And Off The Bridge': Trump's Spy Pick Stuns Intel World," [Politico](#), 11/13/24)

Sharing Claims Of U.S.-Funded Biolabs In Ukraine

In March 2022, Gabbard Posted On X Claiming That U.S.-Funded Biolabs Existed In Ukraine, A Claim Which Has Since Then Been Debunked By Intelligence Operatives

In March 2022, Gabbard Posted On X Claiming That U.S. Funded Biolabs Existed In Ukraine, A Claim Which Has Since Then Been Debunked By Intelligence Operatives. "In March 2022, Gabbard posted a video to Twitter -- now X -- sharing what she said were 'undeniable facts' about U.S.-funded biolabs in the war-torn country, claiming that 'even in the best of circumstances' they 'could easily be compromised' -- a debunked theory regularly promoted by RT and other Kremlin propaganda channels. Experts say RT and other Russian state-controlled news agencies have frequently capitalized on Gabbard's public comments to support the biolab conspiracy theory and other disinformation, recirculating clips in which she repeats the Kremlin propaganda as evidence backing the false claims -- effectively engineering an echo-chamber to magnify their propaganda machine." (Lucien Bruggeman, "Tulsi Gabbard's Views On Russia Shaped In Part By Kremlin Propaganda Outlet, Ex-Aides Say," [ABC News](#), 12/4/24)

The United States Has Clarified This Issue, Saying The Biological Research Laboratories In Ukraine Were Funded And Used To Promote Public Health, Not Weapons Labs. "Gabbard has posted on social media about U.S. 'bio labs' in Ukraine, which she described as dangerous. But her critics say her post closely echoed Russian disinformation falsely claiming the existence of American biological weapons labs in Ukraine. In fact, Washington has supported civilian Ukrainian biological research laboratories to promote public health, not weapons labs. Gabbard later sought to 'clarify' her statements, saying she was only referring to bio research and not weapons labs." (Dan De Luce and Julia Jester, "Would Tulsi Gabbard Bring A Pro-Russian Bias To Intelligence Reporting?" [NBC News](#), 11/16/24)

- **NBC News: "Gabbard Later Sought To 'Clarify' Her Statements, Saying She Was Only Referring To Bio Research And Not Weapons Labs."** (Dan De Luce and Julia Jester, "Would Tulsi Gabbard Bring A Pro-Russian Bias To Intelligence Reporting?" [NBC News](#), 11/16/24)

Criticism Of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy

Gabbard Has Criticized Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy As Corrupt. "Gabbard says American assistance for Ukraine jeopardizes global security by antagonizing Russia. She has criticized Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy as corrupt and has expressed sympathy for Russia's position, given Ukraine's desire to join NATO, the Western military alliance." (David Klepper, Ellen Knickmeyer, and Edith M. Lederer, "Gabbard's Sympathetic Views Toward Russia Cause Alarm AS Trump's Pick To Lead Intelligence Services," [Associated Press](#), 11/17/24)

ISRAEL/PALESTINE

Condemning The Actions Of Hamas And Supporting Israel

Gabbard Criticized Hamas's October 7, 2023, Attack On Israel As A "Stark Reminder" Of The Dangers Of Islamist Terrorism Around The World

In November 2024 Gabbard Criticized Hamas's October 7 Attack On Israel As A "Stark Reminder" Of The Dangers Of Islamist Terrorism Around The World. "Gabbard has repeatedly claimed that 'Islamism' is the 'greatest threat' facing the US. She recently said Hamas's October 7 attack on southern Israel was a 'stark reminder of the ongoing short and long-term threat of Islamist terrorism that continues to spread around the world today. Their goal is to establish a global Islamist caliphate, where all must live under their sharia law.'" Dave DeCamp, "Trump Picks Tulsi Gabbard For Director Of National Intelligence," [AntiWar.com](#). 11/13/24)

After October 2023, Attacks, Gabbard Called For The US To "Stand With Israel" And Criticized Those Opposed To Israel In Congress As "Apologists And Supporters Of Islamist Hamas Terrorists."

After The October 7, 2023, Attacks, Gabbard Called For The US To "Stand With Israel" And Criticized Those Opposed To Israel In Congress As "Apologists And Supporters Of Islamist Hamas Terrorists." "In the wake of October 7, 2023, Gabbard said the US must 'stand with Israel.' She has also smeared members of Congress who have called Israel's actions in Gaza genocidal as 'apologists and supporters of Islamist Hamas terrorists.'" Dave DeCamp, "Trump Picks Tulsi Gabbard For Director Of National Intelligence," [AntiWar.com](#). 11/13/24)

Gabbard Has Criticized Pro-Palestine Protestors As "Puppets" Of A "Radical Islamist Organization"

Gabbard Has Criticized Pro-Palestine Protestors As "Puppets" Of A "Radical Islamist Organization" And Called Hamas A "Threat That Needs To Be Defeated Militarily And Ideologically." "Gabbard has also criticised pro-Palestine protesters in the US in recent months, describing them as 'puppets' of a 'radical Islamist organization' in an apparent reference to Hamas. She has fully backed Israel's war in Gaza, in which more than 43,000 Palestinians have been killed, most of them women and children. Gabbard also does not appear to support a ceasefire in Gaza despite her anti-interventionist stances on other conflicts. In an interview uploaded to YouTube in

February, she called Hamas a 'threat that needs to be defeated militarily and ideologically.' When asked what she thought about the US supporting a UN resolution that seeks a ceasefire in Gaza, Gabbard said it needs to be approached strategically. 'We have to be realists about the threat that continues to exist for the people of Israel. So as long as Hamas is in power, the people of Israel will not be secure and cannot live in peace.'" ("Why Is Tulsi Gabbard, Trump's New Intel Tsar, So Controversial?" [Al Jazeera](#), 11/14/24)

- **Gabbard: "We Have To Be Realists About The Threat That Continues To Exist For The People Of Israel. So As Long As Hamas Is In Power, The People Of Israel Will Not Be Secure And Cannot Live In Peace."** ("Why Is Tulsi Gabbard, Trump's New Intel Tsar, So Controversial?" [Al Jazeera](#), 11/14/24)

SAUDI ARABIA

Gabbard Called For Ending U.S. Support To Saudi Arabia

Gabbard Called For Ending U.S. Support To Saudi Arabia For Its Actions In Yemen, Saying The U.S. Needed To End Its Interventionist Wars. "Most Democrats and more than a few Republicans oppose U.S. support for the Saudi-backed war in Yemen. Gabbard agrees. She says that "'the U.S. must end its support for Saudi Arabia, and stop waging interventionist wars that increase destruction, death, and suffering around the world, drain our resources here at home, and threaten our own national security.' She feels much the same about Venezuela. In her view 'the United States needs to stay out of Venezuela. Let the Venezuelan people determine their future.'" (James M. Lindsay, "Meet Tulsi Gabbard, Democratic Presidential Candidate," [Council on Foreign Relations](#), 2/21/19)

Gabbard Previously Called Trump "Saudi Arabia's Bitch" And Called The Saudi War On Yemen "Genocidal"

During Her Time In Congress, Gabbard Called Trump "Saudi Arabia's Bitch" And Called The Saudi War On Yemen "Genocidal." "During her time in Congress, Gabbard was a staunch critic of Trump's foreign policy, calling him 'Saudi Arabia's bitch' and strongly opposing his support for the brutal Saudi/UAE war on Yemen, which she called "genocidal." She also opposed Trump's escalations against Iran." " Dave DeCamp, "Trump Picks Tulsi Gabbard For Director Of National Intelligence," [AntiWar.com](#). 11/13/24)

VENEZUELA

Gabbard Has Stated, "The United States Needs To Stay Out Of Venezuela. Let The Venezuelan People Determine Their Future"

According To The Council On Foreign Relations, Gabbard Has Stated, "The United States Needs To Stay Out Of Venezuela. Let The Venezuelan People Determine Their Future." "Most Democrats and more than a few Republicans oppose U.S. support for the Saudi-backed war in Yemen. Gabbard agrees. She says that 'the U.S. must end its support for Saudi Arabia, and stop waging interventionist wars that increase destruction, death, and suffering around the world, drain our resources here at home, and threaten our own national security.' She feels much the same about

Venezuela. In her view 'the United States needs to stay out of Venezuela. Let the Venezuelan people determine their future.'" (James M. Lindsay, "Meet Tulsi Gabbard, Democratic Presidential Candidate," [Council on Foreign Relations](#), 2/21/19)

EGYPT

In 2015, Gabbard Met With Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, Praising Him For "Great Courage And Leadership"

In 2015, Gabbard Met With Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, Praising Him For "Great Courage And Leadership;" Sissi Later Presided Over Attacks On Protestors Which Killed Hundreds. "The Hawaii native has been accused of aligning herself with autocrats, including Putin, Assad and Egypt's Abdel Fattah el-Sissi. She met Sissi on a visit to Cairo in 2015 and praised him for showing 'great courage and leadership' in the fight against 'extreme Islamist ideology.' Two years earlier, Sissi presided over attacks on protesters that killed hundreds." (Dan De Luce and Julia Jester, "Would Tulsi Gabbard Bring A Pro-Russian Bias To Intelligence Reporting?" [NBC News](#), 11/16/24)

INDIA

Gabbard Has Praised Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, And Has Received Campaign Contributions From Prominent Pro-Modi Expatriates Tied To Far-Right Hindu Nationalist Organizations

Gabbard Has Praised Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, And Has Received Campaign Contributions From Prominent Pro-Modi Expatriates Tied To Far-Right Hindu Nationalist Organizations. "Gabbard also has friendly relations with nationalist Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his supporters in the U.S. Modi has faced criticism from human rights organizations and Western countries for his government's treatment of India's Muslim minority. The former congresswoman received thousands of dollars in campaign donations from prominent pro-Modi expatriates in the U.S. tied to far-right Hindu nationalist organizations." (Dan De Luce and Julia Jester, "Would Tulsi Gabbard Bring A Pro-Russian Bias To Intelligence Reporting?" [NBC News](#), 11/16/24)

Gabbard Has Been Noted As Meeting Prime Minister Modi Multiple Times. "In January 2019, Gabbard was a guest of honour at the Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas, the Indian government's annual diaspora outreach event, in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh. Gabbard's nomination comes less than a month after the US unsealed an indictment against former Indian intelligence officer Vikash Yadav, accusing him of a foiled plot to murder Indian-American Sikh separatist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun in the US in 2023. The uncovering of this plot involved the work of US law enforcement agencies, including the Drug Enforcement Administration and the FBI, both of which Gabbard will oversee as the DNI. Gabbard has had a close relationship with the Indian government and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, whom she has met multiple times. The Intercept news site found in 2019 that Gabbard's House campaigns had received donations from more than 100 individuals associated with a Hindu majoritarian movement that Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party is a part of." ("Why Is Tulsi Gabbard, Trump's New Intel Tsar, So Controversial?" [Al Jazeera](#), 11/14/24)

CHINA

Gabbard Has Criticized President Trump's Confrontational Stance Towards China, Urging For A Cooperative Relationship To Ensure Stable Trade And Deescalate The Possibility Of War With Nuclear-Armed China

Gabbard Has Criticized President Trump's Confrontational Stance Towards China, Urging For A Cooperative Relationship To Ensure Stable Trade And Deescalate The Possibility Of War With Nuclear-Armed China. "Gabbard criticizes President Donald J. Trump's confrontational stance toward Beijing and warns about the downsides of escalating tensions with China. She says a cooperative relationship is needed instead to confront global challenges. Gabbard opposes Trump's trade war with China, arguing that his approach has been "extremely volatile," with "ravaging and devastating effects" on both manufacturers and farmers. She believes the trade war with China has not only hurt the U.S. economy, but has also made it more difficult to get Chinese support for any nuclear deal with North Korea. She has said she would work with China to denuclearize the Korean Peninsula. She says the United States must maintain a cooperative relationship with China in order to address climate change and other areas of mutual concern. She also warns of the possibility that the trade war could escalate into a "hot war" with a nuclear-armed China." (Tulsi Gabbard, [Council On Foreign Relations](#), Accessed 12/19/24)

While Running For President, Gabbard Called For Increased Nuclear Nonproliferation With Russia And China, Saying That President Trump's Actions Threaten Our National Security. (Tulsi Gabbard, [X](#), 2/1/19)



Tulsi Gabbard 🌸🔵 @TulsiGabbard · Feb 1, 2019

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Heightening tensions with Russia and **China** are sending us into a new Cold War. We need to be stepping up nuclear nonproliferation agreements, not rolling them back. Trumps actions threaten our national security and the future of our planet.

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In 2019, Gabbard Called For Ending The "Destructive Trade War With China"

In 2019, Gabbard Called For President Trump To End The "Destructive Trade War With China." "She also implored Trump to end the "destructive trade war with China" in 2019 and re-posted American investor Ray Dalio's 2023 LinkedIn post saying China and the U.S. were on the brink of war and calling for peaceful relations with Beijing." (Maya Mehrara, "What Tulsi Gabbard Has Said About Russia, Ukraine, China," [Newsweek](#), 11/14/24)

JAPAN

In December 2023, On The Anniversary Of The Japanese Attack On Pearl Harbor, Gabbard Questioned If "The Remilitarization Of Japan, Which Is Presently Underway, Truly A Good Idea?"

In December 2023, On The Anniversary Of The Japanese Attack On Pearl Harbor, Gabbard Questioned If "The Remilitarization Of Japan, Which Is Presently Underway, Truly A Good Idea?"

"Gabbard has also voiced her opposition to U.S. ally Japan's re-armament, despite rising tensions with an increasingly assertive and aggressive China. In a post on X on December 7, 2023, the anniversary of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, she wrote: 'As we remember Japan's aggression in the Pacific, we need to ask ourselves this question: is the remilitarization of Japan, which is presently underway, truly a good idea? We need to be careful that shortsighted, self-serving leaders do not end up bringing us again face-to-face with a remilitarized Japan.'" (Maya Mehrara, "What Tulsi Gabbard Has Said About Russia, Ukraine, China," [Newsweek](#), 11/14/24)

NO MORE PRESIDENTIAL WARS ACT

In March 2019, Gabbard Noted Her Co-Sponsorship Of The "No More Presidential Wars Act" Which Sought To End Presidential Wars Not Being Fought With The Authorization Of Congress

In March 2019, Gabbard Noted Her Co-Sponsorship Of The "No More Presidential Wars Act" Which Sought To "End These Presidential Wars That Are Being Fought Without The Authorization Of Congress." "As Democratic presidential candidate and Representative Tulsi Gabbard (D-HI) stressed her opposition to what she saw as America's "wasteful" war-centric foreign policy at a rally at Durham's Freedom Café on March 23, she shared a story about the late Republican congressman Walter Jones of North Carolina who started out as "one of the most ardent supporters" for America's resolution for the "regime-change" war in Iraq in during the early 2000s following 9/11. In 2003, per Gabbard, the congressman attended a funeral for a marine killed in combat and watched as the late soldier's wife, accompanied by their three kids, read the last letter he sent them. 'He was so struck and moved by this realization of the cost of war and who was paying the price and that those three little kids would never see their father again, he dedicated himself and the rest of his life to fighting in Congress to make sure that we do not wage anymore of these wasteful, destructive regime-change wars,' Gabbard told her audience on Saturday. 'He challenged his own party, he challenged leaders in both parties...he sent handwritten letters to every single family of every service member that was killed in Iraq and Afghanistan; we wrote over 11,000 letters.' Gabbard added that both her and Jones co-sponsored the 'No More Presidential Wars Act' as an effort to "reclaim the responsibility Congress has [and] to be the body that declares war, to end these presidential wars that are being fought without the authorization of Congress.'" ("Rep. Gabbard stresses foreign policy at presidential rally," [The New Hampshire](#), 3/28/19)

EDWARD SNOWDEN & JULIAN ASSANGE

Support For Edward Snowden

In October 2020, Gabbard Introduced A Resolution Calling For The Dismissal Of Criminal Charges Against Edward Snowden. “Hawaii Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard is teaming up with Republican U.S. Rep. Matt Gaetz of Florida, in calling for the dismissal of criminal charges against Edward Snowden, a National Security Administration contractor turned whistleblower. Snowden’s disclosures to the press in 2013 sparked outrage across the country when it was revealed that the federal government was collecting data on millions of Americans without their knowledge in the name of combating terrorism. He was charged with espionage and other crimes by the federal government for leaking the information. Gabbard and Gaetz have introduced a resolution in the House asking for those charges to be dropped.” (Nick Grube, “Gabbard Calls For Charges Against Edward Snowden To Be Dropped,” [CivilBeat](#), 10/2/20)

In 2019, Gabbard Said If It Wasn’t For Snowden, The American People Would Never Have Learned The NSA Was Collecting Phone Records And Spying On Americans. “This isn’t the first time Gabbard has called for the charges against Snowden to be dismissed. During an interview on The Joe Rogan Experience podcast last year, Gabbard, who was then running for president, said that neither Snowden nor Wikileaks founder Julian Assange should be prosecuted for disclosing government secrets. ‘If it wasn’t for Snowden, the American people would never have learned the NSA was collecting phone records and spying on Americans,’ Gabbard said at the time. ‘As president, I will protect whistle-blowers who expose threats to our freedom and liberty.’” (Nick Grube, “Gabbard Calls For Charges Against Edward Snowden To Be Dropped,” [CivilBeat](#), 10/2/20)

Support For Julian Assange

In October 2020, Gabbard Introduced A Resolution Calling For The U.S. To Drop All Charges Against Julian Assange In A Resolution Calling For Support Of Freedom Of The Press. “Reps. Tulsi Gabbard (HI-02) and Thomas Massie (KY-04) introduced H.Res.1175, a resolution that defends the freedom of the press, noting that newsgathering activities and news organizations ability to acquire and publish information are protected under the First Amendment. The resolution calls for the United States to drop all charges and efforts to extradite Julian Assange. ‘Freedom of the press is a vital function of a free democracy in which the government is accountable to the people. Julian Assange published information that exposed lies and abuses of power at the highest levels of our government. His indictment under the Espionage Act sends a chilling message to every member of the media and all Americans,’ said Gabbard. ‘U.S. government prosecutors now claim that any journalist or news organization that publishes classified material is liable to prosecution under the Espionage Act — which would have led to the indictment of the Washington Post for the publication of the Pentagon Papers. The Federal government’s prosecution of Julian Assange sets a dangerous precedent. All extradition efforts and charges under the Espionage Act against Julian Assange must be dropped now.’” (“Congress Moves To Save Journalism,” [NJToday.com](#), 10/5/20)

STATE OF SENATE CONFIRMATION

SENATE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE

As Of December 2024, Gabbard Has Begun Her Meetings With The Senate Intelligence Committee, With Mixed Results From Participants

In December 2024, Gabbard Was Noted As Beginning Her Meetings With Senators Who Will Consider Her Nomination As Director Of National Intelligence. "Former Rep. Tulsi Gabbard, President-elect Donald Trump's nominee to be director of national intelligence, began meeting with senators on Monday, kicking off what could be a challenging confirmation process over her foreign policy positions. Gabbard's first meetings come days after the fall of the Assad regime in Syria. Gabbard's 2017 visit to Syria as a member of Congress and subsequent support for then-Syrian President Bashar al-Assad has been seen as a major stumbling block to her confirmation." (Emily Jacobs And Marc Rod, "Gabbard Begins Meetings With Senators, Amid Scrutiny Of Syria Views," [Jewish Insider](#), 12/10/24)

According To *Jewish Insider*, An Anonymous Member Of The Senate Intelligence Committee Said Members Were Not Impressed With Her Meetings. "One Republican senator, who has not yet met with Gabbard personally, told Jewish Insider late Monday that some members of the Senate Intelligence Committee had told colleagues that they were not impressed with her performance during their interviews. 'The Intelligence Committee members are really, really concerned about her. Her interviews have not been going well,' the senator said, speaking on condition of anonymity. 'One told me she was the worst-prepared candidate and was kind of trying to get by on her BS personality. So there's a lot of rumbling among members.'" (Emily Jacobs And Marc Rod, "Gabbard Begins Meetings With Senators, Amid Scrutiny Of Syria Views," [Jewish Insider](#), 12/10/24)

- ***Jewish Insider*: "The Intelligence Committee Members Are Really, Really Concerned About Her. Her Interviews Have Not Been Going Well,' The Senator Said, Speaking On Condition Of Anonymity. 'One Told Me She Was The Worst-Prepared Candidate And Was Kind Of Trying To Get By On Her BS Personality. So There's A Lot Of Rumbling Among Members.'" (Emily Jacobs And Marc Rod, "Gabbard Begins Meetings With Senators, Amid Scrutiny Of Syria Views," [Jewish Insider](#), 12/10/24)**

Senate Intelligence Committee Members Positions And Comments On Gabbard

Name	Party	Comments On Gabbard
Mark Warner	Democrat	Has not responded to meeting requests
Marco Rubio	Republican	Described her as a "revolutionary pick that has a chance to really make a positive change" ; Nominated to serve as Secretary of State
Ron Wyden	Democrat	No comments at this time
James E. Risch	Republican	Incoming Chair of the Committee; "Ask me this question again after the hearings." Risch told Jewish Insider on Saturday in an interview at the Halifax International Security Forum. "These appointments by the president are constrained by the

		advice and consent of the Senate. The Senate takes that seriously, and we vet these."
Martin Heinrich	Democrat	Said "Yes" when asked if he had worries about Gabbard.
Susan M. Collins	Republican	Said "I don't know enough about her background to have an opinion", and later "I need to do more research on her visit to Assad, her comments about Putin, Russia." Met with Gabbard on Assad, Ukraine, Putin and Edward Snowden
Angus S. King, Jr.	Independent (Caucus with Democrats)	Has Said he is "concerned" about some of President Trump's cabinet nominees
Michael F. Bennet	Democrat	No comments at this time
John Cornyn	Republican	"No doubt that she is a patriot" but supported her receiving a traditional background check during confirmation process
Robert P. Casey, Jr.	Democrat	No comments at this time; Lost re-election in 2024
Jerry Moran	Republican	Meeting with Gabbard on December 16th
Kirsten Gillibrand	Democrat	Previously campaigned for Gabbard and called her "a rising star"; "Knowing what I know about President-Elect Trump is that he seems to really place loyalty over all other qualifications and so I think he's looking for a cabinet that is fundamentally loyal to him," Gillibrand said.
James Lankford	Republican	Said "I do understand what she was trying to accomplish" in meeting Assad.
Jon Ossoff	Democrat	Reported as open to confirming Gabbard as DNI
M. Michael Rounds	Republican	Said the visit with Assad "does not concern me" and wanted to work with her as she prepared for her hearings;
Mark Kelly	Democrat	Criticized Gabbard, saying "these are serious jobs, we need serious people."

SENATE REPUBLICANS

Senator Tedd Budd

In December 2024, Senator Tedd Budd Called Gabbard "Immensely Intelligent And A Long-Time Friend" And Praising Her As "Highly Vetted" "Sen. Ted Budd (R-NC) called Gabbard 'immensely intelligent and a long-time friend' and 'highly vetted.' I think she's one we can certainly trust," Budd said." (Emily Jacobs And Marc Rod, "Gabbard Begins Meetings With Senators, Amid Scrutiny Of Syria Views," [Jewish Insider](#), 12/10/24)

Senator Eric Schmitt

In November 2024, Senator Eric Schmitt Criticized Accusing Gabbard Of Being A Russian Asset As “Totally Ridiculous” And “A Slut, Quite Frankly.” “Republican Sen. Eric Schmitt of Missouri said he thought it was ‘totally ridiculous’ that Gabbard was being cast as a Russian asset for having different political views. ‘It’s insulting. It’s a slur, quite frankly. There’s no evidence that she’s a asset of another country,’ he said on NBC.” (Adriana Gomez Licon, “Republicans Push Back Against Democrats’ Claims That Trump Intelligence Pick Gabbard Is Compromised,” [Associated Press](#), 11/24/24)

Senator Joni Ernst

In December 2024, Gabbard Met With Sen. Joni Ernst To Discuss Her Nomination To Lead The U.S. Intelligence Community. “The return of Tulsi Gabbard to Capitol Hill began with breakfast in the Senate dining room courtesy of Iowa Sen. Joni Ernst, followed by back-to-back meetings with other Republicans, all of whom were happy to welcome the former Hawaii Democrat and discuss her nomination to lead the U.S. intelligence community.” (Phillip Wegmann, “Cold Shoulder: Democrats Ignore Tulsi Gabbard’s Request To Meet,” [The Highland County Press](#), 12/10/24)

- **Senator Ernst Praised Gabbard As A “Strong And Proven Leader” Following Their One-On-One Meeting.** “Sen. Joni Ernst (R-Iowa), a veteran who had expressed skepticism about Hegseth being tapped as Pentagon boss, praised Gabbard as a ‘strong and proven leader’ following their meeting earlier Monday.” (Ryan King and John Christenson, “Hundreds Of Veterans Back Tulsi Gabbard As Spy Boss While She Mounts Charm Offensive With GOP Senators,” [The New York Post](#), 12/9/24)

Senator Tom Cotton

In December 2024, Senator Cotton Said “I Expect Our Republican Senate Is Going To Confirm All Of President Trump’s Nominees.” “Sen. Tom Cotton (R-Ark.), who is generally one of the more hawkish voices within the Senate GOP, declared Monday that ‘I expect our Republican Senate is going to confirm all of President Trump’s nominees.’” (Ryan King and John Christenson, “Hundreds Of Veterans Back Tulsi Gabbard As Spy Boss While She Mounts Charm Offensive With GOP Senators,” [The New York Post](#), 12/9/24)

Senator Rand Paul

In December 2024, Senator Rand Paul Was Noted As Supporting Gabbard’s Nomination. “Gabbard would oversee a vast intelligence apparatus if confirmed, a role of tremendous influence and significant authority over presidential intel briefings and issues of declassification. Sympatico with Trump, she has already earned support from very different corners of the GOP. Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul, a skeptic of foreign intervention, endorsed her last month as did the much more hawkish South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham, who previously served in the same Army reserve unit with the nominee.” (Phillip Wegmann, “Cold Shoulder: Democrats Ignore Tulsi Gabbard’s Request To Meet,” [The Highland County Press](#), 12/10/24)

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- **When Asked About Gabbard's Response To Assad's Fall Said, "I'm Concerned That We Come Up With A Rational Policy To Prevent Isis From Coming Back."** "Senator Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, a military hawk who has since come to embrace Trump, also added that he was not too worried about Gabbard after the fall of Assad. "I'm concerned that we come up with a rational policy to prevent Isis from coming back," Graham told The Independent." (Eric Garcia, "I Asked Republicans About Tulsi Gabbard's Remarks On Syria. This Is What They Said," [The Independent](#), 12/11/24)

Senator Jim Risch

In November 2024, Senator Jim Risch Remained Uncommitted To Gabbard's Nomination, Saying He Would Answer Questions After Her Confirmation Hearing.

"Sen. Jim Risch (R-ID), the top Republican on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, declined to commit to supporting two of President-elect Donald Trump's most controversial Cabinet nominees: former Rep. Tulsi Gabbard for intelligence chief, and Fox News host Pete Hegseth for defense secretary. "Ask me this question again after the hearings," Risch told Jewish Insider on Saturday in an interview at the Halifax International Security Forum. "These appointments by the president are constrained by the advice and consent of the Senate. The Senate takes that seriously, and we vet these." Those remarks stand in contrast to comments Risch made a day earlier about Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL), Trump's pick for secretary of state, on a panel alongside Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH), who will be the Foreign Relations Committee's top Democrat. "I'm enthusiastic about Marco, and we're going to do our best, and Jeanne and I have talked about this, we're going to do our best to have him confirmed as secretary of state on the same day as the president is inaugurated," Risch said." (Gabby Deutch, "Risch holds off on backing Gabbard, Hegseth for Cabinet posts," [Jewish Insider](#), 11/23/24)

Senator Chuck Grassley

In December 2024, Senator Chuck Grassley Said That As Long As Gabbard Was Transparent And Cooperative, It Would Be Difficult For Him Not To Vote For Her.

"Senator Chuck Grassley, the longest-serving Republican Senator, told The Independent: 'I think if she can tell me she's going to cooperate with us on Oversight and make things transparent, it'd be difficult for me not to vote for her. But I never make up a judgment on who I'm voting for till after the hearing.'" (Eric Garcia, "I Asked Republicans About Tulsi Gabbard's Remarks On Syria. This Is What They Said," [The Independent](#), 12/11/24)

Senator John Cornyn

In November 2024, Senator John Cornyn Said He Had To Question Gabbard On Her Previous Comments Towards American Adversaries, But Said He Had No Doubt She Was A Patriot. "Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, said that while he has questions about her comments and believes Gabbard should receive the traditional background check during her confirmation process, he doesn't second-guess her loyalties. "I certainly would want to ask her about that," Cornyn said of Gabbard's Russia comments. "But I have no doubt that she's a patriot. I mean, she served in the United States military and was deployed much of the time."" (David Klepper, Ellen Knickmeyer, and Edith M. Lederer, "Gabbard's Sympathetic Views Toward Russia Cause Alarm AS Trump's Pick To Lead Intelligence Services," [Associated Press](#), 11/17/24)

Senator Jerry Moran

On December 15, 2024, Gabbard Was Noted As Meeting With Senator Jerry Moran. (Libby Dean, [X](#), 12/15/24)



Libbey Dean
@LibbeyDean_



Trump's pick for Director of National Intelligence, Tulsi Gabbard is meeting with Senator Ron Johnson and Senator Jerry Moran tomorrow, a source familiar tells me.

7:29 PM · Dec 15, 2024 · 1,261 Views

Senator Ron Johnson

On December 15, 2024, Gabbard Was Noted As Meeting With Senator Ron Johnson. (Libby Dean, [X](#), 12/15/24)



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Senator Susan Collins

On December 17, 2024, Collins Discussed Her Meeting With Gabbard, Saying She Was Not Going To Decide On Her Support Until After Gabbards' Confirmation Hearing. "Susan Collins said she talked to Gabbard about meeting with Assad, views on Ukraine, Putin, push to remove criminal charges for Snowden. On whether she has reservations on Gabbard or RFK Jr: 'I'm not going to make a decision on nominees about...until we're through the process.'" (Manu Raju, [X](#), 12/17/24)

SENATE DEMOCRATS

Senator Mark Warner

In December 2024, Sen. Mark Warner Was Noted As Not Responding To Requests By Gabbard To Meeting To Discuss Her Nomination. “Virginia Sen. Mark Warner, outgoing chairman of the committee, has not responded to her requests for a meeting, according to a source directly familiar with Gabbard’s efforts. Others have replied to her outreach but remain hesitant about putting anything on the books. At least one Democrat scheduled a sit-down this week only to abruptly cancel.” (Phillip Wegmann, “Cold Shoulder: Democrats Ignore Tulsi Gabbard’s Request To Meet,” [The Highland County Press](#), 12/10/24)

Senator Tammy Duckworth

In November 2024, Senator Duckworth Said She Was Concerned About Tulsi Gabbard, Saying “I Think She’s Compromised” By A Foreign Power. “Sen. Tammy Duckworth, an Illinois Democrat and veteran of combat missions in Iraq, said she had concerns about Tulsi Gabbard, Trump’s choice to be director of national intelligence. ‘I think she’s compromised,’ Duckworth said on CNN’s ‘State of the Union,’ citing Gabbard’s 2017 trip to Syria, where she held talks with Syrian President Bashar Assad. Gabbard was a Democratic House member from Hawaii at the time. ... ‘For her to say ridiculous and outright dangerous words like that is wrong,’ Sen. Markwayne Mullin, a Republican from Oklahoma, said on CNN, challenging Duckworth to retract her words. ‘That’s the most dangerous thing she could say — is that a United States lieutenant colonel in the United States Army is compromised and is an asset of Russia.’” (Adriana Gomez Licon, “Republicans Push Back Against Democrats’ Claims That Trump Intelligence Pick Gabbard Is Compromised,” [Associated Press](#), 11/24/24)

- **In December 2024, Senator Duckworth Commented That She Was Worried That Gabbard Couldn’t Pass A Background Check.** “The Republicans who will control the Senate next year do not see the meeting with Assad eight years ago as disqualifying or insurmountable. Despite the suggestion of Democrats such as Sen. Tammy Duckworth, who recently worried that Gabbard “couldn’t pass a background check,” Republicans point out that as a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army Reserves, Gabbard already has a top-secret security clearance. More than 250 military veterans co-signed a letter published Monday endorsing her as “a warrior whose vote cannot be bought.” (Phillip Wegmann, “Cold Shoulder: Democrats Ignore Tulsi Gabbard’s Request To Meet,” [The Highland County Press](#), 12/10/24)

NOTE: *Gabbard currently holds a Top-Secret security clearance and is an active member of the United States military.*