

## RESEARCH MEMORANDUM

To: Interested Parties  
From: Adam Cahn and Jerome Trankle, American Accountability Foundation  
Date: May 6, 2024  
Re: Tulsi Gabbard's Troubling Record as an Obama Liberal

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The American Accountability Foundation has reviewed former Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard's background and policy history. Specifically, we examined her connections with former President Barack Obama and her general ideological leanings.

Gabbard has recently published a book<sup>1</sup> and received some favorable coverage in conservative media<sup>2</sup>. While certain aspects of her political persona, such as those concerning domestic surveillance and foreign policy, appeal to some on the right, she nevertheless has a long history of supporting liberal domestic policies.

Based on our research into Gabbard's background, AAF believes that recent intrigue with Gabbard from many on the right is unwarranted. She had substantial ties to the Obama administration during her time in congress and has supported a litany of public policy positions (especially on domestic policy and social issues) to the left of most conservatives.

## ALIGNMENT WITH THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION

### *HAD HIGH "PRESIDENTIAL SUPPORT SCORE" DURING OBAMA'S TERM*

During her time in office, Gabbard was relatively closely aligned with the Obama Administration's legislative agenda. According to Congressional Quarterly's "Presidential Support Score," Rep. Gabbard voted in line with the Obama administration between 82 and 92 percent of the time.

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<sup>1</sup> Amazon.com, "For the Love of Country: Leave the Democrat Party Behind," [Tulsi Gabbard](#),

<sup>2</sup> YouTube, "PBD Podcast: Episode 402," [April 25, 2024](#).



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Voting Scores for Gabbard, Tulsi:

Year	Presidential Support (PSS)	Presidential Opposition (PSO)	Party Unity Support (PUS)	Party Unity Opposition (PUO)	Conservative Coalition Support (CCS)	Conservative Coalition Opposition (CCO)	Voting Participation (VP)
2020	23	82	95	5			69
2019	5	95	99	1			62
2018	34	66	94	6			90
2017	20	80	94	6			97
2016	92	8	96	4			99
2015	84	16	95	5			99
2014	82	18	93	7			95
2013	91	9	89	11			97

Voting Scores Results. Washington: CQ Press. Dynamically generated April 24, 2024, from CQ Press Electronic Library, CQ Press Congress Collection.  
https://library.cqpress.com/congress/votingscoresresults.php?id=pla115-Gabbard-Tulsi

*VISITED OBAMA WHITE HOUSE 21 TIMES*

As a Member of Congress, Rep. Gabbard appeared in the White House visitor logs 27 times. 21 of these appearances are for entrance to the White House proper, five are to the Eisenhower Executive Office Building, and one is to the Vice President’s Residence.

Some of these appearances are for 1-on-1 or small group meetings with White House staff. Others, however, are for much larger events attended by hundreds of or even upwards of a thousand people. The logs are listed below.

Last Name	First Name	Total People	Entry Date	Visitee Last Name	Visitee First Name	Location	Room	Description
GABBARD	TULSI	1	10/23/12 16:50	Lu	Chris	WH	WW	
Gabbard	Tulsi	13	11/13/12 10:25	Asen	Jonathan	OEOB	South Cour	
Gabbard	Tulsi	7	11/26/12 15:01	Carson	Jon	WH	WW 2nd flo	
GABBARD	TULSI	605	12/12/12 18:20		POTUS/FLOTUS	WH	RESIDENCE	
GABBARD	TULSI	591	12/12/12 19:52		POTUS/FLOTUS	WH	RESIDENCE	
GABBARD	TULSI	176	1/15/13 11:27		POTUS/FLOTUS	WH	State Floo	
Gabbard	Tulsi	464	4/17/13 9:33		POTUS	WH	SOUTH LAWN	The event is on the South Lawn rain or shine.
Gabbard	Tulsi	1	4/24/13 9:51	S.	Cindy	WH	WW/WH Mess	
Gabbard	Tulsi	5	5/3/13 15:18	Raghavan	Gautaum	OEOB	SCA	
Gabbard	Tulsi	41	7/29/13 17:15	McDonough	Denis	WH	WW/Rooseve	
Gabbard	Tulsi	26	7/23/13 8:03		POTUS	OEOB	350	
GABBARD	TULSI	234	11/19/13 9:06		POTUS	WH	RESIDENCE/	The event is on the State Floor. Per requestor



								Lauren Kelly can add to this Appt.
Gabbard	Tulsi	878	12/5/13 15:44		POTUS/VPOTUS	WH	Residence	Gates open 6:00pm event goes to 9:00pm.
Gabbard	Tulsi	190	2/4/14 6:12		POTUS	WH	East Room	All are Members of the US House of Representatives
Gabbard	Tulsi	4	3/13/14 18:50	Perkins	Nate	OEOP	South Cour	US Congress Members
Gabbard	Tulsi	1	3/31/14 12:33	Kass	Sam	WH	EW 107	
Gabbard	Tulsi	195	7/15/14 15:31		POTUS	WH	East Room	
Gabbard	Tulsi	1182	12/5/14 9:28		POTUS	WH	State Floo	
Gabbard	Tulsi	7	6/16/15 11:44	Kahl	Colin	WH	WHSR	
Gabbard	Tulsi	24	6/16/15 15:28	Marcus	Robert	OEOP	EEOB 037	
Gabbard	Tulsi	24	6/22/15 12:59	Price	Ryan	WH	West Wing	NOW. Thank you!
Gabbard	Tulsi	199	7/29/15 8:57		POTUS	WH	East Room	
Gabbard	Tulsi	523	9/21/15 11:50		POTUS	WH	East Wing/	
Gabbard	Tulsi	1337	12/1/15 9:56		POTUS	WH	State Floo	
Gabbard	Tulsi	1	12/8/15 16:11	Chung	Kathy	WH	West Wing	Tulsi Gabbard is a current Member of the House of Representatives.
Gabbard	Tulsi	9	2/29/16 16:30		VPOTUS	WH	WHSR	
Gabbard	Tulsi		May 25, 2016 (Appointment Date)			VPR		Breakfast

While it’s difficult to glean the exact subject of each of these meetings, some of the staffers with whom Gabbard met have backgrounds conservatives would consider problematic.

For example:

- Sam Kass was a key advisor in Michelle Obama’s school lunch initiative<sup>3</sup>.
- Christopher Lu later became Joe Biden’s U.N. Ambassador<sup>4</sup>.
- Gautam Raghavahn advocated pro-Transgender policies<sup>5</sup>.

### *FREQUENTLY PRAISED THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION*

While Gabbard has recently offered substantial criticism of former President Obama,<sup>6</sup> that is not how her career began. During her initial run for Congress and early time in DC, Gabbard offered substantial praise for Obama. While the frequency of this praise trailed off over time, it nevertheless continued through the end of his second term.

### **Introduced Resolution as City Council Member Encouraging Obama to Locate his Presidential Library in Hawaii**

<sup>3</sup> Politico, “Behind the School lunch fight,” [June 6, 2014](#).

<sup>4</sup> United States’ Mission to the U.N: [Ambassador Christopher P. Lu](#).

<sup>5</sup> Gautam Raghavahn, “Transgender Day of remembrance,” [November 20, 2012](#).

<sup>6</sup> Hindustan Times: “Tulsi Gabbard Blasts Joe Biden, makes shocking claims about the White House,” [March, 27, 2024](#).



In May 2011, as a member of the Honolulu City Council, Gabbard introduced a resolution encouraging then-President Obama to locate his Presidential Library in Hawaii. Notably, this would have occurred at the beginning of the cycle when Gabbard entered a contested Democrat primary for an open seat in congress. An editorial for the Honolulu Star-Advertiser described the resolution as follows:<sup>7</sup>

*The City Council will consider Councilwoman Tulsi Gabbard's resolution today that essentially says, Puhleez, President Barack Obama, select Hawaii as the location for your presidential library.*

*Conjecture already is under way regarding a section of the library being reserved for the killing of Osama bin Laden. Presidential historian Michael Beschloss remarked on PBS that "you can be sure that the Obama Presidential Library, whether it's on the south side of Chicago or in Honolulu -- these are the two contenders -- will have a large remembrance of the day that President Obama did this." ...*

## **Praised Obama Administration Veterans' Program**

On March 6, 2012, Gabbard praised<sup>8</sup> an Obama administration program to provide mortgage relief to veterans.

*..."I wholeheartedly support President Obama's effort to ensure that those who served our country overseas are protected against predatory lending practices here at home.*

*Serving in a war zone requires intense focus. Our men and women in uniform shouldn't have to worry that while they are fighting abroad, their families are fighting to keep their houses here at home." Under the plan announced today, Federal authorities will review thousands of military mortgages to look for irregularities. In cases where service members were illegally foreclosed on or illegally charged more than 6 percent interest, those service members will receive compensation from a fund established as part of a settlement between major U.S. banks, the Obama Administration and state Attorneys General.*

*"I am pleased the Obama Administration is taking steps to fix the damage done to service members by predatory lenders and irresponsible banks. At the same time, I believe more vigilance in Congress could have prevented many of the problems we are working so hard to correct. Veterans, service members, and all Hawai'i residents deserve a Representative who reports to them, not Wall Street ...*

## **“Fighting for the Obama Mantle”**

On March 21, 2012, Politico noted<sup>9</sup> that Gabbard was “fight[ing] for the Obama mantle.”

*...It's a similar story in Hawaii, Obama's native state, where Honolulu City Councilwoman Tulsi Gabbard and former Honolulu Mayor Mufi Hannemann, both of whom are competing for a vacant House seat, are trying to connect themselves to the president. Gabbard rarely misses an opportunity to issue press releases praising Obama's policies, as she did after Obama unveiled a mortgage-relief program, or to tweet that she's attending one of the president's local campaign functions. Hannemann, meanwhile, includes several pictures of himself with Obama on his website...*

## **Praised Obama's “Strong Stand for Marriage Equality”**

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<sup>7</sup> Honolulu Star-Advertiser, “Off the News,” [May 23, 2011](#).

<sup>8</sup> Targeted News Service, “Iraq War Veteran Tulsi Gabbard Praises President Obama's Mortgage Relief Program for Servicemembers,” [March 6, 2012](#).

<sup>9</sup> Politico, “Dems Fight for Obama Mantle,” [March 21, 2012](#).



On May 9, 2012, Gabbard applauded “Obama’s strong stand for marriage equality” in a press release:<sup>10</sup>

*I congratulate the President for taking a strong stand on marriage equality for all Americans, regardless of sexual orientation. I understand his journey, and stand with him on this issue. This is why in Congress I will work for the repeal of DOMA and support and co-sponsor the Respect for Marriage Act.*

*During my deployment to the Middle East with the Hawai'i National Guard in 2004 I realized that I could not, in good conscience, fight for liberty and freedom overseas while advocating something less than that here at home. That was an important decision for me and, in that context, I fully recognize the significance of the president's announcement today. Protecting the civil rights of all Americans is an obligation we must strive to fulfill. It's critical that we support President Obama and stand with him now more than ever so our progress on these issues cannot be overturned by extremist Republican presidents and Members of Congress...*

On May 10, 2012, a local press report on Obama’s position made note<sup>11</sup> of Gabbard’s adulation.

*...Congressional candidate Tulsi Gabbard, a Democrat, congratulated Obama "for taking a strong stand on marriage equality for all Americans, regardless of sexual orientation. I understand his journey, and stand with him on this issue."...*

### Praised Obama in 2012 DNC Speech



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<sup>10</sup> Targeted News Service, “Tulsi Gabbard Statement on Barack Obama’s Strong Stand for Marriage Equality,” [May 9, 2012](#).

<sup>11</sup> Honolulu Star-Advertiser, “Isle gay rights proponents, delegation, applaud stand,” [May 10, 2012](#).

<sup>12</sup> LA Times, “Congressional candidate Tulsi Gabbard’s star shines at convention,” [September 4, 2012](#)



On September 4, 2012, Gabbard was granted a prime time speaking slot<sup>13</sup> at the Democrat National Convention. During the speech, she praised Obama and Biden<sup>14</sup> as strong advocates for military families.

*"Aloha. I'm Tulsi Gabbard, candidate for Congress in Hawai'i, and a Captain in the Army National Guard. When I stepped down from the State Legislature, where I served, and headed to a war zone, I joined a long, proud, line of Americans who sacrificed to make us the land of the free, and the home of the brave.*

*As a combat veteran, I know the cost of war. The sacrifices made by our troops and military families are immeasurable. These days, it's often women in uniform - moms, wives, even grandmothers - who deploy and leave their families behind.*

*Such heroes and patriots need and deserve leaders who truly understand and care about their hardships, and will fight for them. Leaders like President and Michelle Obama, and Vice President Biden and Dr. Biden...the strongest advocates our military families could ever have..."*

## **Endorsed by Obama in 2012**

On November 4, 2012, Obama endorsed Gabbard<sup>15</sup> for congress.

*Two days before the general election, congressional candidate Tulsi Gabbard has garnered a high-level endorsement from President Barack Obama.*

*Gabbard faces Republican Kawika Crowley in Tuesday's election.*

*Obama issued a statement saying, "America's middle class needs Tulsi Gabbard in Congress to stand up and fight for them. Tulsi will create jobs here at home by building from the middle out, not the top down. She will protect Medicare for our seniors and education for our next generation. Middle class families can count on Tulsi Gabbard and she needs their support on Election Day."*

*Gabbard welcomed the president's support and said she looks forward to working with him "to improve our economy, get our troops out of Afghanistan as quickly and safely as possible, and work for the well-being of all of our people."*

## **Attended White House Diwali Celebration**

On November 13, 2012, Gabbard attended<sup>16</sup> a celebration of the Hindu holiday Diwali hosted by the Obama White House:

*Washington, Nov. 15 -- The White House celebrated Diwali this year too with US Vice President Joe Biden lighting the traditional "diya" or the lamp as he joined a select group of Indian American officials, community members and diplomats.*

*President Barack Obama wished people around the world "Happy Diwali and Saal Mubarak" but unlike last year he did not himself join Tuesday night's celebrations at the Eisenhower executive building of the White House this time.*

....

<sup>13</sup> CSPAN: [2012 Democratic National Convention, Day One](#) (Gabbard speech begins at 2-hour, 27-minute mark)

<sup>14</sup> Targeted News Service, "Tulsi Gabbard Addresses Democratic National Convention," [September 4, 2012](#).

<sup>15</sup> Honolulu Star-Advertiser, "Obama endorses Gabbard for Congress," [November 4, 2012](#).

<sup>16</sup> Indio-Asian News Service, "White House Celebrates Diwali with Indian Americans," [November 15, 2012](#).





*Attendees at this year's celebrations included Indian Ambassador Nirupama Rao, the first Hindu American to be elected to the US Congress Tulsi Gabbard, and California physician Ami Bera, who is narrowly leading in a still undecided close Congressional contest.*

## **Praised Obama's "Great Aloha"**

On November 16, 2012, Gabbard praised<sup>17</sup> Obama's "great Aloha."

*Gabbard had received the support of President Barack Obama in her race. "The president also grew up in Hawaii, and shares that Aloha spirit that makes Hawaii so special," she said and took a couple of minutes out from watching the election results to give him shout out on his re-election.*

*"President Obama has great Aloha for the people of Hawaii and the people of our country, so I am very happy he was elected. I very much look forward to working closely with him to improve our economy, get our troops out of Afghanistan as quickly and safely as possible, and work for the well-being of all of our people."*

## **Elected DNC Vice Chair (with Obama White House Support)**

On January 22, 2013, Gabbard was elected<sup>18</sup> vice-chair of the DNC with the support of the Obama administration.

*WASHINGTON - Freshman Hawaii Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard was among a slate of new leaders elected to the Democratic National Committee today.*

*Gabbard, elected as a vice-chairwoman, was among the incoming leaders approved after a messy fight that highlighted strains with the White House and the DNC over what should have been a routine election of a new slate of officers.*

*Gabbard said in a news release that she sees here role as a "great opportunity to let Hawaii's voice be heard on a national platform."*

*As expected, Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz of Florida was given another term as national party chairwoman. **But below that level**, chaos reigned for a time as DNC members balked at **rubber-stamping a White House-approved list of replacements** for several veterans of the pre-Obama era.*

On January 23, 2013, a press report described<sup>19</sup>, in detail, how Gabbard was personally recruited to the DNC by Debbie Wasserman-Schultz, who was Obama's pick to run the organization.

*U.S. Rep. Tulsi Gabbard says her new post as a vice chairwoman of the Democratic National Committee will help raise Hawaii's profile on the national political landscape.*

*Gabbard, 31, a freshman congresswoman and one of the chamber's youngest members, was among a slate of new leaders approved Tuesday to serve as DNC officers for President Barack Obama's second term.*

*"I really saw it as an opportunity to ... bring Hawaii's voice to the national stage in this setting representing what we cherish in Hawaii - aloha - and a different way of doing things," Gabbard said in a telephone interview. "That's really where I see the greatest opportunity."*

<sup>17</sup> India Abroad, "The First Hindu in Congress," [November 16, 2012](#).

<sup>18</sup> Honolulu Star-Advertiser, "Gabbard Elected to Democratic National Committee leadership," [January 22, 2013](#).

<sup>19</sup> Honolulu Star-Advertiser, "Gabbard Embraces Opportunity as DNC Staffer," [January 23, 2013](#).



*"As we see such division all across the country, we really need to be in a position to provide strong leadership that focuses on serving the people rather than on divisiveness."*

*Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz of Florida, who was unanimously re-elected as chairwoman, nominated all of the new officers for a vote before a meeting of DNC members from all 50 states and territories.*

***Gabbard, who was approved by unanimous vote, said Wasserman Schultz called her earlier this week to ask whether she would take on the role as one of the DNC's five vice chairmen.***

*"It was completely unexpected," Gabbard said.*

*Wasserman Schultz, in a news release, called Gabbard's rise to Congress an inspiration" and her dedication to public service showcases the best of our party's values."*

## Praised Obama Administration Diversity Hiring

On February 14, 2013, Gabbard attended an event at the Indian embassy in DC where she praised diversity hiring<sup>20</sup> in the Obama administration.

*...Gabbard said, I never would have imagined that I would be lucky to spend my Valentine's Day not with one special person, but so many special people.'*

*'Today we honor not just the journey of a physician from California or a combat veteran from Hawaii - but rather the selfless service of those who came before us, and paved the road of possibility'*

*'Today we honor the fight for fairness not just in our nation's capital but on the front lines of combat around the world. And today we honor the record number of Indian Americans, bound by a common purpose of service, working in the Obama administration.'*

## Praised Obama's Budget

On April 10, 2013, Gabbard released a statement<sup>21</sup> where she praised Obama's budget proposal.

*"The budget proposal unveiled by President Barack Obama today is a measured approach to reducing our deficit without jeopardizing our fragile economy. It replaces the sequester and includes a plan to create jobs and enhance the nation's infrastructure. This is a starting point for us to work together, seek common ground, and take immediate steps to put our nation on firm financial footing. This budget represents a sincere effort to encourage economic recovery and create conditions for job growth.*

## "Especially Active" in trying to locate Obama's Presidential Library in Hawaii

On July 6, 2013, a press report<sup>22</sup> on efforts to bring Obama's presidential library to Hawaii listed Gabbard as "especially active" in the effort.

*The Hawaii group includes local business leaders such as Connie Lau, chief executive of Hawaiian Electric Industries, and the state's top politicians. Democratic Gov. Neil Abercrombie and the state's senators and representatives hosted a fundraiser for the campaign in December. Sen. Brian Schatz and **Rep. Tulsi Gabbard, both Democrats, have been especially active.***

<sup>20</sup> India Abroad, "Ambassador Rao facilitates US Representatives Bera, Gabbard," [February 22, 2013](#).

<sup>21</sup> Congressional Documents and Publications, "Tulsi Gabbard Statement on President Barack Obama's Budget," [April 10, 2013](#).

<sup>22</sup> CQ Weekly, "Hawaii tries to woo Obama," [July 6, 2013](#).





## Praised Obama's Afghanistan Policy

On July 9, 2013, Gabbard praised<sup>23</sup> a leaked proposal on the Obama administration's Afghanistan policy.

*...I am encouraged by reports that the Administration is considering an accelerated withdrawal from the prolonged war in Afghanistan, and drastically reducing planned troop levels after 2014...*

## Defended Obama's Unconstitutional Recess Appointments

On July 9, 2013, Gabbard signed onto a letter<sup>24</sup> defending Obama's nominees to the National Labor Relations Board that were given a recess appointment at a time when Congress was not in recess.

*At today's press conference, Sanchez and Courtney also released a letter signed by 201 House Democrats demanding that Senator McConnell end these ideological attacks on workers' rights and consider the full package of President Obama's NLRB nominees.*

....

*As you are well aware, the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit (DC Circuit), Noel Canning v. NLRB, decision to invalidate the President Obama's recess appointments of Ms. Block and Mr. Griffin is not the final legal say on the matter. Therefore, their current nominations should not be disqualified. The President has asked the Supreme Court to review the decision, and there is pending litigation in at least five other district courts. Demanding the resignation of Ms. Block and Mr. Griffin is counterproductive and ignores both legal process and precedent.*

....

*Tulsi Gabbard (HI-2)*

## Praised Obama Administration's Diversity Agenda

On July 23, 2013, Gabbard attended a meeting at the White House over Asian-American Pacific Islander issues. After the meeting, she released a statement<sup>25</sup> full of lavish praise for the administration's diversity agenda.

*This morning, Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard (HI-02) joined her colleagues from the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC) in a meeting with President Barack Obama at the White House. They discussed issues unique to the Native Hawaiian and Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities, and the urgent need to pass a comprehensive immigration bill.*

*"In our meeting with President Obama today, I appreciated the opportunity to highlight the concerns of Native Hawaiians, and critical issues facing our diverse communities in Hawai'i," said Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard. "The President has been a strong ally of Asian American and Pacific Islanders across the country, and I'm encouraged by the dialogue we had today about the need for passing immigration legislation that includes family reunification measures. I look forward to continuing to work with the*

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<sup>23</sup> Congressional Documents and Publications, "Rep. Tulsi Gabbard Praises Possible Fast Track of Afghanistan Withdrawal," [July 9, 2013](#).

<sup>24</sup> Targeted News Service, "Sanchez, Courtney, tell McConnell to stop attacking workers rights," [July 9, 2013](#).

<sup>25</sup> States News Service, "Rep. Tulsi Gabbard meets with President Barack Obama and Congressional Colleagues," [July 23, 2013](#).



*President and my CAPAC colleagues on issues like comprehensive immigration reform, Native Hawaiian recognition, and the reauthorization of the Native Hawaiian Education Act."*

## Defended Obama over PATRIOT Act

On August 27, 2013, Gabbard spoke with students in Hawaii, where she defended Obama<sup>26</sup> from questions about impeachment over his implementation of the PATRIOT act.

*U.S. Rep. Tulsi Gabbard came to Kealakehe High School Monday afternoon prepared to talk about how the federal government works, from how the three branches balance each other to how she got her first piece of legislation passed as a freshman legislator.*

*Students in Rebecca Marsh's U.S. History class listened to Gabbard's comments, then pressed her on political news of the day, from the Patriot Act to reports of the Department of Homeland Security buying large quantities of ammunition.*

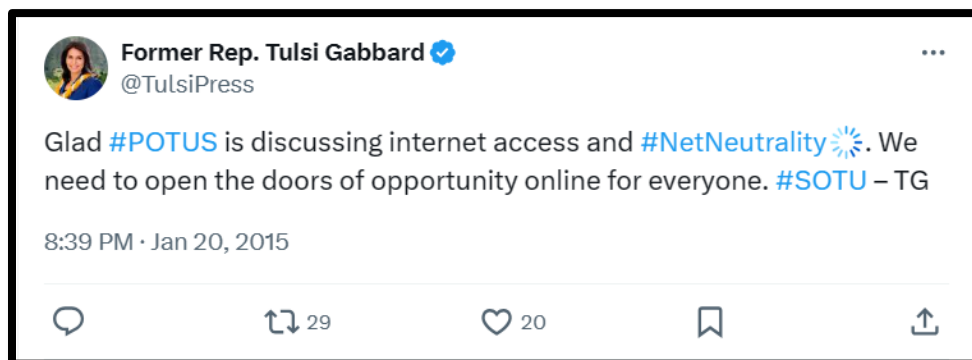
*One student, asking about the controversial Patriot Act, wondered why Congress had not impeached President Barack Obama for violating the U.S. Constitution.*

*Gabbard, a Democrat representing Hawaii's 2nd Congressional District, first noted that Congress had enacted the act, not Obama, following the 9/11 terrorist attacks, then talked about some of the problems people have with the law.*

*"In my view, the execution of this law is violating civil liberties, the Fourth Amendment," Gabbard said. "There is a compromise, a balance that has to be struck (between dealing with security threats and protecting civil liberties)."*

## Supported Obama's Net Neutrality Policies

On January 25, 2015, Gabbard tweeted in support<sup>27</sup> of Obama's net neutrality policies.



## Obama's "Aloha Born of God's Amazing Grace"

<sup>26</sup> West Hawaii Today, "Gabbard Takes Turn Teaching at Kealakehe High School [July 23, 2013](#)."

<sup>27</sup> Twitter, @TulsiPress, Tweet from [January 20, 2015](#)



On June 26, 2015, Gabbard tweeted<sup>28</sup> that Obama’s speech following the Charleston shooting demonstrated “aloha born of God’s amazing grace.”



### **Praised Obama Policy for Racially Separatist Government for Native Hawaiians**

On September 29, 2015, Gabbard praised<sup>29</sup> Obama’s Interior Department for enabling the creation of a racially separatist government for native Hawaiians.

*"These rules incorporate over 5,000 public comments submitted to the Department of Interior, and should they be adopted, the Native Hawaiian community will have the option to re-establish a unified government and self-determine their future relationship with the federal government," said U.S. Rep. Tulsi Gabbard. "I encourage all interested parties to submit their comments to DOI during the 90-day public review period to ensure a collaborative final ruling."*

### **Attended Pearl Harbor Commemorative Ceremony**

On December 27, 2016, Gabbard attended<sup>30</sup> a Pearl Harbor commemorative ceremony where Obama spoke.

<sup>28</sup> Twitter.com, @TulsiGabbard, [June 26, 2015](#).

<sup>29</sup> Honolulu Star-Advertiser, “Feds propose rules for Government to Government relations with Native Hawaiians,” [September 29, 2015](#).

<sup>30</sup> Twitter.com, @TulsiGabbard, [December 27, 2016](#).





### “He Treated People with Respect, with Aloha”

Finally, on January 10, 2017, Gabbard gave an interview<sup>31</sup> with local news in Hawaii on Obama’s legacy where she heaped lavish praise on the soon to depart president.

*... “He never forgot where he came from. He treated people with respect, with Aloha, whether they agreed with him on certain issues or even disagreed. He made the people of Hawaii proud.” ...*

*... “When you lead with Aloha, you can disagree without being disagreeable. Always understanding, first and foremost, if we are working for...we are working for the people.” ...*

## LEFT-WING POLICY POSITIONS

Just as troubling as Gabbard’s alignment with the Obama Administration is a long legacy of supporting left-wing policy positions.

<sup>31</sup> YouTube, “Rep. Tulsi Gabbard discusses President Obama’s legacy with KITV,” [January 10, 2017](#).



Gabbard has gained popularity with some on the right due to her opposition to domestic surveillance<sup>32</sup> and ‘regime-change’ wars<sup>33</sup>. Nevertheless, Gabbard’s positions on domestic and social issues should give conservatives pause. While this can be seen in many areas, it’s clearest in relation to abortion, climate change, immigration, and LGBT issues.

*ABORTION*

Gabbard received high marks on Planned Parenthood’s Congressional Scorecard<sup>34</sup> for both the 115<sup>th</sup> (2017-’18) and 116<sup>th</sup> (2019-’20) Congresses, with scores of “100” for each.

115th Congress (2017-2018)						
Tulsi Gabbard	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

116th Congress (2019-2020)						
Tulsi Gabbard	100	✓	✓	✓	—	✓

In addition, during her 2020 presidential campaign, Gabbard released the following statement<sup>35</sup> about abortion.

*The very real possibility of Roe v Wade being overturned terrifies me. I am sick of women's bodies being used as pawns so politicians can score cheap political points at the expense of their freedom and safety. I am wholly committed to abortion remaining safe, legal and rare. We must commit to defending a woman's right to choose. I also support sensible codifying of Roe v Wade preventing third-trimester abortion except when there are grave or life-threatening health consequences for the mother.*

*CLIMATE CHANGE*

On perhaps no issue is Gabbard’s record more troubling than climate change and energy. Gabbard has a long record of hostility towards fossil fuels<sup>36</sup> (including fracking bans<sup>37</sup>), support for a ‘new green century,’<sup>38</sup> and opposition to pipeline construction<sup>39</sup>.

The website “Inside Climate News” summarized<sup>40</sup> Gabbard’s positions in 2020.

*Getting Specific*

<sup>32</sup> YouTube, “Tulsi Gabbard Votes Against Government Surveillance Legislation,” [January 24, 2018](#).  
<sup>33</sup> YouTube, “Tulsi Gabbard: We need to End these Regime Change Wars,” [April 24, 2019](#).  
<sup>34</sup> Planned Parenthood: [Congressional Scorecard](#).  
<sup>35</sup> VoteSmart.org: [Tulsi Gabbard Political Positions](#).  
<sup>36</sup> Twitter.com, @TulsiGabbard, [November 26, 2018](#).  
<sup>37</sup> Twitter.com, @TulsiGabbard, [July 10, 2019](#).  
<sup>38</sup> Facebook, Tulsi Gabbard, [August, 30 2019](#).  
<sup>39</sup> Twitter.com, @TulsiGabbard, [September 16, 2016](#).  
<sup>40</sup> Inside Climate News, “Tulsi Gabbard on Climate Change: Where the Candidate Stands,” [January 6, 2020](#).

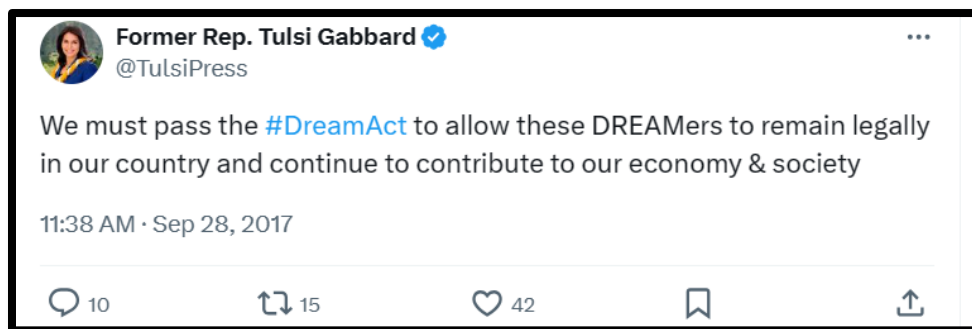


- Gabbard expressed early support for the Green New Deal, but when the resolution was released, she opted not to be a co-sponsor, citing concerns over the “vagueness of the language.” On her website, Gabbard said she supports the Green New Deal’s zero-emissions goals, but “I do not support ‘leaving the door open’ to nuclear power unless and until there is a permanent solution to the problem of nuclear waste.”
- Gabbard supports a ban on fracking and ending fossil fuel and nuclear energy subsidies. She has talked about the importance of investing in sustainable infrastructure and agriculture, calling agriculture “something that’s not often talked about when we’re dealing with climate change, but is one of the biggest contributors of carbon to our environment and to our atmosphere.”
- She believes the U.S. “should be leading by example, leveraging innovation through science and technology, investing in clean energy, creating renewable energy jobs that cannot be outsourced, growing the economy, enhancing U.S. energy independence, and lowering energy costs for families and businesses, while reducing carbon emissions. We must continue to persevere and do our part to support efforts in the private sector and at all levels of government to combat climate change and protect our environment.”
- In the OFF Act, she proposed redirecting fossil fuel tax credits toward renewable energy, but doesn’t outline a carbon pricing plan. Like many of her opponents, Gabbard has signed the No Fossil Fuel Funding pledge.

## IMMIGRATION

While Gabbard has recently criticized<sup>41</sup> the worst excesses of the Biden Administration’s open borders policies, she has a long history of support for “comprehensive immigration reform”/the “DREAM Act”/a “pathway to citizenship,” which conservatives consider to be euphemisms for amnesty.

In September 2017, Gabbard tweeted in support<sup>42</sup> of the DREAM Act.



In November 2017, Gabbard tweeted in support<sup>43</sup> of a pathway to citizenship.

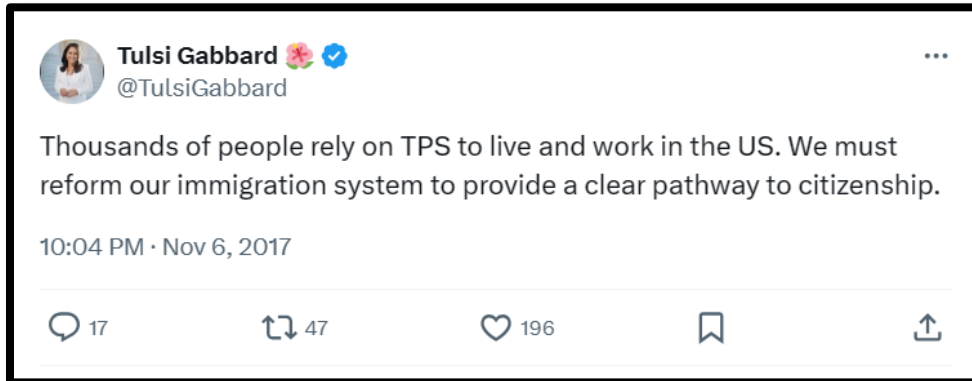
<sup>41</sup> Instagram, TulsiGabbard, [September 21, 2023](#).

<sup>42</sup> Twitter.com, @TulsiGabbard, [September 27, 2017](#).

<sup>43</sup> Twitter.com, @TulsiGabbard, [November 6, 2017](#).







In February 2020, Gabbard tweeted in support<sup>44</sup> of comprehensive immigration reform.



### LGBT ISSUES

While in Congress, Tulsi Gabbard was highly rated by the radical LGBTQ organization, the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), during each session.

During the 113<sup>th</sup> congress (2013-'14), Gabbard was rated<sup>45</sup> a '92' by HRC.

2	Gabbard, Tulsi (D)	92	N/A	N/A	●	●	●	●	○	●	●
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During the 114<sup>th</sup> congress (2015-'16), Gabbard was rated<sup>46</sup> '88' by HRC.

<sup>44</sup> Twitter.com, @TulsiGabbard, [February 13, 2020](#).

<sup>45</sup> Human Rights Campaign: [113<sup>th</sup> Congress](#) (p. 18).

<sup>46</sup> Human Rights Campaign: [114<sup>th</sup> Congress](#) (p. 15).





During the 115<sup>th</sup> congress (2017 - '18), Gabbard was rated<sup>47</sup> '100' by HRC. Notably, this was as she geared up for her 2020 presidential campaign.



During the 116<sup>th</sup> congress (2019 – '20), Gabbard was rated<sup>48</sup> '84' by HRC.



*“THE PROGRESSIVE CANDIDATE”*

On August 13, 2012, following Gabbard’s victory in her contested primary, a left-wing blog called her<sup>49</sup> “the progressive candidate” in the race.

*...Hawaii had its primaries Saturday and it wasn't even close. In the two major races-- one for the open U.S. Senate and one for the open seat in the 2nd district-- **the progressive candidates, respectively Mazie Hirono and Tulsi Gabbard,** beat their extremely conservative opponents, perennial Blue Dog candidate Ed Case and corrupt Mormon ex-mayor of Honolulu, Mufi Hannemann. It was Hannemann's third congressional run and his third loss. Case had already served in Congress (2002-7) where he was known as very lazy, very conservative, probably corrupt and a sure vote for the worst of the Republican agenda. He was a member of both the Blue Dog caucus and the New Dems. He's been running for Senator, Governor and to get back into Congress ever since and loses every time. In Saturday's Senate totals he took 94,289 (41%) against Hirono's 132,855 (58%) and many hope he'll go find a job and stop trying to get into office again. In the 6-way race for the House seat Mazie was giving up, Tulsi Gabbard captured 55% and Hannemann only managed to persuade 34%...*

## IN CONCLUSION

Tulsi Gabbard is one of the more complicated figures currently in American politics.

While Tulsi Gabbard invokes a certain amount of intrigue on the right, her record is not clean. Gabbard was aligned with former president Barack Obama during the early part of her career and has a long history of domestic policy positions that should concern conservatives.

<sup>47</sup> Human Rights Campaign: [115<sup>th</sup> Congress](#) (p. 20).

<sup>48</sup> Human Rights Campaign: [116<sup>th</sup> Congress](#) (p. 20).

<sup>49</sup> DownWithTyranny, “Too Long for Twitter,” [August 13, 2012](#).

