

Presidential Candidate Tulsi Gabbard Visit to UVU

On Friday, February 21, 2020 students at Utah Valley University (UVU) had the great opportunity to have Tulsi Gabbard, Democratic candidate for President, as a presenter at UVU campus. It was a great experience that really helped to open my eyes at this candidate. Before this meeting, I had heard of the name Tulsi Gabbard, but didn't know anything about her. As she began to speak, I became very impressed with what she stood for and how she planned to accomplish her goals. One of the main things that stood out to me was her goal to help reduce partisanship in Washington. She made some very bold statements like, "One of the deepest issues in Washington is that people forget who they are working for" and that lawmakers don't "check their partisanship at the door." I agreed with these statements as it feels that those in Washington can't get along with each other and there is a culture of competition rather than a culture of compromise. I personally feel like in order for the government to be as effective and productive as possible, there has to be compromise between different political factions.



Thomas Ulrich asks a question during the presentation of Tulsi Gabbard

As this stood out to me and I feel very strongly about this issue, I had the opportunity to ask her. I was very pleased with her response. Although she is a Democrat and has many associates who disagree with her political views, she has been able to get stuff done. She gave the example of when she was first elected into the House of Representatives, people told her that she would

never be able to pass a bill. But, through hard work and creativity, she was able to convince her associates, who have different political views, to vote in favor of her bill. She is a big proponent of getting to know other's concerns and the issues for their home areas. I love that she is even willing to talk to the other side of the aisle, even when many people refuse to. I think that this shows a lot of humility and genuine concern and care for our country and those that strive to serve it. Simple respect for one's views and opinions can go a long way and saw this in Ms. Gabbard as she spoke.

Mrs. Gabbard opened up the floor for Questions and Answers, and she was able to answer in a very respectful and intelligent way. One thing that I found humorous was that the first question was in relation to the Second Amendment. She answered with her true opinion and yet respected the person that asked. Another thing that I was impressed with is that she is a veteran. As such, she was able to give some good insight when it came to things like American Foreign Policy in the Middle East as well as give a legitimate view of the problems and concerns with the military and its spending. Another thing that I liked about her and her presentation was her thoughts on gun control and other highly debated topics. Her basic response is to have an open and healthy discussion while leaving emotion out of it. I think that this has the chance to improve upon our current process and to help alleviate some of the useless bickering that occurs.



Thomas Ulrich (R) with Presidential Candidate Tulsi Gabbard

In conclusion, I am extremely grateful that I had the opportunity to listen to her speak and ask her questions. I think that she would make a good president and help to improve this country to become the best that it can be.

Thomas Ulrich, UVU student