

Democratic Presidential Candidate Tulsi Gabbard Visits UVU

On Friday February 21st, democratic presidential candidate Tulsi Gabbard visited UVU as part of her presidential campaign. She is currently serving as the U.S Representative for Hawaii's 2nd congressional district and is a former member of the National Guard. She started her visit with Utah Valley University students and faculty members by explaining the prominent role partisan politics play in Washington. Gabbard stated that the people in Washington have forgotten who they work for, explaining where their focus lies. If you're in power, how do you keep power? And if you're not in power, how do you gain power? She is striving for a government that is truly of, by, and for the people. She wants all voices to be heard. Gabbard quoted President Lincoln who said "a house divided against itself cannot stand."



Paige Laursen (R) with Tulsi Gabbard

From her experience, Gabbard has gathered that our country's leaders are divided, not united. She believes that in order to unite the country, she needs to do what other US presidents have rarely

done in the past. It's exceptionally uncommon in Washington for the president to invite members of congress to the White House. However, Gabbard said that if she were elected President, her first day in office would be spent inviting republican and democrat leaders to the White House for a meeting. Tulsi Gabbard believes that bridges can be mended through personal relationships and I passionately agree that by doing so, the partisan culture in our nations government can change.



Tulsi Gabbard speaks to UVU students

The President of the United States of America has many distinct job roles. One role of great importance is the Commander in Chief, which gives the president power to make decisions regarding the country's armed forces. Gabbard has the unique experience of knowing what it's like to have boots on the ground. As a member of the National Guard she had to live with the decisions made by the commander in chief. She would like to see a change in the nations defense, believing that money should be spent on issues here at home instead of trillions of dollars abroad. Though I agree that we should strive to eliminate warfare throughout the country, diplomacy and international relations are crucial to the safety and future of our nation.

Tulsi Gabbard has unique experiences that have the potential to create a much-needed change in the U.S. government. I look forward to following the rest of her campaign.

Paige Laursen, UVU student.