

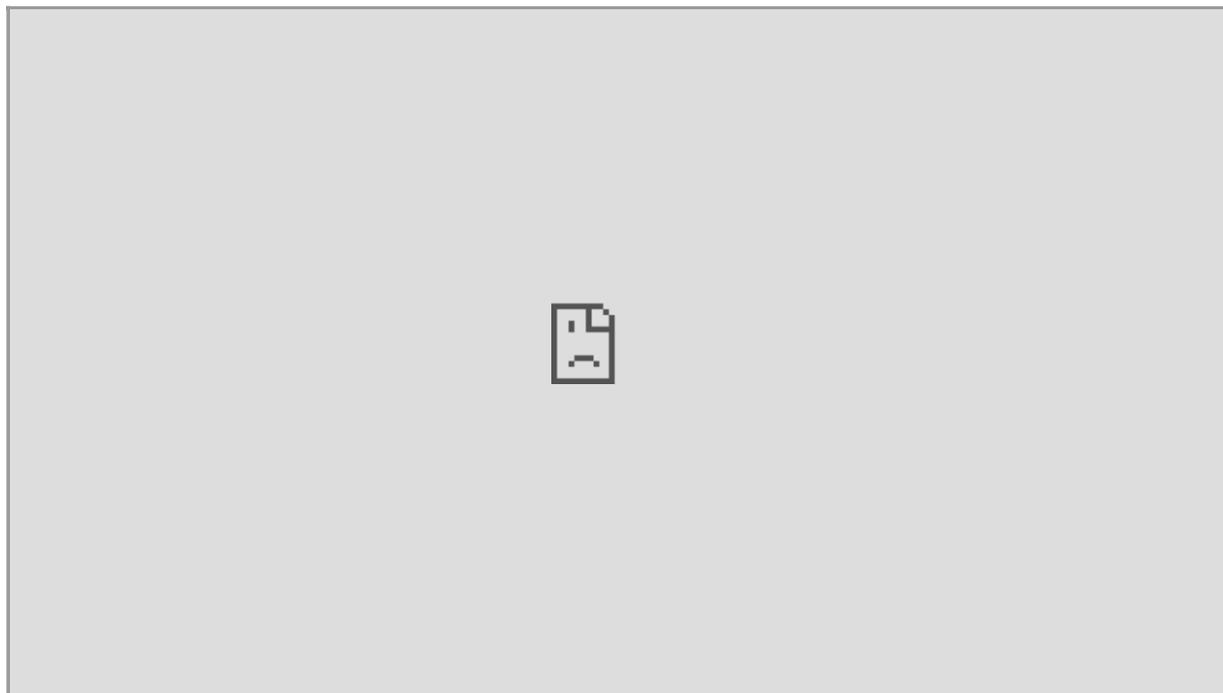
Tulsi Gabbard on Joe Rogan: Silicon Valley Is Throwing Free Speech 'Out the Window'

 PHILADELPHIA, PA - JULY 26: US representative Tulsi Gabbard (D-HI) delivers remarks on the second day of the Democratic National Convention at the Wells Fargo Center, July 26, 2016 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. An estimated 50,000 people are expected in Philadelphia, including hundreds of protesters and members of the media. The ...
[Aaron P. Bernstein/Getty Images](#)

LUCAS NOLAN

In a recent interview, Democratic presidential candidate Rep. Tulsi Gabbard (D-HI) called out the social media Masters of the Universe for acts of censorship and lack of actual free speech on their platforms.

During a recent appearance on the *Joe Rogan Experience* podcast, Democratic Presidential candidate Tulsi Gabbard discussed the growing power of social media companies and their effect on free speech on the Internet. Gabbard claimed during the interview that social media firms such as Facebook and Twitter regularly appear to remove political speech they disagree with from their platforms.



Gabbard told host Joe Rogan: “There’s just been news recently about Facebook banning certain individuals . . . because of their speech. They disagree with the speech they’re using or the ideas

they're pushing forward. Unchecked, First Amendment rights going out the window." This appeared to be a reference to the recent purge of a number of conservative personalities from social media, including Paul Joseph Watson and Laura Loomer.

Joe Rogan noted that many believe that the websites have no obligation uphold free speech as they're a private company: "The argument is [the First Amendment] doesn't apply because they're a private company, right?" Rogan said. Gabbard replied: "Yes, but they're trying to get the best of both worlds. The fact that they are claiming to say, 'Hey, this is a free space for open communication for everyone' while at the same time saying 'You know, what Joe, I don't like what you're saying about this, so we're going to ban you and whoever your friends are from this conversation' — I think that's a big problem."

This isn't the first time that Gabbard, a military veteran, has spoken out against social media censorship. In a tweet from March, Gabbard stated: "We must be willing to fight for the right of all Americans to express their views, even when we disagree with them."

We must be willing to fight for the right of all Americans to express their views, even when we disagree with them. We must encourage unfettered discussion of public issues and stand united to stop Facebook and others from attempting to censor/stifle/influence public debate.

— Tulsi Gabbard (@TulsiGabbard) [March 14, 2019](#)