

# “Legacy Media in Panic Mode Over Russiagate’s Implosion”

This article is from the “Edifying the Body” section of the Church of God Big Sandy’s website ([churchofgodbigandy.com](http://churchofgodbigandy.com)). It was posted for the weekend of July 26, 2025. (A version was posted at [dailycaller.com](http://dailycaller.com) on July 23.)

**By Robert McGreevy**

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Legacy media’s biggest players—NBC News, *The New York Times* (NYT) and others—appear to be in full damage-control mode over the “Russiagate” revelations, director of national intelligence (DNI) Tulsi Gabbard unveiled Friday [July 18].

NBC accused Gabbard of trying to “rewrite the history of the 2016 election” in a Tuesday [July 22] headline.

The lead of NBC’s story accuses Gabbard and President Donald Trump of “seeking to reverse an eight-year-old assessment that Russia waged an information war to boost Trump’s candidacy.”

The story touts conclusions made by the infamous 2017 Intelligence Community Assessment (ICA) and by a 2020 Senate investigation that found that Russian president Vladimir Putin attempted to influence the 2016 U.S. election and damage Hilary Clinton’s candidacy.

Those E-mails, Gabbard claimed in a Friday tweet, show that Obama’s own intelligence chiefs found that Russia “‘did not impact recent U.S. election results’ by conducting cyber attacks on infrastructure.”

However, despite accusing Gabbard of attempting to rewrite history, NBC does not cite the Obama administration’s intelligence agency E-mails she declassified until deep into the story. The outlet cites a talking point prepared for the Obama administration’s DNI, James Clapper, which was released by Gabbard Friday [July 18].

On July 18, Gabbard wrote on x.com: “On Dec 8, 2016, IC officials prepared an assessment for the President’s Daily Brief, finding that Russia ‘did not impact recent U.S. election results’ by conducting cyber attacks on infrastructure. Before it could reach the President, it was abruptly pulled ‘based on new guidance.’ This key intelligence assessment was never published.”

■ NBC also made no mention of a memo sent from a Department of Homeland Security (DHS) official to Obama’s DNI, James Clapper, which read: “The

thrust of the analysis is that there is no indication of a Russian threat to directly manipulate the actual vote count through cyber means,” according to documents Gabbard declassified.

■ Similarly, *The Washington Post*’s fact checker Glenn Kessler claimed Gabbard’s accusations were “based on thin gruel.” In his fact check, Kessler raised doubts about claims that the infamous and now discredited Steele Dossier influenced the 2017 ICA. “Calling it ‘a factor’ in the ICA is a stretch,” Kessler wrote.

Then–Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) director John Brennan was so insistent on including the dossier in the ICA that he apparently defied warnings from numerous agency officials who asserted its inclusion could compromise the assessment’s integrity, according to a 2025 CIA review of the ICA, commissioned by CIA director John Ratcliffe.

“Despite these objections, Brennan showed a preference for narrative consistency over analytical soundness,” the CIA memo stated.

■ National Public Radio (NPR) and the *NYT* also covered the Gabbard documents critically, both joining NBC and *The Washington Post* in burying a key detail from her revelations.

Gabbard’s documents show Obama canceled a Dec. 9, 2016, Presidential Daily Brief (PBD), which then-president-elect Donald Trump would have seen.

Trump’s former national-security adviser, Michael Flynn, previously told journalist Matt Taibbi that Flynn “would have seen” the PBD if published.

Trump had previously received a PBD in November 2016, according to CNN.