



# The OPM Nomination of John Gibbs Must Be Reconsidered

(September 1, 2020 Tuesday)

## Statement

John Gibbs is the latest Nominee by the Trump administration. If approved, he will take over the Office of Personnel Management, serving a four-year appointment. However, this appointment raises red flags for stakeholders, as the Nominee will be responsible for leading the chief human resources agency for the Federal government.

Anyone responsible for serving in an HR capacity must remain open and non-partial to employees of various backgrounds. The behavior of the Nominee, John Gibbs, is not reflective of such values.

Quoted in an article antagonizing a South Asian celebrity, Gibbs asks if the individual's faith is antiquated and incompatible with American values<sup>1</sup>. He ultimately encouraged the star to publicly denounce his faith, rather than the grievances that he has with the President. Not only is this an obstruction of the individual's freedom of speech and religion-- but it showcases the intolerance Mr. Gibbs harbors when dealing with people of various backgrounds.

Additionally, we found similarly problematic commentary on Mr. Gibbs' social media where he vocalizes his disdain with Attorney General Keith Ellison's faith-- calling it a "liability" <sup>2</sup>.

In both these instances, the individuals were practitioners of Islam. For a federal government that is meant to serve all Americans, we can not ignore Muslim Americans. We fear that the appointment of John Gibbs will bully out diversity from OPM and create a non-inclusive, biased atmosphere in one of our most essential government agencies.

We request that the President withdraw his Nomination and appoint someone capable and qualified to take on the role.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://thefederalist.com/2016/06/28/aziz-ansari-should-protest-sharia-not-donald-trump/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://thefederalist.com/author/johngibbs/>



## Questions for Nominee

1. Can you provide an experience where you have been able to positively work with a subordinate who had different beliefs than you?
2. Do you believe your past statements regarding Muslims will impact your ability to lead a very diverse federal workforce?
3. Do you regret your part in spreading anti-muslim sentiments?
4. Please recount the titles of the pieces of media that you published that were written with Islam/Muslims as the focus.
5. Given the numerous statements you have both publicly given and written regarding the Islamic Faith, how will you be able to create an inclusive and unbiased atmosphere in one of our most essential government agencies?
6. Your incendiary tweets, specifically those regarding Attorney General Keith Ellison, do not match your statements on being accepting of those with different views than yourself. How do you plan on defending career federal workers who may face undue pressure or retribution merely for their political and personal views?
7. There have been numerous pieces you have published which have been disparaging of Islam, and at the same time fostered and promoted extreme, nonsensical conspiracy theories. Do you believe what you have written to be true, and if so how are you able to separate these beliefs from impacting your work as the potential director of a workforce that may have views different than yours.
8. In an Interview with Actor Aziz Ansari, you mentioned that he should curb his public criticism of Donald Trump and instead look to the issues within Sharia Law. Do you agree that silencing an individual's concerns about the administration is an infringement of the first amendment? How do you plan on dealing with employees who will share grievances regarding the current administration?