

Keith Ellison on The Dean Obeidallah Show

The Dean Obeidallah Show

Broadcast: July 07, 2026 • Duration: 31:13

DEAN OBEIDALLAH:

Welcome back to the Dino B. Dollar Show. Joining us now is our friend, Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison. Before that, served in the House of Representatives, the first Muslim ever liked the Congress back in 2006, when no one had any Muslim friends then. Now we're everywhere, we're taking over. Mayor of New York, Lieutenant Governor, we just did a State Senate, you know, it's all over the place now. How are you?

KEITH ELLISON:

Daniel Pipe's worst nightmare.

DEAN OBEIDALLAH:

Oh my God, that's right. Steve Emerson is dropping, he's messing up his jaws right now. Remember Pam Geller was like the leading-

KEITH ELLISON:

Pam Geller, oh my God.

DEAN OBEIDALLAH:

She's like, gone. She got it, you know, they got a lot of them got eclipsed by Trump, because he said what they were saying, and so it wasn't meaningful anymore that they were saying it, Trump was saying ban Muslims and all that stuff.

KEITH ELLISON:

Yeah, yeah. They used to be a whole little team.

DEAN OBEIDALLAH:

Right. There was a woman who was Lebanese American, she was real mean.

KEITH ELLISON:

Yeah, Bridget Gabriel, Bridget Gabriel. I was like, well, why is this lady so mad? And then there was a Galbats guy, I can't think of his first name, but there was a paranoid industry making a living on telling everybody that the Muslims are so bad, and coming to get you, and Sharia law, and you know, all this paranoid nutty stuff. I don't know if I blame them, grifters, or the people who actually gave them money for this project. There was a Somali American woman from the Netherlands, I can't remember her name.

DEAN OBEIDALLAH:

Hursa Ali?

KEITH ELLISON:

That might be her. Yeah, I heard there was Robert Spencer, and Frank Gaffney, and all these people, yeah.

DEAN OBEIDALLAH:

Yeah, they figured they could make some money by dehumanizing other people, so.

KEITH ELLISON:

Yeah, but look, you know, so it faded away, but in Texas, it's going to-

DEAN OBEIDALLAH:

But we're not.

KEITH ELLISON:

We're not.

DEAN OBEIDALLAH:

No, and Muslims are doing much better, but in Texas, they're really leaning into it again, and I'm not sure what's happened there. They've really made it harder for Muslims to have any kind of events.

KEITH ELLISON:

Yeah, yeah. It got ugly there, I'm not sure what happened. Well, I'm telling you, we gotta sue, we gotta stand up. The answer is push back, not hide, it won't work. Running for cover and hiding in the mosque is not gonna work. It will never work, and you know, here's the thing. The Constitution says that Congress shall make no law establishing a religion, or abridge the free exercise thereof. The Constitution said there's no religious test. Where the Constitution talks about religion at all, it says it's a private matter of the individual, not government policy, so that's really, the Constitution's on our side. Most Americans are perfectly happy to vote for somebody who's Muslim.

DEAN OBEIDALLAH:

Right, we're seeing them win, yeah.

KEITH ELLISON:

Even though there's been some bigotry against Zoran, it was unbelievable, and now you have Abdullah Al-Sayed in Michigan, and we'll see what happens. Now, it's a two-person race. If he gets a nomination, I think it'll get, it'll really come after him in big numbers.

DEAN OBEIDALLAH:

Oh yeah, well, you know, God willing, he will win. He is an excellent candidate. I mean, this guy knows public health like nobody else in Congress, right? He understands everything from water quality to preventing infectious disease. You know, he understands, I mean, he would be a clear asset to the U.S. Congress. He has a knowledge base that will advance human welfare in the United States, and so I really am a very strong supporter of, I call him Abdul Rahman, because there's always, it's something funny about me calling him Abdul, because it just means servant of, you know?

KEITH ELLISON:

Right, nobody, people named Abdul always have, my father's first name was Abdul, but it was Abdul Musa Rahman Obeidallah, like that was always a bunch of things, you know? So it's all good, whatever people wanna call themselves. I tell you this, Dr. Abdul El-Sayed is a fine candidate who brings a lot to the race. And why not ask the question, bombs there or housing here? I mean, it really is a guns versus butter kind of a question we're being faced with. I mean, can we really afford to fuel militarism abroad anywhere while we have such tremendous human needs here? And so I think it's a legitimate question. I think it's a smart question. And I think that anybody who actually voted for Trump because of some sort of an America first thing, where they think we should spend more money on Americans, not abroad, I think that he might have some conservative, what we call conservative crossover too. Because one more thing Dean on this issue, Americans have learned that the boogeyman that these anti-Muslim haters said was looming was just a lie, you know what I mean? So you're right, I was the first one, but thank God I wasn't the last. And you got Andre, after that, you've got Rashida and Ilhan after that. And now you got Dara Lisa, you got-

DEAN OBEIDALLAH:

Latifah Simon's in the house already.

KEITH ELLISON:

Oh yeah, how can I forget Latifah Simon's so brilliant. You got a woman named Aisha Wahab come in and you got Adam Hamawi come in.

DEAN OBEIDALLAH:

Yeah. And-

KEITH ELLISON:

The Sharia Caucus.

DEAN OBEIDALLAH:

We're gonna have a Sharia Caucus.

KEITH ELLISON:

Yeah, and what are these people? These people are not, I mean, look, it would be fine if they were known for being religious scholars. You know, there's plenty of ministers in Congress, but they're known for activism, medicine. They're known for community organizing, community uplift. They're known for public safety. They're known for all these things that America really needs. And they're all elected by people who are mostly not Muslim or Arab American. Even Rashida, most of the people in her district are not Muslims.

DEAN OBEIDALLAH:

No.

KEITH ELLISON:

And so they're getting support from a broad cross-section of Americans. Because at the end of the day, people do know that all those people we talked about in the beginning are liars. Daniel Pipes is a liar. He's a liar. Emerson is a liar. They're all lying. And they had their own political reasons for the lies, but they're not telling you the truth. And in fact, we're just electing people who are putting the public interest first and that's why they're getting elected.

DEAN OBEIDALLAH:

Very much so. So, you know, there's the big races now in the Democratic Party in the primary, which is healthy to have primaries. But for some reason, there's really an anger towards some of the progressives. Some are democratic socialists in terms of they're part of DSA. Others are just progressive. And, you know, there are elements of socialism that are part of our system today, including Medicare and social security. How about policing? How about you call the cops, guess who pays them? Your tax dollars. Guess what that is? That's socialism, pal. Sorry. You don't contract for your own private police department or fire department or water inspection or public works. But what do you make of this kind of really, you've got democratic leaders, some, not all of course, some who are very, very upset and you have a petition signed by Congressman Tom Suozzi and Josh Keinheimer and a few others defending socialism. I mean, I'm sorry, capitalism. Like one of their big tenants, we want to defend capitalism. First of all, only eight of you in the house that signed it. Are you saying the rest of you? I mean, what is going on here?

KEITH ELLISON:

Well, when you can only get eight signatures on a house of 435, you shouldn't have done it. Because what it really does is expose your weakness. Right? And I mean, look, the capitalists, the real ones, not the people who are just working class people like Suozzi, who is not a capitalist. He does not own the means of production, by the way. He just is in favor of them, but he's not one of them. Look, Bezos does not return Suozzi's calls unless he needs them for something. Right? That's, you know. So let's make a difference between people who are capitalists and people who are working class, but they want to suck up to the capitalists. There's a vast difference between those two people. One of them owns the plane. The other one wants to ride on it and works on it. You know? So let's just be clear about what's what and who's who. I think that they're just silly guys who history will look upon as a punchline. I mean, I know both Josh and Tom. I don't dislike either one of them. I actually like both of them fine. But they're making themselves look stupid because they are certainly focusing on the wrong thing. I mean, here's the thing. The right thing is that Zoran Mondani, who I had the pleasure of hanging out with recently. I don't know if you, I even put some pictures of us online. And I was hanging out with Dara Lisa too and Brad Lander as well. I mean, the fact is these people are talking about healthcare and housing. And what are you talking about? Some ism. People don't give a crap about the ism schism. They care about potholes and their rent and gas prices. That's what they're concerned about. So in a moment when Trump is violating every tenant of conservatism in America, except racism, you're gonna fall. You're not gonna attack him and the conservative mantra. I mean, they said they're against public debt. They drive it up. They said they're against taxation. They cut them for the richest and they raise them for on everybody else. They say that they're for jobs. The job we've had a job drought. They say all these things and that they have violated and yet Tom and Josh are focusing on some 28, nine-year-olds who are concerned about things like medical debt, student loan debt and housing. I just think it's the most backward ass thing in the world. And by the way, another friend of mine, a guy who I like and admire, I mean, James Carville is cool guy as far as I'm concerned, but he's spending time saying that, I don't wanna be in a democratic party with him. I'm like, dude, you were the one who said it's the economy, stupid. Now suddenly you have forgotten what you became famous for. It's kind of startling. I mean, how did all these people who seem to know, I mean, like Swazi. Swazi is what you call like a blue collar Dem. He's a union Dem. He's not into identity politics, but he's into the money. He's into good jobs. He's into work wages. And yet he does not understand the appeal of these people. Are you listening to yourself, guys?

DEAN OBEIDALLAH:

I can only assume in both cases, they represent more upper scale suburban communities that the people don't have issues paying their rent. I'm sure some do, but they don't come up to them. And it's that a lot of upper

scale people. So you have that kind of world where, what a difference from Daryl Lisa's district or Brad Lander's district or Claire Valdez's district who won here in New York as well. And the others, I mean, Malad Kiros. But Denver's like upscale too. But the people there wanted a message of, I had a run right before she won a few days before. And the whole point of her is that people don't care about these labels. They're struggling and they wanna hear how you can help them. That's what it's all about. And so here's the thing. We live in a moment when the richest have never been richer.

KEITH ELLISON:

I know. JP Morgan, Dale Carnegie, Rockefeller. Name the richest of the rich between 1890 and 1920. Think about the richest of the Gilded Age. I'm talking about, they own the railroads and the banks and the oil companies. These people don't, those guys were not as rich as the ones right now.

DEAN OBEIDALLAH:

Of course, yeah.

KEITH ELLISON:

And look, let's look at it logically. You cannot consume a trillion dollars. So what does it mean that one person has a trillion dollars? It means that they control a trillion dollars worth of resources all on their own. It means they get to say who's in Congress or not, who's gonna be employed or not, who's gonna get a contract or not, and their wealth is not limited to the United States. They try to tell the Brazilians that, the Indians that, people all over the world. They are literally trying to control the world. The world doesn't need anyone like that. The world doesn't need anybody who says war here, no war there, or if there's gonna be a war, I damn well better get the contract for the satellites. We don't need nobody like that. We don't need anyone like that. These things should be guided by democracy. And when you look at Elon Musk, he's a trillionaire, he doesn't seem happy. He seems angry all the time. He's angry, he's grievance-driven. Non-white people are everywhere. He's very upset about non-white people. He's mad at the women. He's mad at the brown people. He's mad at working class people. He's just, he marches around pissed off all the time. If I was a trillionaire, I think I'd be happy. I think, I don't know. If I don't know, maybe I wouldn't be. But he's bitter and angry. Maybe that's how he connects to some of the blue collar people, I don't know.

DEAN OBEIDALLAH:

And I'm talking about Attorney General Keith Ellison. So let's shift gears for a second. One big thing is, and I had Aaron Ford on, the AG of Nevada the other day, nice guy, running for governor. Good guy, he's a Democratic nominee. Talk about how he'll protect our elections. Look, in your state as well, Trump talks about your state a lot in a horrible tone, of course. And he actually targeted the largest deployment of immigration agents in the history of the United States between December 3rd and February 12th, resulting in the deaths of multiple people, including Rene Good and Alex Pretty and the shooting of Julia Sosa Solis and other crimes. And so far, well, up until, you know, and these people will be held accountable. I would just want your listeners to know, you haven't heard about this a lot, but that does not mean we're not working hard every single day.

KEITH ELLISON:

I'm telling you on my word of honor, we are working on this on a daily basis. And we filed the motions, we're getting our case together, and there will be accountability.

DEAN OBEIDALLAH:

That's good, and I wanna talk about that as well. But look, the elections, we're 124 days, 123 days from the election. Like it's that long right now. And every single day, Donald Trump was talking about rigging the election. Every day, the Save Act, and Democrats are trying to steal the election. As AGs, I mean, I know you guys, I know you're wargaming it out and all that. We talk about like, if you try to interfere in our elections, we're gonna prosecute from Trump down. They violate state laws. Like, how do you know that you're gonna step up swiftly and charge these guys, whoever's involved?

KEITH ELLISON:

Thank you for bringing this out, because again, as I go to parades and community meetings, and I go to community gatherings, and this time of the year, people are out and they're talking, and they ask me stuff like, what's going on with the elections? And I tell them, we are working on this. We are ready to sue. We've already sued. We have cases going on now. We've been winning the cases that have come up recently. And so, I want people to be aware that not only AGs, Dem AGs, but also Dem Secretaries of State, and we're also in touch with groups like the ACLU and others in red states, so we can file amicus briefs with them if they need our help. We are not, we are very, this is something. Now look, and I don't wanna over-promise, right? I don't mean to imply by telling you that we're prepared and working hard every day that we got it all worked out. If you're out there listening to Dean's show and you get a brilliant idea, we do want it and we do need it. So don't, I'm not saying we got this, we got this. I'm saying we got it to the degree that we can and we want more help, right? And that in the most amazing thing we can do is to massively turn out the vote because if you wanna steal an election, it's easier to steal a close one than it is a one where you've won overwhelmingly. If we beat the pants off of them, if we turn out 70%, 80% in a midterm, which is historic, it's a lot harder to steal that one. So all of you guys who are thinking, oh my God, why don't Ellison and the Dem AGs get busy? We are, and we also need you to go start organizing people to vote. And we need both. We don't need one or the other, we need all. We need election protection and election mobilization. We need both.

DEAN OBEIDALLAH:

So just so it's clear though, as AGs, you have the power to prosecute people for violating state law. Will Donald Trump or if any of his minions interfere in election in Minnesota or Michigan or his other states with his Democratic AGs, will there be any hesitation to swiftly hold them accountable and investigate and prosecute?

KEITH ELLISON:

There will be no hesitation. We will do it immediately, but people should know that Dem AGs don't all have the same uniform powers. In some states, the AG can just prosecute you. In other states, we work with county attorneys to do it. In other states, if the governor gives me the case, it's my case, but if otherwise, it's presumed to be the county attorney's case. But I can tell you that whether it's civil and criminal, we will be on top of this, no question, immediately. And we're working, like in New Jersey, the AG is the top cop, right? So, you know, Jen Davenport can sue you, prosecute you if you do it in New Jersey. Same thing in Delaware. In Connecticut, you're probably gonna be dealing with the county attorney, but I promise you, William Tong is gonna be right there doing his good part on the civil side. So-

DEAN OBEIDALLAH:

They're a good point. Not every state has the same power. And we have to get AG on. And so let's talk about, DOJ came after you, came after Governor Walden, yourself, and some of the others. They wanted to do a subpoena via grand jury. They did, to begin an investigation. And remarkably, the federal judge said, Patrick Schlitz, said that this was blatantly unlawful and unethical effort to retaliate against Democrats here. So, you know, you have people who are against their Metro's search. Can you tell us a little bit about it? What

happened?

KEITH ELLISON:

Well, let me just be clear. You know, Trump has identified an enemies list.

DEAN OBEIDALLAH:

Yeah.

KEITH ELLISON:

And a lot of people listening may not know that I was on it, Governor Walz was on it, Mayor Frey was on it, and he's gonna get us, right? We had coverage on Comey and Letitia James and Ken Powell, but there are actually quite a few people on his enemies list. And that enemies list included us. And he, so he files these subpoenas to try to dig up dirt on us, but he doesn't have any case at all. We filed a motion to quash their subpoenas and we were successful. And the judge is no, the judge is no liberal. The judge is no, he's a conservative guy. He is a Federalist Society guy, but this is a judge who is, but still believes in the rule of law and to be fair and to apply the law properly. The evidence was very clear that this was vindictive in me and spiteful and part, and it was driven by ill motive, was not driven by trying to protect the public from criminal conduct. And so he just dumped their thing. And so I, how did I feel? I felt a certain amount of relief, but look, let me tell you, they dismissed the case against Don Lemon in New York, and then they ran to LA and got an indictment. So I don't think that these guys are gonna just quit. I mean, they're committed to their retribution campaign. So I don't, I'm not sleeping. What I'm doing is fighting back and telling the public that they're engaged in vindictive prosecution all over the country. And look, people think, anybody who's a conservative listen, so will you guys prosecute Trump? Because he broke the law. He attempted a coup right in front of us. He attempted a coup right in front of us. He did sexually abuse E.J. and Carol. He did undervalue his buildings and then overstate his income with the whole fraud thing. He did these things. He did commit election fraud by paying off a porn star to not talk about the affair so that he could have an advantage in the election. These are things that he did. The things he's accusing all of us of, nobody did these things.

DEAN OBEIDALLAH:

Well, you hear a judge put in writing that what the DOJ was doing was quote blatantly unlawful and unethical. Doesn't this rise to a level of potentially disbaring lawyers?

KEITH ELLISON:

I think it should. I mean, I put it like this, when you become a lawyer, you're a lawyer. I mean, you and I are lawyers. And we both swore an oath to operate ethically. When you knowingly commence a prosecution or a criminal investigation for pure vindictiveness, you don't deserve to be a lawyer anymore. That's a violation of rules of professional conduct. There's one specifically for prosecutors. This is, I think there should be consequences for these lawyers who are involved. They think that Trump can pardon them.

DEAN OBEIDALLAH:

Doesn't it protect them from being disbarred?

KEITH ELLISON:

That's right. Trump can't re-bar you or whatever the hell the word is for it. I mean, I totally agree, Dean. And I gotta tell you, I admire the lawyers, even some of them who are pretty conservative and supported Trump. They

got to a point where they just couldn't do it anymore. They got to, you know what? I'm out. I can tell you that 14 U.S. attorneys, assistant U.S. attorneys quit in the District of Minnesota because Trump said after the shooting of Renee Good, oh yeah, we're gonna do an investigation, all right, on her wife, not the person who shot her. And not on Mr. Ross, Jonathan Ross, who shot her down. And so they said, you know, I'm a conservative person. I don't mind prosecuting criminals, but I didn't sign up for that. And they walked away. This is called ethics. If you don't, and anybody who's not willing to quit when their ethics are challenged doesn't deserve the honor of being called an officer of the court or a lawyer. You just need to go. And so I sure think you're right about that. I hope the people will look at, everybody who filed one of these fake cases, I hope there's people who filed. By the way, every other day I open up an envelope from the Board of Ethics because they filed BS charges on me.

DEAN OBEIDALLAH:

Wow.

KEITH ELLISON:

Keith Ellison is not arrested, Ilhan Omar. That's not my job. Case, they dismiss, dismiss, dismiss, dismiss, dismiss. They do it all the time. And so my question is, and these are all fake, so what about ones that's actually legit?

DEAN OBEIDALLAH:

I agree. And I don't know who the ones have to file those complaints. Very last thing, because I think I saw your post about it. What's your reaction to Supreme Court legalizing discrimination against transgender athletes?

KEITH ELLISON:

Here's the thing. Liberty and justice for all. All means all. We were talking about Muslims. Liberty and justice for the Christians, the Muslims, the Jews, the Hindus, the non-believers, everybody. Liberty and justice for them. Liberty and justice for the heterosexual, the homosexual, the bisexual, the transgender, everybody that is your business. It's not my business. You live your life the way that you think you should. Don't hurt anybody else. Don't break any laws. But the fact that he's persecuting this community and the Supreme Court is going along with it is very disturbing. And I just want everybody to just, to keep it in mind. There's a case called 303 Creative, which says that if somebody can hang out a shingle saying we don't do videos, cakes, or nothing, we don't serve gay people if their expression is their relationship. And I know some religious people, because I'm a person who goes to mosques. If I'm in town, I'm one of them. And they said, oh, that's against our religion anyway. I said, well, look, first of all, I'll leave that to the imam. I'm not one of them. But I do know this. The people who hate them, hate you too. The people who want to take their rights away would be happy to take your rights away. These people, so be careful before you want to jump on that bandwagon. Now, we're gonna expand discrimination to the transgender community. So now you got LGBT, you got transgender. How long will it be before somebody says, I believe that when Noah cursed Canaan, Ham's son, that that's my religion, and I don't want any black people in this store of mine. How far away is that? I don't want, or you always hear these people say, we're a Christian nation, we're a Christian nation. How long before somebody says, we only serve Christians in this store? Or you have to pay an extra amount of money if you're not Christian. Or, I mean, think about what these bad people would try to do. And I'm gonna tell you, you think Alito wouldn't be for it?

DEAN OBEIDALLAH:

Oh, I agree. They're coming for the Civil Rights Act. They're gonna chip away at the Civil Rights Act. The war on DEI is part of the war on civil rights. It's going back to segregation. Like it's the goal. And it won't be exactly the

same. What they will do is get rid of the Civil Rights Act and then let all the bigots do their thing. And so you will walk by stores that say, no blacks, no Jews, no Arabs, no this, no this, no this. And that is their vision. We must embrace the fact that these people are out to get us. And they are very, very clear about it. Who's not clear? Those of us who are the targets of it. We fight with each other. We don't take it seriously enough. We think that the person on our side is the problem. Now I'm talking about Josh and Tom, who don't really get that if they're a centrist dem, that somebody who's basically a Roosevelt Democrat, basically a Michael Harrington Democrat. You know what I mean? I mean, they don't get that they're not the enemy. They think they are, they're not. And so they keep us confused, fighting against each other. And so I would say today, get clear on what's happening. Jim Crow segregation is their goal. And understand that they've been able to make strides on the Supreme Court. I mean, and I'm gonna tell you the court also, I mean, I love how the court said, oh yeah, the stripping TPS from Haitians is not overtly racist. And then Elena Kagan is like, yes it is. What is the eating the cats and the dogs? What is the whole shithole country thing? What is all of this stuff about? And so she just made them look like a bunch of liars and gaslighters. And then the thing with the transgender community and even the birthright citizenship, we should yes, celebrate the fact that five people are clear on the constitutionality of the birthright citizenship, 14th Amendment. One is sort of like, well, if we did a statute, maybe actually Kavanaugh is quite wrong, quite wrong about that. That a statute can't change the 14th Amendment. He's just saying that he doesn't really care about the 14th Amendment. And he's willing to violate it. Now the other three were like openly like 14th Amendment, Schmartina Amendment, they don't give a damn boy. And people were telling me, oh, Clarence Thomas, he's black. Well, you know what, Clarence Thomas ended up, yeah, be trying using a race-based argument to deny immigrants. This was for black people newly free. Oh, so now you're black. We thought she was colorblind. We thought you were transparent see-through like cellophane. We thought you were colorless, Clarence. Now suddenly you're all about claiming to be blackness. Why? To deny people opportunity. And so it's just the disgusting nature of this human being just reveals over and over and over again.

KEITH ELLISON:

That's a great insight there. He found himself, he's black again, just discriminating against others.

DEAN OBEIDALLAH:

I have to let you go, A.G. Ellison. It's great to see you, my friend.

KEITH ELLISON:

Always.

DEAN OBEIDALLAH:

Stay strong. I look forward to chatting with you next month.

KEITH ELLISON:

You got it, bro. I don't have enough context from the transcript segment you've shared — it appears the actual transcript text may not have come through with your message. Could you please paste the transcript segment you'd like me to add speaker labels to?

This transcript was independently produced by MN-06 Watch for accountability and archival purposes.

Source: The Dean Obeidallah Show (July 07, 2026)

Archived: July 09, 2026

Source URL: <https://youtu.be/BW0uWCHJx2o>

For questions or corrections: mn06watch@gmail.com