



REJECTING VOTERS, BACKING DENIERS

***How Amazon powers and profits off the Trump
Administration's election sabotage attempts***



POWER**SWITCH**
ACTION

INTRODUCTION

On September 25, 2026, the Supreme Court allowed states to resume using the Trump administration's expanded SAVE tool, which checks the citizenship of registered voters against federal records. The tool has already flagged tens of thousands of voters as potential noncitizens, and evidence from Texas suggests that a meaningful share of them are in fact citizens, creating the likelihood of disenfranchisement.

Far less attention has gone to the company whose infrastructure makes the system run. SAVE is hosted on Amazon data centers, and in June 2026 the Department of Homeland Security deepened its reliance on Amazon Web Services by awarding it the largest share of a department-wide cloud contract worth up to \$2.5 billion.

Amazon's role in SAVE is part of a broader relationship with the current administration. Since January 2025, AWS's federal contract awards have climbed sharply, and Amazon has saved billions of dollars under the 2025 tax law, provisions of which it lobbied to shape. Alongside these gains, Amazon has moved away from the commitment it made after January 6, 2021, to stop funding members of Congress who voted to overturn the 2020 election. Its PAC now regularly gives to those members, including the House Speaker and Majority Leader. Amazon has also become the largest tech-sector donor to the Republican Attorneys General Association, whose affiliated arm promoted the January 6 rally which led to the attack on the Capitol.

This brief examines each of these connections: how Amazon's data centers provide the AWS infrastructure behind SAVE, Amazon's gains under the current administration, and its political spending since the 2020 election. Together, they show a corporation that powers the administration's efforts to determine who gets to vote, is a growing financial supporter of politicians who have denied election results, and makes billions in the process.

AMAZON DATA CENTERS POWER THE ADMINISTRATION'S UNPRECEDENTED CITIZENSHIP TOOL

SAVE: A VOTER-CITIZENSHIP TOOL WITH A RECORD OF ERRORS

Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) is a decades-old USCIS tool that was built to check the immigration status of noncitizens applying for public benefits. In March 2025, Trump issued an executive order directing DHS to expand it,¹ which it did in collaboration with DOGE, an agency that gained scrutiny over its errors, miscalculations, and mishandling of American's personal data.² For the first time, SAVE was linked to Social Security Administration records covering most Americans and bulk queries were enabled.³ Administration officials have since sought to add passport and state driver's license data.⁴

The tool is now central to what civil rights' and voting rights' groups describe as an unprecedented federal push to wrest control of elections from the states.⁵ The Department of Justice demanded full, unredacted voter rolls from 49 states and Washington, D.C. and intends to compare them against SAVE to identify suspected noncitizens.⁶ DHS and FEMA have told states they will lose Homeland Security funding if they fail to use the SAVE system to verify the citizenship of every voter.⁷ Homeland Security Secretary Markwayne Mullin warned that election officials in states that refuse to run their voter rolls through SAVE could face criminal charges.⁸ The Brennan Center has called the Administration's demands "unprecedented and a clear encroachment on states' power to run elections as outlined in the Constitution."⁹

Many states are fighting back. A coalition of 24 attorneys general and two governors sued FEMA and DHS over the grant conditions.¹⁰ The SAVE expansion was the subject of a lawsuit which resulted in an injunction in June 2026.¹¹ U.S. District Judge Sparkle Sooknunan found the government violated federal privacy law, saying it "haphazardly combined and repurposed the private information of millions of Americans, including citizenship data that they knew to be unreliable."¹² On September 25, 2026, six justices on the Supreme Court paused her injunction, and the expanded SAVE program can now be used again.¹³

In addition to questions about privacy, the SAVE tool is deeply inaccurate. The Solicitor General told the Court that since May 2025 the updated SAVE had checked more than 65 million voters in 26 states and flagged 28,635 as potential noncitizens. The program's error rate has not been made public, but evidence from states that have used SAVE are troubling.¹⁴ In Texas, where the Secretary

of State ran the 18 million-person voter list through SAVE, more than 20% of the 2,724 voters SAVE flagged were later confirmed as citizens and reinstated.¹⁵ Naturalized citizens are especially exposed because underlying federal records may not reflect their change in status,¹⁶ and Black Americans are particularly vulnerable because their names are more likely to be misspelled in government databases and because of incomplete birth records from underfunded or segregated hospitals.¹⁷

SAVE RUNS ON AMAZON DATA CENTERS

The SAVE program runs on Amazon data centers. According to DHS's privacy filings, the Verification Information System (VIS), the technical backbone of both SAVE and E-Verify,¹⁸ was migrated to Amazon Web Services in 2019.¹⁹ A separate DHS Privacy Impact Assessment from October 2025 confirms that the Verification Information System is "in the Amazon Web Services cloud environment."²⁰ A third-party IT consultant, Facile Technologies, describes their role in the USCIS project to migrate VIS, SAVE, and E-Verify infrastructure to AWS.²¹ USCIS's former CIO, Mark Schwartz, went on to write for AWS's enterprise strategy blog, using USCIS's cloud transformation as a case study.²²

The AWS "cloud" is physical: Amazon operates a network of data centers across the U.S. that underpins modern computing. AWS holds billions of dollars in federal cloud contracts, and its footprint inside of DHS has grown under the current administration: in June 2026, AWS received the first and by far the largest award under DHS's department-wide cloud contract, Cumulus, worth up to \$2.5 billion.²³ Cumulus requires every vendor to maintain redundancy across multiple geographically dispersed data centers to protect against natural and man-made disasters.²⁴ Systems hosted under the contract therefore run across multiple facilities rather than a single site.

The administration's voter-citizenship checks depend on Amazon's infrastructure, and DHS has just committed to relying on it more.

AMAZON'S GAINS UNDER THE SECOND TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

Amazon has become one of the leading corporate beneficiaries of the second Trump administration. Its gains have come through two channels: a sharp increase in federal contracting and billions of dollars in taxes avoided from the 2025 tax law.

FEDERAL CONTRACT AWARDS HAVE SURGED

In the first 19 months of the second Trump administration, AWS received federal contract awards worth a total of \$3.672 billion.²⁵ That is an annualized rate of roughly \$2.32 billion – a pace 159% higher than under the Biden administration, when AWS awards totaled \$3.579 billion over four years, or about \$895 million per year.²⁶

Amazon's contracts with the federal government include extensive work with ICE,²⁷ the agency at the center of the Administration's deportation campaign and that Trump has threatened to send to polling locations during the midterms.²⁸ AWS also hosts Palantir's controversial surveillance-tech system that underpins deportation operations.²⁹ Amazon workers have organized against the company's role in deportations since 2018.³⁰

BILLIONS IN TAXES AVOIDED FROM THE "BIG BEAUTIFUL BILL"

Amazon has also benefitted substantially from the tax law President Trump signed in July 2025, the so-called "One Big Beautiful Bill." According to The Wall Street Journal, Amazon's current U.S. taxes fell from \$9 billion to \$1.2 billion in 2025 (current taxes are an accounting measure of taxes incurred during the last year).³¹ The decline came even as Amazon's pretax U.S. profit rose 45 percent, to \$89.5 billion.³²

Two provisions drove most of the savings. The first allows companies to deduct certain capital investments immediately rather than spreading the write-offs over several years. This is especially valuable to Amazon, whose large data center build-out involves a significant amount of qualifying equipment.³³ The second permits immediate deductions for new domestic research and lets companies accelerate deductions that had previously been deferred.³⁴ The Wall Street Journal reported that Amazon lobbied on the bill and helped push for the changes to the research deduction.³⁵ These gains have coincided with a marked shift in Amazon's political giving.

AMAZON'S SUPPORT OF ELECTION DENIERS

Less than a week after the January 6, 2021 attack on the U.S. Capitol, Amazon announced that its political action committee would suspend contributions to any member of Congress who voted to overturn the results of the 2020 election.³⁶ The company described the objections as an “unacceptable attempt to undermine a legitimate democratic process.”³⁷ This section reviews Federal Election Commission (FEC) filings and other sources to assess how Amazon’s political giving has changed since that commitment.

2022 CYCLE: AMAZON ENDS THE SUSPENSION

A partial review of FEC-reported contributions shows that Amazon abandoned the pledge in September 2022. That month, the Amazon PAC gave a combined \$17,500 to nine House members who voted against certification: August Pfluger (R-TX), Stephanie Bice (R-OK), Tom Cole (R-OK), Darrell Issa (R-CA), Garret Graves (R-LA), Sam Graves (R-MO), Mario Diaz-Balart (R-FL), Mike Rogers (R-AL), and Rob Wittman (R-VA).³⁸

2024 CYCLE: GIVING EXPANDS

By the 2024 cycle, contributions to objecting members had grown substantially. The Amazon PAC gave \$159,000 to 39 of the 139 House members who voted against certifying the 2020 election results from Pennsylvania, Arizona, or both.³⁹

Direct contributions understate the full extent of support for some members, since lawmakers with multiple fundraising vehicles can receive more than the \$10,000 per-cycle candidate maximum.⁴⁰ House Majority Leader Steve Scalise (R-LA), a leading objector in 2020, illustrates this pattern. In addition to the \$10,000 Amazon gave directly to his campaign in 2024, the corporation contributed \$10,000 to the Scalise Leadership Fund 2024 and \$5,000 to his Eye of the Tiger PAC.⁴¹

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE REPUBLICAN ATTORNEYS GENERAL ASSOCIATION (RAGA)

Amazon’s giving also extends to organizations that operate under lighter disclosure requirements than federal PACs. Political organizations formed under Section 527 of the Internal Revenue Code are frequently used by donors seeking to maximize impact while limiting public visibility.

RAGA, a section 527 organization, has been among the most active supporters of efforts to contest the 2020 election and of recent redistricting efforts.⁴² Robocalls associated with RAGA’s 501(c)(4), the Rule of Law Defense Fund, encouraged people to attend the January 6, 2021 “Stop the Steal” rally.⁴³ According to research from the nonpartisan Center for Political Accountability, Amazon briefly reduced its RAGA contributions after January 6 but has since become the organization’s largest tech-sector donor. Since 2024, Amazon has given more than \$580,000 to RAGA.⁴⁴

CONCLUSION

Less than a week after the January 6, 2021 attack, Amazon condemned the effort to overturn the 2020 election as an unacceptable move to undermine democracy. Five years later, Amazon's data centers run the system the Trump Administration is using to question the citizenship of millions of registered voters. Meanwhile, the corporation has collected \$3.672 billion in federal contracts, avoided paying \$8 billion in taxes under a law it lobbied for, and resumed contributions to members of Congress it had once pledged to suspend. It has also become the largest tech-sector donor to an organization whose affiliate promoted the rally that preceded the Capitol attack. All of this paints a picture of a corporation that profits from the administration's push to disenfranchise voters while bankrolling the politicians who tried to overturn the 2020 election.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thanks to Steve Askin, Amy Callner, and Matthew Teaman for background research used in this report.

ENDNOTES

- 1 The White House. (2026, March 31). *Ensuring citizenship verification and integrity in federal elections*. TheWhiteHouse.gov. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2026/03/ensuring-citizenship-verification-and-integrity-in-federal-elections/>
- 2 Department of Homeland Security. (2025, April 22). *DHS, USCIS, DOGE Overhaul Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements Database*. <https://www.dhs.gov/>. <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2025/04/22/dhs-uscis-doge-overhaul-systematic-alien-verification-entitlements-database>
- 3 Federal Register. (2025, October 31). *Privacy Act of 1974; System of Records*. Federal Register: The Daily Journal of the United States Government. <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/10/31/2025-19735/privacy-act-of-1974-system-of-records>
- 4 Nehamas, N., & Montague, Z. (2026, September 25). Here's How Trump is Building a National Citizenship Database to Check Voters. *The New York Times*. <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/09/25/us/politics/what-to-know-citizenship-database.html>
- 5 Allen, J. (2026, May 19). *Voting rights group seeks ruling to prevent federal interference in elections before 2026 midterms*. Protect Democracy. <https://protectdemocracy.org/work/voting-rights-federal-interference-2026-midterms/>
- 6 *ibid.*
- 7 Arizona Attorney General's Office. (2026, July 24). *Attorney General Mayes Files Lawsuit Challenging Unlawful Conditions on Federal Counterterrorism funding | Attorney General's Office*. <https://www.azag.gov/>. <https://www.azag.gov/press-release/attorney-general-mayes-files-lawsuit-challenging-unlawful-conditions-federal>
- 8 Knutson, J. (2026, July 17). DHS Secretary Mullin threatens to Prosecute election chiefs who refuse voter roll demands - Democracy Docket. *Democracy Docket*. <https://www.democracydocket.com/news-alerts/homeland-security-mullin-threaten-state-election-officials-voter-registration-save/>
- 9 Martinez-Ochoa, K., O'Connor, E., & Berry, P. (2026, September 23). Tracker of Justice Department Requests for Voter Information. *Brennan Center for Justice*. <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/tracker-justice-department-requests-voter-information>
- 10 Noor, D. (2026, July 24). Two dozen states sue Trump White House for politicizing FEMA disaster aid. *The Guardian*. <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2026/jul/24/states-sue-trump-administration-fema-disaster-funding>
- 11 Gerstein, J. (2026, September 25). Supreme Court Lets States Use Federal Citizenship Database in Midterms. *Politico*. <https://www.politico.com/news/2026/09/25/supreme-court-save-voter-database-midterms>
- 12 Joffe-Block, J. (2026, June 23). A Federal Judge Finds a Trump Data System to Verify Voters is Unlawful. *NPR*. <https://www.npr.org/2026/06/22/nx-s1-5866719/save-voter-data-trump-judge-unlawful>
- 13 VanSickle, A. (2026, September 25). Supreme Court Allows Expansive Federal Database for Voter Screening, *New York Times*. <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/09/25/us/politics/supreme-court-citizenship-voter-lists.html>
- 14 Joffe-Block, J. (2026b, September 25). The Supreme Court revives a controversial data system for citizenship checks. *NPR*. <https://www.npr.org/2026/09/25/nx-s1-5976804/supreme-court-trump-save-noncitizen-voting>
- 15 Office of the Texas Secretary of State. (2026, September 15). *Texas Secretary of State refers 117 Cases for Investigation of Noncitizen Voting*. Texas Secretary of State Robert S Howden. <https://www.sos.state.tx.us/about/newsreleases/2026/091526.shtml>
- 16 Durkee, A. (2026, September 25). Will Supreme Court's Ruling On Voter Database Impact Your Midterms

Ballot? What To Know. *Forbes Magazine*. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/alisondurkee/2026/09/25/will-supreme-courts-ruling-on-voter-database-impact-your-midterms-ballot-what-to-know/>

- 17 NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. (2025). *Letter from NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. to U.S. Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services regarding modification of system of records*. <https://www.naacpldf.org/wp-content/uploads/2025.12.01-Notice-by-the-U.S.-Citizenship-and-Immigration-Services-Comment-FINAL-1-1.pdf>
- 18 *Privacy Act of 1974; System of Records*. (2025, October 31). Federal Register. <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/10/31/2025-19735/privacy-act-of-1974-system-of-records>. “SAVE is not a database for immigration status and citizenship information. Rather, SAVE accesses the USCIS Verification Data Integration Service which searches multiple government databases or systems to provide a SAVE response.”
- 19 U.S. Department of Homeland Security. (2019, June 18). Privacy Impact Assessment Update for the E-Verify Program. In https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/2024-12/19_0618_privacy-pia-dhsuscis030ge-verifynlets-june2019.pdf
- 20 Department of Homeland Security. (2025b). Privacy Impact Assessment for the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements “SAVE” Program. In <https://www.dhs.gov>. U.S. Department of Homeland Security. <https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/2025-10/privacy-pia-dhsuscis006d-save-october2025%20%28002%29.pdf>
- 21 <http://faciletechnologies.com/casestudy.html>
- 22 Schwartz, M. (2021, January 16). *Patterns and Anti-Patterns at USCIS | Amazon Web Services*. Amazon Web Services. <https://aws.amazon.com/blogs/enterprise-strategy/1044-2/>
- 23 Wilkers, R. (2026, June 15). *DHS finalizes first Cumulus cloud contract with AWS*. Nextgov.com. <https://www.nextgov.com/acquisition/2026/06/dhs-finalizes-first-cumulus-cloud-contract-aws/414197/>
- 24 Sam.gov. (2026, April 21). *SAM Acquisition 360*. sam.gov. <https://sam.gov/workspace/contract/opp/e7c3d0aa62604190a7f3b2db7eff4011/view>
- 25 Download of Prime Awards for Amazon Web Services, UEI NQEWN6C1LSU5, from usaspending.gov, Oct. 1, 2026. 2026. Excludes Indefinite Delivery Vehicles (IDVs) for accuracy. “Using an IDV contract can allow the government to preselect several possible vendors and then request that small groups of vendors bid against one another to complete each separate task order,” meaning the total award among can be split among several companies. <https://fedbizaccess.com/embracing-flexibility-the-benefits-of-idv-contracts/>. Including IDVs would also lead to double-counting. For example, the \$581M USAF Cloud One award to Amazon (FA872626FB004) was given under an IDV (HC105023D0005). FedBiz Access. (2023, June 9). *Embracing flexibility: The Benefits of IDV Contracts*. <https://fedbizaccess.com/embracing-flexibility-the-benefits-of-idv-contracts/>
- 26 *ibid*.
- 27 *ibid*.
- 28 C-SPAN. (2026, May 12). President Trump Says He’s Willing to Send ICE, National Guard to the Polls in November [Video]. c-span.org. <https://www.c-span.org/clip/white-house-event/president-trump-says-hes-willing-to-send-ice-national-guard-to-the-polls-in-november/5200208>
- 29 Hao, K. (2020, April 2). Amazon is the invisible backbone of ICE’s immigration crackdown. *MIT Technology Review* <https://www.technologyreview.com/2018/10/22/139639/amazon-is-the-invisible-backbone-behind-ices-immigration-crackdown/>
- 30 Hurwitz, S. (n.d.). *Amazon powers ICE. Its Workers Aren’t happy*. Mother Jones. <https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2026/05/amazon-powers-ice-its-workers-arent-happy/>
- 31 Rubin, R. (2026, February 6). Trump’s New Tax Law Saved Amazon Billions. *The Wall Street Journal*. <https://www.wsj.com/business/trumps-tax-law-sharply-cuts-amazons-corporate-tax-bill-ee94ac24>

32 *ibid.*

33 Todd Bishop, "'Big Beautiful' Tax Benefit: Amazon and Other Tech Giants Reap the Rewards of New Law, for Now," *GeekWire*, October 31, 2025, <https://www.geekwire.com/2025/big-beautiful-tax-benefit-amazon-and-other-tech-giants-reap-the-rewards-of-new-law-for-now/>. Figures based on Amazon's Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2025, <https://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/1018724/000101872425000123/amzn-20250930.htm>. See also Rubin, "Trump's New Tax Law Saved Amazon Billions," which reports that much of the equipment inside Amazon's data centers qualifies for the immediate deductions.

34 Rubin, "Trump's New Tax Law Saved Amazon Billions."

35 *ibid.*

36 Roberts, P., Long, K., & Groover, H. (2021, January 11). Microsoft, Amazon, Washington Realtors and others rethinking campaign donations after Capitol riot. *The Seattle Times*. <https://www.seattletimes.com/business/local-business/microsoft-amazon-washington-realtors-among-local-business-players-rethinking-donations-to-gop/>

37 Reuters. (2021, January 11). Amazoncom Suspends Donations to Lawmakers Who Voted Against Biden Certification. *Reuters*. <https://www.reuters.com/article/business/amazoncom-suspends-donations-to-lawmakers-who-voted-against-biden-certification-idUSKBN29G2T3/>

38 Legum, J. (2022, October 26). Amazon puts January 6 in the rearview mirror: "It's been more than 21 months." *Popular Information*. <https://popular.info/p/amazon-puts-january-6-in-the-rearview>

39 Based on a comparison of House of Representatives official roll call reports from January 6, 2021 from <https://clerk.house.gov/Votes/2021010> and <https://clerk.house.gov/Votes/2021011> with political campaign donation data available at <https://www.opensecrets.org/political-action-committees-pacs/amazon-com/C00360354/candidate-recipients/2024>

40 Federal Election Commission. (2025). *Contribution limits for 2025–2026*. <https://www.fec.gov/documents/5661/contribution-limits-chart-2025-2026.pdf>. Under federal law, a multicandidate PAC, like Amazon, may contribute up to \$5,000 per election to a federal candidate. Because primary and general elections count as separate elections, the effective ceiling is \$10,000 per candidate per two-year cycle.

41 Sherman, J. (2023, November 14). Scalise Launches Big-Money Political Vehicle. *Punchbowl News*. <https://punchbowl.news/article/campaigns/house-majority-leader-steve-scalise-fundraising-vehicle/>

42 Aratani, L. (2026, August 24). Top US firms that backed Voting Rights Act donate to groups working to undermine it. *The Guardian*. <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2026/aug/24/us-companies-voting-rights-raga>

43 Strickler, L., & Cavazuti, L. (2021, January 11). *Republican AGs group sent robocalls urging march to the Capitol*. *NBC News*. <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/republican-ags-group-sent-robocalls-urging-march-capitol-n1253581>

44 Aratani, L. (2026b, August 24). Top US firms that backed Voting Rights Act donate to groups working to undermine it. *The Guardian*. <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2026/aug/24/us-companies-voting-rights-raga>

PHOTO ATTRIBUTIONS

1 AWS Data Center Photo on Cover Page by Tedder

2 Amazon Box Photo on Cover by Kiran

3 ICE Agents Photo by US Immigration and Customs Enforcement



***POWER SWITCH
ACTION***

POWERSWITCHACTION.ORG