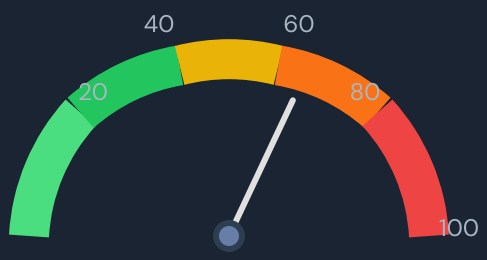
KNEXT STRATEGIES

POLITICAL ACCOMMODATION & ACCOUNTABILITY ASSESSMENT

Amazon.com, Inc.

Standalone Single-Category Risk Assessment



64

Serious RISK

Category Score: 64 / 100

CONFIDENTIAL — PROPRIETARY METHODOLOGY

The risk assessment framework, scoring methodology, category structure, weighting system, and analytical processes embodied in this report constitute proprietary trade secrets of KNEXT. Recipient agrees not to reverse-engineer, deconstruct, or use this methodology to create competing or derivative risk assessment products or services.

Prepared by: KNEXT Strategies | Assessment Date: November 1, 2026 | CONFIDENTIAL

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Assessment Overview

CATEGORY SCORE

64 / 100

Serious Risk

TREND

↓ Deteriorating

Warren/Min ballroom exchange (Dec 2025–Jan 2026) and Melania letter (Mar 2026); Democratic sweep odds rose from ≈47% (Aug 26) to ≈70% (Nov 1)

CONFIDENCE

Medium

Company letter, LD-203/LD-2 records, press releases; Melania amounts from reporting

INQUIRY STATUS

ACTIVE

House D ≈94%, Senate D ≈71% (Nov 1; vote Nov 3)

Overall Exposure: Score 64 (Serious); confidence Medium. Amazon's $5M ballroom gift and the reported Melania documentary license drew two Democratic letter exchanges; Amazon replied to the first (Dec 16, 2025) and a Mar 30, 2026 reply to the second was reported.

Give-vs-Get Record: Amazon MGM Studios licensed the Melania documentary (announced Jan 5, 2025); reporting put the license near $40M, plus $35M in marketing. LD-203 filings show $1.89M to the Presidential Inaugural Committee (Dec 21, 2024 and Jan 20, 2025). Sequence only; no linking document identified.

Investigation & Election Status: Warren and Min wrote Dec 3, 2025 on the ballroom; Amazon replied Dec 16. Warren and Johnson wrote Mar 15, 2026 on the Melania deal. Amazon's in-house lobbying rose from $17.9M (2024) to $22.1M (2025). Markets price a Democratic House near 94% and Senate near 71%.

Follow-on Exposure: No state attorney general or securities action on either engagement was identified. The FTC's monopolization trial against Amazon is reported set for Mar 29, 2027, a pending federal matter cited in the Dec 3 letter.

● Critical 81-100 ● Serious 61-80 ● High 41-60 ● Moderate 21-40 ● Low 1-20

CATEGORY DETAIL

Risk Category Assessment

Political Accommodation & Accountability

64 ↓
Serious Risk

Standalone Assessment | Trend: Deteriorating | Confidence: Medium | Category: Accountability & Oversight

Industry Context: *Among big-tech ballroom donors at the $5M tier (with Meta, Cisco, T-Mobile, Coinbase), below Apple/Nvidia ($25M) and Alphabet ($22M via settlement). Distinct: the Melania license is a commercial payment to a Trump-family project. Contrast: JPMorgan Chase said it did not donate.*

Amazon committed $5M to the White House ballroom (WaPo list, Oct 15, 2026) and, through Amazon MGM Studios, licensed a Melania Trump documentary announced Jan 5, 2025 (reported: about $40M for rights, $35M for marketing). LD-203 filings show $1M (Dec 21, 2024) and $888,893.52 (Jan 20, 2025) to the Presidential Inaugural Committee. Democratic letters (Dec 3, 2025; Mar 15, 2026) drew company replies; no court or agency has alleged an exchange. Amazon states it entered no donation agreement.

RISK FACTOR	SEV	PROB	EFF	NOTES / EVIDENCE
Amazon MGM license of Melania documentary (announced Jan 5, 2025); reported ~$40M plus $35M marketing; Warren/Johnson letter Mar 15, 2026	85	Active (1.0)	85	Deadline; Rolling Stone; Warren PDF. Reply reported Mar 30, 2026. No court finding.
$5M ballroom gift via Trust for the National Mall; FTC trial pending (Mar 29, 2027); Warren/Min letter Dec 3, 2025	65	Active (1.0)	65	WaPo/Verge list; Amazon Dec 16 letter: no plans reviewed, no donation agreement.
Two Democratic letter exchanges (Dec 2025; Mar 2026); Amazon replied to both	59	Active (1.0)	59	Warren releases; Dec 16 PDF read; Mar 30 reply seen only in search index.
Inaugural gifts $1M (Dec 21, 2024) and $888,893.52 (Jan 20, 2025) per LD-203; Bezos–Trump meeting (Jul 2025)	65	Medium (0.8)	52	LDA API; CNBC Jul 22, 2025. Second item's nature unstated.
Lobbyists linked to Mr. Trump (Ballard Partners; Mindset Advocacy); in-house lobbying $17.9M to $22.1M	53	Medium (0.8)	42	LD-2 filings. Ballard $240K, Mindset $200K in 2025; none tied to a decision.
Mitigating: written replies; no donation agreement or plan review (per Amazon); no AG or securities action found	33	Low (0.6)	20	Amazon Dec 16, 2025 letter (company statements). No related litigation identified.

Category score: (4×85 + 2×65 + 59 + 52 + 42 + 20) ÷ 10 = 643 ÷ 10 = 64.3 → **64 (Serious)**

TIMELINE

Give-vs-Get Record

Reading this table: *Each row pairs something the entity gave, conceded or paid with a federal action that benefited or threatened it. An interval shows sequence only; it does not establish a link. The Link Evidence column states what, if anything, in the record connects the two.*

DATE	GIVEN / CONCEDED / PAID	DATE	RECEIVED / AVOIDED / THREATENED	INTERVAL	LINK EVIDENCE
Dec 13, 2024	Amazon announces $1M inaugural contribution; LD-203 dates $1M Dec 21, 2024 and $888,893.52 Jan 20, 2025	Jan 20, 2025	Inauguration of President Trump. Decision-maker: n/a (ceremonial)	+38 days	None identified. Second LD-203 item's nature is not stated.
Jan 5, 2025	Amazon MGM confirms exclusive license of Melania documentary for theatrical and Prime Video	Jan 20, 2025	Same inauguration; First Lady Melania Trump takes office	+15 days	None identified. Commercial license; amount not in Amazon's confirmation.
n/a	Aug 2025 (day not stated): Amazon begins talks with ballroom fundraising group (per Dec 16 letter)	Oct 15, 2025	Amazon attends White House program launching the ballroom project (per company letter)	Aug → Oct 15 (day not stated)	Letter describes coordination with the Trust; no policy link stated.
Oct 15, 2025	Ballroom launch attendance; $5M gift (amount per WaPo list Oct 15, 2026)	Dec 3, 2025	Sens. Warren et al. and Rep. Min letter on ballroom donations and pending antitrust matters	+49 days	Lawmakers raised the question of an exchange; Amazon's reply described process.
Dec 16, 2025	Amazon written response to Warren/Min ballroom letter	Jan 12, 2026	Warren/Min release company responses, including Amazon's	+27 days	Public exchange; no subpoena identified.
Mar 15, 2026	Warren/Johnson letter on Melania documentary payments	Mar 30, 2026	Amazon written response cites competitive bidding and the film's relevance (reported)	+15 days	No court filing identified. Amounts are lawmaker and press figures.

1

Democratic Oversight of Amazon's Ballroom Gift and Melania License

Severity: 64 (Serious) | Status: Active | Category: Political Accommodation & Accountability

64
SEVERITY

SITUATION SUMMARY

Amazon's $5M ballroom gift and the Melania documentary license drew two Democratic letter exchanges in late 2025 and March 2026; Amazon replied to both. Markets on Nov 1 price Democratic House control near 94% and Senate near 71%. At stake are document demands, hearings and reputation around commercial payments involving the Trump family. No court or agency has alleged an exchange.

✓ BEST CASE

25% probability

Limited follow-up; Amazon's prior replies accepted as sufficient; no hearing. Counsel and response cost roughly $1–4M (analyst estimate).

→ MOST LIKELY

50% probability

2027 document requests from House Oversight/Judiciary and Senate PSI; transcribed interviews; multi-company ballroom hearing or staff report including Melania license. Roughly $10–30M in response and management time (analyst estimate).

⚠ WORST CASE

25% probability

Subpoena; CEO or studios executive testifies; state AG consumer or unfair-competition inquiry; derivative suits over disclosure of political-adjacent entertainment deals. Roughly $50–200M including litigation and remediation (analyst estimate).

TIMELINE	REPUTATIONAL	STRATEGIC
10–24 months	Significant	Moderate

SOURCES

Appendix

POLITICAL GIVING & LOBBYING DISCLOSURES

- Reuters, “Amazon donating $1 mln to Trump inaugural fund, to air event on Prime Video,” Dec 13, 2024. https://www.reuters.com/world/us/amazon-donating-1-mln-trump-inaugural-fund-air-event-prime-video-2024-12-13/
- U.S. Senate LDA database, LD-203 reports, Amazon.com Services LLC (retrieved Nov 1, 2026): Presidential Inaugural Committee items $1,000,000 (Dec 21, 2024) and $888,893.52 (Jan 20, 2025). https://lda.gov/api/v1/contributions/?registrant_name=Amazon&filing_year=2025
- U.S. Senate LDA database, LD-2 reports, client Amazon (retrieved Nov 1, 2026): in-house $17.87M (2024), $22.11M (2025); Ballard Partners and Mindset Advocacy. https://lda.gov/api/v1/filings/?client_name=Amazon&filing_year=2025
- FEC Schedule A (retrieved Nov 1, 2026): MAGA Inc. (C00892471; reports through Oct 14, 2026), Senate Leadership Fund and Congressional Leadership Fund show no itemized gift under Amazon as donor, or from Bezos or Jassy; rank-and-file employee gifts of $35 to $4,000 appear only in earlier cycles. https://www.fec.gov/data/committee/C00892471/

AGREEMENTS & GOVERNMENT ACTIONS

- Amazon letter to Sens. Warren and Rep. Min on ballroom donations, Dec 16, 2025 (hosted on warren.senate.gov). https://www.warren.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/media/doc/Amazon%20Response%20to%20Senator%20Warren%20and%20Representative%20Min%20on%20Ballroo
- Amazon response to Sen. Warren and Rep. Hank Johnson on Melania movie investment, Mar 30, 2026. https://www.warren.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/media/doc/amazon_response_to_senator_warren_representative_hank_johnson_on_investment_in_melania_movie
- AP, “Amazon to pay $2.5 billion to settle FTC allegations it duped customers into enrolling in Prime” (FTC stipulated order). https://apnews.com/article/amazon-prime-ftc-bezos-online-shopping-a3aa849de1279e3675a162ec6815de84

CONGRESSIONAL RECORDS

- Sen. Warren and Rep. Min, press release on ballroom-donor responses, Jan 12, 2026. https://www.warren.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/warren-min-release-new-details-on-trump-ballroom-donations-by-giant-corporations-with-business-in-front-of-trump-admin
- Warren/Min ballroom letters PDF (Dec 3, 2025 cohort). https://www.warren.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/warren_min_ballroom_letters.pdf
- Rep. Hank Johnson / Sen. Warren Melania investigation press release (letter PDF on warren.senate.gov). http://hankjohnson.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/rep-hank-johnson-sen-warren-lead-new-investigation-whether-amazons
- Sen. Warren and Rep. Johnson letter to Amazon, Mar 15, 2026 ($40M rights, $35M marketing; reported figures). https://www.warren.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/media/doc/letter_from_senator_warren_representative_hank_johnson_to_amazon_on_75_million_dollar_melania_bribery_concerns.pdf

NEWS & INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

- Deadline, “Melania Trump Documentary Directed By Brett Ratner Acquired By Prime Video,” Jan 5, 2025. https://deadline.com/2025/01/melania-trump-documentary-brett-ratner-prime-video-1236246798/
- Rolling Stone, “Amazon Is Paying $40 Million to License Melania Trump Documentary” (amount; search-indexed). https://www.rollingstone.com/politics/politics-news/amazon-paying-license-melania-trump-documentary-1235227761/
- The Verge, “Nvidia, Apple, Google, Microsoft, Amazon, and Meta gave Trump a combined $92 million for his ballroom,” Oct 15, 2026 (Amazon $5M). https://www.theverge.com/policy/1012047/nvidia-apple-google-microsoft-amazon-meta-trump-ballroom
- CNBC, “Trump White House ballroom financed by Big Tech…” Oct 23, 2025 (Amazon named). https://www.cnbc.com/2025/10/23/trump-white-house-east-wing-ballroom-donors-apple-amazon-meta-microsoft-google.html
- CNBC, “Trump met with Amazon’s Jeff Bezos at White House last week: Sources,” Jul 22, 2025. https://www.cnbc.com/2025/07/22/trump-amazon-bezos-white-house.html
- Prediction-market consensus, Nov 1, 2026 (Polymarket/Kalshi via PricedNews). https://pricednews.com/odds/us-midterms-2026
- USA Today, “Melania movie acquisition by Amazon investigated,” Mar 16, 2026. https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2026/03/16/melania-trump-movie-congress-amazon-bribery/89104180007/
- MLex, “Amazon’s bid to delay US FTC monopolization trial rejected by judge” (trial Mar 29, 2027; search-indexed). https://www.mlex.com/mlex/articles/2536525/amazon-s-bid-to-delay-us-ftc-monopolization-trial-rejected-by-judge

DATA LIMITATIONS

- Melania dollar figures come from reporting and the Mar 15 letter, not an Amazon filing. Amazon's Mar 30, 2026 reply was summarized from a search index (PDF not retrieved). The second LD-203 inaugural item's nature is not stated. Ballroom transfer date is not public. Reuters pages returned access errors.

TERMS OF USE

Disclaimer & Legal Notice

Scope: This is a standalone assessment of a single risk category (Political Accommodation & Accountability). It is not a composite crisis risk score.

Disclaimer: This analysis was prepared by KNEXT Strategies based on publicly available information as of November 1, 2026. The analysis does not constitute legal advice, investment advice, or a recommendation to buy, sell, or hold any securities.

No Allegation of Wrongdoing: References to donations, agreements, settlements, payments or government actions describe the public record and its timing. Unless expressly attributed to a named source, nothing in this analysis asserts or implies that any person or entity engaged in unlawful conduct or that any exchange occurred.

Limitations: Risk scores and assessments reflect the subjective judgment of the analyst based on available evidence. Actual outcomes may differ materially from assessments presented herein. This analysis should be used as one input among many in organizational decision-making processes.

Sources: Analysis incorporates information from FEC and lobbying disclosures, SEC EDGAR filings, government releases, congressional records, court records, news publications, and other publicly available sources. KNEXT Strategies has not independently verified all information presented and makes no representation regarding its accuracy or completeness.

Forward-Looking Statements: This analysis contains assessments of future risks and potential outcomes that are inherently uncertain. Such forward-looking assessments are based on current information and assumptions that may prove to be incorrect.

Confidentiality: This document is prepared exclusively for the intended recipient and contains confidential and proprietary analysis. Unauthorized reproduction, distribution, or disclosure is prohibited without the express written consent of KNEXT Strategies.

No Attorney-Client Relationship: Receipt of this document does not create an attorney-client relationship between the recipient and KNEXT Strategies or any of its personnel.

© 2026 KNEXT Strategies. All Rights Reserved.

CONFIDENTIAL