**Calif. Supreme Court upholds law forcing arrestees to give up DNA samples – 4/3/18**

April 3 (UPI) -- The California [Supreme Court](https://www.upi.com/topic/supreme-court/) on Monday held up a controversial state law that allows law enforcement to take DNA from anybody arrested or charged for a felony, regardless of whether the charges are dropped or the person is acquitted. In a 4-3 vote, the court ruled in favor of the law, which has allowed California law enforcement officials to create a massive DNA database of tens of thousands of people who were arrested but never charged or convicted, privacy advocates criticized as an affront on privacy rights.

The law was challenged by privacy advocates, including the Electronic Frontier Foundation, who argued the state's constitution "prohibits the collection of DNA from arrestees because of the severe impact DNA collection has on our right to privacy."

But the case had several other components and Justice Leondra R. Kruger, one of the judges who voted to let the law stand, said the DNA collection could still be challenged, the [San Diego Union-Tribune](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/california/la-me-ln-dna-supreme-court-20180402-story.html) reported. The three judges who voted to struck down the law said the case was an opportunity to get rid of a program that allows the state to retain and search a DNA database full of people never convicted of a crime.

"A DNA sample stored by the state contains an arrestee's entire genetic code -- information that has the capacity to reveal the individual's race, biological sex, ethnic background, familial relationships, behavioral characteristics, health status, genetic diseases, pre-disposition to certain traits, and even the propensity to engage in violent or criminal behavior," wrote Justice Mariano-Florentino Cuéllar, [adding that](https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2018/04/california-supreme-court-upholds-arrestee-dna-collection-law) the program "is a far more significant invasion of an arrestee's privacy."

After the ruling, Carrie Braun, a spokeswoman for the Orange County Sheriff's Department, spoke in favor of forcing people who haven't been convicted of a crime to give up their DNA. "The collection of this DNA, done through a minimally invasive cheek swab during booking in Orange County Jail, has aided the Sheriff's Department in investigations by providing evidence that may lead to potential conviction for past crimes, similar to the use of fingerprints or photographs," [Braun said](https://www.ocregister.com/2018/04/02/california-supreme-court-upholds-collection-of-dna-from-suspected-felons-not-yet-convicted-of-a-crime/).

# Donald Trump is going after Amazon and Jeff Bezos, again

President Donald Trump on Thursday took Twitter aim at retail giant Amazon, renewing his attacks on the company run by CEO Jeff Bezos, who also owns The Washington Post. "I have stated my concerns with Amazon long before the Election," the [tweet reads](https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/979326715272065024). "Unlike others, they pay littler or no taxes to state & local governments, use our Postal System as their Delivery Boy (causing tremendous loss to the U.S.), and are putting many thousands of retailers out of business!"

The tweet comes a day after [Axios reported](https://www.axios.com/trump-regulation-amazon-facebook-646c642c-a2d7-454b-a9a9-cdc6e4eaef2c.html) that the president has been "obsessed" with Amazon, focusing on how the company is taxed and how the company uses the United States Postal Service. He does not have a plan to enact new regulations or taxes against Amazon, Axios reported. Amazon shares dropped sharply after the Axios report.

Meanwhile, Trump has not shown signs of interest in the ongoing Facebook controversy that linked user data from 50 million members of the social network with a data analysis firm used by his 2016 campaign, [Cambridge Analytica](https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/cambridge-analytica-harvested-data-millions-unsuspecting-facebook-users-n857591), Axios reported. I have stated my concerns with Amazon long before the Election. Unlike others, they pay little or no taxes to state & local governments, use our Postal System as their Delivery Boy (causing tremendous loss to the U.S.), and are putting many thousands of retailers out of business!

Trump has targeted Amazon and Bezos with public comments [going back to December 2015](https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/673881733415178240), when the then-candidate first tweeted about the company in relation to Bezos. "The @washingtonpost, which loses a fortune, is owned by @JeffBezos for purposes of keeping taxes down at his no profit company, @amazon," Trump tweeted more than two years ago.

Bezos at the time fired back [from his own Twitter account](https://twitter.com/JeffBezos/status/674008204838199297), joking that he would save a place for Trump on one of the rockets of Blue Origin, a space exploration company owned by Bezos.

Since then, Trump has tweeted numerous times about Amazon, The Washington Post and Bezos.

It is unclear how Trump would try to levy new taxes against Amazon, but Congress is already [considering legislation](https://www.forbes.com/sites/timtodd/2017/04/30/internet-sales-tax-collection-acts-introduced-in-congress/) on the issue of how to tax internet purchases.