

CHECKLIST · ATLANTA

Moving to Atlanta Checklist: The First 90 Days

What newcomers need to do, in order, with deadlines and where to do it. Print it and tick it off.

SHORT ANSWER

If you are subject to address reporting, tell USCIS your new address within 10 days. In the first week put electricity (Georgia Power inside the city) and water in your own name, pick a gas marketer, enroll your kids and take the knowledge exam at Whitehall Street. Within 30 days finish the license, then register the car: a new resident pays 3 percent title tax instead of 7. The trash fee is not on the water bill, it is on the property tax bill. MARTA's old-balance transfers end October 30, 2026.

First 10 days

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ Report your address to USCIS (AR-11)	As a general rule required for most noncitizens, green card holders included; A and G visa holders and Visa Waiver visitors are exempt. Moving within the metro, or out to Decatur, counts. uscis.gov/addresschange
☐ EOIR-33 if you have an immigration court case	Within 5 days, to the court that holds your case (Atlanta has two courts in two buildings): respondentaccess.eoir.justice.gov
☐ If you have an ICE check-in obligation	Update your address with ICE too: portal.ice.gov
☐ USPS change of address	It does not update USCIS records. They are two separate steps.

First week

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ Electricity (Georgia Power)	You cannot choose your electric company; the address decides. Inside the Atlanta city limits it is Georgia Power. If you move out into the metro it could be Georgia Power, an EMC cooperative or a city system, so confirm on the PSC territory maps. Customer line 1-888-660-5890. Without an SSN, the path with written proof is the PrePay plan: a photo ID plus proof of address, a \$40 load plus a \$30 account fee, sign-up on 1-877-506-3905.
☐ Natural gas	Gas is deregulated in the Atlanta Gas Light territory: AGL owns the pipes and you choose the marketer that sells you the gas. A residential marketer deposit is capped at \$150 . If there is no meter, AGL's online form gets an answer in two business days.

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ Water and sewer (Watershed Management)	Application form, a lease or deed, a government ID, an \$80 deposit and a \$15 account fee . Neither an SSN nor an ITIN is on the list. Rates are frozen through June 30, 2028. If your building has one master meter, you cannot open the account yourself. We could not confirm whether a Turkish passport counts as the single ID; call 404-546-0311. PromisePay offers interest-free installments if you fall behind.
☐ The trash fee: not on the water bill	In Atlanta the trash fee is charged once a year on the property tax bill , collected by the county tax commissioner, and it follows the property. A tenant will not find it on the water bill; do not assume something is wrong. In fiscal 2026 the residential trash fee is \$432.26 and recycling \$126.87.
☐ ATL311 (city services)	3-1-1 inside the city, 404-546-0311 from outside, atl311.com. Trash, water bills, potholes, street lights. Two official pages disagree on the center's hours (weekdays 7 a.m. to midnight, or 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.), so check atl311.com before you call. Online requests are open 24/7.
☐ Library card	Fulton County Library System, free for residents of Fulton and of the City of Atlanta, including the DeKalb part. No SSN is requested : a lease or a bill showing your name and address is enough.
☐ Enroll your kids	Atlanta Public Schools. A signed objection form replaces the SSN; proof of address wants a Georgia Power bill from the last 30 days in the parent's name. Forms 3231 and 3300.
☐ Driver's license: the knowledge exam	400 Whitehall Street SW, walk-in and offered in Turkish . That center gives no road tests, so book the road test at Decatur or Forest Park. An SSN or DDS-351, documents in English, no translations.
☐ MARTA	A single ride is \$2.50, with four free transfers in three hours. Tap a contactless bank card or your phone at the gate, or buy an orange card for \$2. Passes: \$9 for a day, \$23.75 for 7 days, \$95 for 30 days. The old silver Breeze cards and the old app no longer work, and transfers of old balances end October 30, 2026 (breezecard.com). The airport station is inside the Domestic Terminal.
☐ Apply for an SSN (if eligible)	Start online, then visit an SSA office by appointment; it is free: ssa.gov . National line 1-800-772-1213.

Within 30 days

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ Georgia driver's license	30 days once you are a resident. Book the road test on DRIVES e-Services. The card is printed LIMITED-TERM.
☐ Register the car (county tag office)	License first, then registration. Fulton side: 141 Pryor Street SW, Suite 1113 (404-613-6100). DeKalb side: 4380 Memorial Drive, Suite 100, Decatur (404-298-4000). Title \$18, plate \$20 a year.
☐ The 3 percent title tax	The title tax is 7 percent of fair market value, but 3 percent for new residents . On a \$25,000 car that is \$750 instead of \$1,750. Say you are a new resident at the tag office and show a lease or an employment letter.

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ Liability insurance and emissions test	\$25,000 / \$50,000 / \$25,000. Fulton and DeKalb are emissions-test counties; test before you register (up to \$25).
☐ Peach Pass (if you need it)	There are no express lanes inside the city. If you drive north or south regularly, the transponder is free with a \$20 prepaid balance. Without one, a \$25 administrative fee is added to each toll.

Within 90 days and beyond

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ Grady, if you are uninsured	Grady Health System financial assistance: Fulton and DeKalb residents, up to 400 percent of the poverty level. A consular ID is accepted as photo ID. Visitor-visa (B-1, B-2) holders are excluded. Counselor appointments (404) 616-6920.
☐ Georgia Access	Georgia did not expand Medicaid for adults. Open enrollment for 2027 begins November 1, 2026; for coverage starting January 1, 2027 the deadline is December 15, 2026. Moving from abroad opens a special enrollment period.
☐ Income tax	Atlanta has no city income tax. Georgia's state tax is a flat 4.99 percent for 2026; the state return is Form 500, due April 15 with the federal return.
☐ Property tax and homestead	The 2026 bills are temporary bills (at 2025 rates). Due dates: City of Atlanta September 30, Fulton County and all other units October 15, 2026; call 404-613-6100 if yours has not come. You have 45 days from the assessment notice to appeal. The homestead exemption deadline is April 1 each year and Fulton asks for a valid Georgia license or ID.
☐ Türkiye matters	Georgia is served by the Turkish Consulate General in Miami; there is no consulate in Atlanta. Group in-person items into one appointment. The apostille does not come from the Secretary of State but from the GSCCCA in Atlanta, \$3 per document.

Sales tax (October 1, 2026)

PLACE	RATE
Inside the City of Atlanta (Fulton and DeKalb sides)	8.9%
Fulton County outside the city	7.75%
DeKalb County outside the city	8%

RENTING: WHERE GEORGIA PROTECTS YOU AND WHERE IT DOES NOT

- **A deposit cannot exceed two months' rent** (Safe at Home Act, leases made or renewed from July 1, 2024), and it must come back within **30 days** after the tenancy ends. The move-in checklist and move-out inspection duties apply only to landlords with more than ten units or a manager. With a small landlord, photograph every room on move-in day and email the photos with the date.
- **Notice periods:** month-to-month, the landlord gives 60 days and the tenant 30. For unpaid rent the landlord must give **at least 3 business days** of written notice before filing, and you have **7 days** after service to answer.
- **Rent control is banned** by state law, and no agency steps into a dispute. The state's own handbook says there is no government body that can intervene; the route is the Fulton or DeKalb magistrate court. Keep the lease, receipts and photos.

AN ATLANTA BUSINESS LICENSE RAISES TWO SEPARATE QUESTIONS

An Atlanta Occupational Tax Certificate requires a **notarized SAVE affidavit and an E-Verify affidavit**. Only citizens, lawful permanent residents, qualified aliens and lawfully present nonimmigrants (for example E-2 or H-1B) can sign. That is a different question from whether you may work in that business: being allowed to sign for a license is not work authorization.

IF YOU ARE NOT A CITIZEN

- Never tick a "U.S. citizen" box on any form and do not register to vote. If DDS offers voter registration, decline. If a jury summons arrives, never ignore it; tell the county jury office.
- Talk to an immigration attorney before applying for SNAP, Medicaid, PeachCare, Pathways, LIHEAP or any public benefit: the new public charge rule has applied since September 18, 2026. LIHEAP also asks for lawful status and an SSN for every household member.
- If a green card application is pending, do not leave the country without advance parole. Check your I-94 record at i94.cbp.dhs.gov.

TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN ATLANTA

Have a question about your immigration status?



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