

CHECKLIST · BOWLING GREEN

Moving to Bowling Green: The First 30 Days Checklist (2026)

One question opens the whole list: which side of the city line is your address on? The answer sets your school district, your tax rate, your property tax bill and your vehicle tax at once.

SHORT ANSWER

Open this list with one question: which side of the **city line** is your address on? **Because four items in this guide depend on it:** your child's school district (and **a \$500 a year fee**), the rate of the local tax withheld from your pay, your property tax bill and the lines on your vehicle tax. **And no official online tool for checking that was found in this research** - the city's own site would not open - **so ask a person and get the answer in writing.** **The good news:** electricity, water, sewer and garbage are with **one utility** - one phone call opens all four. **And a time zone note:** this city is on **Central Time** and the eastern part of the state is on **Eastern**. The list below covers the first thirty days.

Day one

TASK	WHERE OR HOW
☐ Ask which side of the city line your address is on	No official online lookup tool was found - we are not saying there is none, the research did not find one. Call the city and the Warren County Clerk and ask for the answer in writing. Do it before you sign a lease or make an offer
☐ Register for the county alert system	The system targets geographically: if you are registered at the wrong address a tornado warning will not reach you. It does not recognize another county's registration - if you moved from another Kentucky city, your old registration is useless
☐ Program your weather radio to the county code	The county's own page gives the code: 021227
☐ Identify the tornado safe room nearest you	This city's advantage over the other four settlements: the county operates public tornado safe rooms and, in its own words, they open at the watch stage , not the warning. No registration is required and pets are accepted caged or leashed. There is no map or locator tool; in the parks you follow the tornado signs - do not look for those signs for the first time on the night of a storm
☐ Put your documents in one folder	Passports, immigration documents, birth certificates, prior school records, immunization records and notarized translations. Offices want originals and do not accept photocopies

First week: utilities and garbage

TASK	WHERE OR HOW
☐ Open four services with one call	Electricity, water and sewer are with the city's municipal utility - 801 Center St, 270-782-1200 - and garbage is billed on the same bill. One application, one bill: one of the easiest setups in the series
☐ If you have no number, do not give up - call	The application page asks for a photo ID and a Social Security number , but the utility's approved rules document does not refuse an applicant who declines to give one: they are deemed a credit risk and pay a deposit of twice the average monthly bill . So the door does not close, it gets more expensive . Ask: <i>"I have no number, which documents can I open the account with and how large would the deposit be?"</i> Get the answer in writing
☐ Put the application fees in your budget	Electricity \$35.00 , water and/or sewer \$30.00 , after hours connection \$60.00 per meter , exterior security light \$75.00 . Read three rules together: these fees are non-refundable, non-transferable and paid again at every move
☐ Set a reminder one year out for the deposit	The soft credit check has three outcomes: no deposit, one average monthly bill or twice that . Deposits earn interest and are reviewed after twelve months upon written request , with the excess refunded - the utility does not do this on its own
☐ File the sales tax exemption declaration	Form 51A380 , given directly to the provider , not to the revenue department. The exemption starts with the first full billing period after the provider receives the form and is not applied retroactively . Because there is one utility here, one form covers it; renters may file it too
☐ Ask about a separate water meter when you look at a home	The utility's own rule: if one water meter serves more than one unit , the account must stay in the property owner's name . In that case the water bill earns you no proof of address - a real loss for a reader without a number or a U.S. ID
☐ Do not look for a separate garbage company	The service is provided to all residential customers in the city and billed on the utility bill. For service problems call the firm directly: 270-783-4016 . The collection day and recycling calendar could not be read in this research - call in your first week
☐ Set up mail forwarding	Forwarding is not a notification . Identity verification is mandatory and it takes seven to ten business days to take effect; the online request carries a \$1.25 identity verification fee and your card's billing address must match the old or the new address. If it does not, go to a Post Office with an accepted photo ID

First month: license and vehicle

TASK	WHERE OR HOW
☐ Start the licensing process	The statute says thirty days . The city has its own regional office: 360 E 8th Ave, Suite 111 - but the entrance is on 7th Street . An appointment can be booked at any office in the state ; ask about the time zone if you pick one to the east

TASK	WHERE OR HOW
☐ If you came with a Turkish license, prepare for the testing set	Turkey is not on the reciprocity list; the result is not a course but vision, written and road tests . Turkish is not among the written test languages ; an audio version and an oral administration exist at some locations - ask the office in advance
☐ Register the car	In order: Kentucky insurance , then the sheriff's inspection , then the Warren County Clerk . The agency's own page gives both ten and fifteen days ; plan on ten . Call the sheriff's office before the inspection : in this county the fee and appointment procedure could not be verified
☐ Budget the vehicle tax from the start	For an address inside the city the total is roughly 1.45 percent , the highest of the five settlements measured, plus six percent usage tax on transfer. The school line changes by 5.7 cents with the address

Right away: children and health

TASK	WHERE OR HOW
☐ Apply for school	There are two districts and your address decides which. The city's charges a student from outside \$500 a year and provides no transportation ; admission runs by date of application and is capped by building capacity - apply early
☐ Have your immunization record transcribed onto the Kentucky form	Take it to the county health department or a pediatrician and do it before school starts . The immunization certificate and the preventive health, eye and dental exams are on the required document list
☐ Apply for health coverage	The five year waiting period applies to neither children nor pregnant people - the state's own table heading says so. Application help is free ; do not pay anyone who charges for it. Eligibility narrowed on October 1, 2026 and on January 1, 2027 an 80 hour a month work requirement begins (ages 19 to 64, with a broad exemption list)

First month: money and contracts

TASK	WHERE OR HOW
☐ Ask two questions before you sign a lease	One: <i>"has this government adopted the tenant protection act?"</i> The act is not automatic statewide, and what we have points to it not having been adopted, but from advocacy sources ; the city's own text could not be read. Two: <i>"does this unit have its own water meter?"</i>
☐ Photograph every room at move-in and move-out	We print no figure for the deposit cap or the return deadline - sources conflict between thirty days, sixty days and "no fixed period." We print the contradiction and take no side . Protect yourself with procedure: do not sign a damage list before reading it, state objections item by item , pay in a traceable way, and leave a written forwarding address when you go

TASK	WHERE OR HOW
☐ Read your pay stub line by line	There are three separate items and we do not give you their total: the city at 2 percent (for work performed inside the city limits), the county at 1 percent (for work performed outside), and the two are never charged on the same dollar; the county school district at 0.5 percent, whose condition is residing in the county school district
☐ Ask which school district your address falls into	This is the one verification you need to do. The school occupational tax's condition and the property tax measurement do not fit together - both cannot be true at once, which is why we print no total . Ask both districts and get the answer in writing
☐ Ask which side of the line a job offer's workplace is on	The test is where the work is performed, not where you live . Moving house does not change this withholding; changing jobs does
☐ If you start a business, register with the right office	Net profit tax is 2 percent in the city and 1 percent in the county. The city requires an application and a fee; the county requires an application but no fee. The amount of the city's fee was not measured - we print no figure
☐ If you are getting married, go to the county clerk	The Warren County Clerk issues the license, not the city. No waiting period and no blood test , both parties in person together, the license is valid thirty days and may be used only inside Kentucky . The Attorney General's guide says foreign documents should be accepted and that there is no residency or citizenship requirement . Confirm the fee with the clerk
☐ If you buy, ask the right question	Not "how much is the city tax?" but " which school district does this address fall into? " The city rate is 20.3 cents , the city's independent school district 84.8 cents , the county school district 52.2 cents . Ask in advance who will send the bill - the city's billing practice could not be verified and a bill that never arrives does not cancel the debt
☐ If you are 65 or totally disabled, apply for the exemption	\$49,100 is deducted from the assessment (2025-2026 assessment years), the application goes to the Warren County PVA , and a passport is explicitly listed as proof of age
☐ Buy the flood policy before the season	The state's own document says flooding is Kentucky's number one disaster; homeowner policies do not cover it and a flood policy takes effect after thirty days . More than 20 percent of claims come from outside the high risk area, and renters can insure their contents too
☐ If you have a hearing, confirm the time zone	You are on Central Time; the hearing location is on Eastern . If your notice says 9:00 a.m. and that is Eastern, it is 8:00 a.m. on your clock
☐ Get a library card	The eligibility rule is statewide , so on this item the city line question changes nothing . A passport is among the accepted IDs and the application form offers a foreign government ID option

KEEP TRACKING AFTER DAY THIRTY

- **Ten days if your status changes:** the statute requires you to apply to update the driver license **within ten days** of a change in immigration status. **Naturalizing is also a change of status.**
- **Federal address reporting:** if you are subject to address reporting you must report a new address **within ten days**, and that applies **even when you move within the state.**
- **Changing insurance carriers:** online registration renewal stays closed until **forty five days** with the new carrier.
- **A delinquency on another vehicle:** a delinquent vehicle tax **locks the renewal of your other vehicles too.**
- **Even moving within the city can change four things:** which school district you fall into, your local tax line, your property tax bill and **your alert system registration. Your nearest tornado safe room may have changed too** - look at the list again.
- **Close the utility account yourself when you leave.** There is an automatic rollover program to the property owner, **but if you do not request the close yourself the bill keeps running in your name.**

What is deliberately not in this list

We also write what we do not publish, because you will notice the absence. This guide contains **no street addresses for the immigration agency, the immigration enforcement unit, customs and border protection or the social security administration** - book appointments **through the agency's own system**, do not pay intermediary sites, official systems are free. **No name for the natural gas provider** (the research did not find one). **Residential internet providers were not measured. No figure for the security deposit cap or return deadline** (sources conflict). **No base annual registration and plate fee** (not found on the agency's pages). **No Kentucky state income tax rate** (not measured). **No winter tire rule** - we are not saying there is none, **the research did not find one.** And **no population, distance or drive time figures at all.**



TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN BOWLING GREEN

Do you have a question about your immigration situation?

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