

CHECKLIST · INDIANAPOLIS

Moving to Indianapolis: A First 90 Days Checklist (2026)

What newcomers need to do in order, the deadlines and where each task is done. Print it and tick it off.

SHORT ANSWER

The first ten days are federal: **if you are subject to address reporting, tell USCIS within 10 days**, and if you have a case in immigration court, tell the court **within 5 days**. The first week is about the city, and here there are **two separate doors**: gas, water and wastewater from one provider on **one bill**, electricity from a separate company, and trash from the consolidated city and county's own department. In the same week find out three things: which **township court**, which **school district** and which **municipality** your address falls in. In Indianapolis those three answers are independent of one another. And put two dates in the calendar today: **October for the heating assistance application**, and **the first half of January** for the homestead deduction.

The first 10 days

TASK	WHERE OR HOW
☐ Report your address to USCIS	As a general rule mandatory for most noncitizens, green card holders included, within 10 days ; holders of A and G visas and visa waiver visitors are outside it. uscis.gov/addresschange
☐ Update the address on every pending case separately	Filing AR-11 does not by itself change the address on a pending application; enter each receipt number
☐ If you have an immigration court case	Within 5 days on Form EOIR-33/IC: respondentaccess.eoir.justice.gov . The state has one court and it is in this city, so moving within the state does not move your case
☐ If you have an ICE reporting obligation	Report the address through portal.ice.gov as well. Confirm check-in locations from the agency's own check-in page; if you hold an appointment notice the address on it controls
☐ Do not treat a postal forward as a notification	A postal change of address does not update the agency's record, and giving an address to the license agency or the family resources division does not satisfy the federal duty

CONSOLIDATED GOVERNMENT PRODUCES THREE MISUNDERSTANDINGS HERE

- **Moving inside the same county is moving.** Because city and county are one government, crossing the county from one side to the other leaves you inside the same administrative structure. **What triggers the duty is the move itself**, not crossing a boundary.
- **Moving into or out of one of the four municipalities outside the consolidation is also a move**, even if your postal address barely changes.
- **Changing school district or township does not substitute for a notification.** Changing your child's school, changing which court would hear an eviction case, or shifting your trash day does not touch your federal address record.
- **Renting a post office box is not a solution**, because the agency wants the address where you actually live.
- Something changed in 2026: take into account the federal rule that **took effect on June 29, 2026** and rewrites alien registration and what counts as evidence of registration, readable in the [federalregister.gov](https://www.federalregister.gov) record.

The first week

TASK	WHERE OR HOW
☐ Open both utility accounts in your own name	Gas, water and wastewater come from Citizens Energy Group on one bill ; electricity comes from a separate company, AES Indiana . A bill in your name is both the residency document the license application asks for and the start of a credit history
☐ If the online form stops you, try the telephone	The water and gas provider's online application asks for a Social Security number, a date of birth and a previous address in your name, and without them the form cannot be submitted . That does not mean you cannot get service : there is a route that opens by telephone, and the company may ask for a notarized identity verification form
☐ If a deposit is requested, ask for the document list	The documents accepted for a waiver are listed and a number is not among them : a dated letter on an employer's letterhead, pay stubs, a school transcript , discharge papers, purchase documents or a copy of the lease , and a credit report no more than thirty days old. Assessed within five business days , and a deposit already paid is credited back where creditworthiness is established
☐ Trash is a different agency	The consolidated government's Department of Public Works, 317-327-4000 , City-County Building. Residential trash is collected five days a week , collection starts at 7 a.m. and the cart goes out before then. Bulky items once a month, two pieces at most , so put the post-move clear-out in the calendar
☐ Look your landlord up in the public registry	Owners of residential rental units inside the city must register the property and the registry is public , so you can check before you sign. The program is run by the Department of Business and Neighborhood Services, 317-327-8700 , weekdays 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
☐ Find out which township court your address falls in	Eviction and small claims cases are heard in nine separate township courts : Center, Decatur, Franklin, Lawrence, Perry, Pike, Warren, Washington and Wayne, plus Marion Superior Court. The small claims courts keep hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

TASK	WHERE OR HOW
☐ Get the library card	The institution is The Indianapolis Public Library . What is asked for is not a number but identification and an address ; if the photo ID does not show your current address, a piece of mail postmarked within the last thirty days, a current lease or a checkbook with the correct address will do. There are no late fines and cards renew every three years
☐ Open the transit fare account	Opening an account takes an email address or a smartphone . Fare capping works only with the card ; cash does not count toward the cap
☐ Start school enrollment for the children	The county has eleven separate districts . The state memo is clear: a number, proof of address, a birth certificate or not speaking English are not grounds for refusal. Ask for an interpreter at enrollment, in writing
☐ Do not delay the health application	The door is at the state: the Division of Family Resources inside the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration, dfrbenefits.in.gov or 800-403-0864 . For emergency coverage the citizenship, status and number requirements fall away; if you are pregnant, ask for Package B by name

DO NOT EXPECT TENANT PROTECTION FROM THE CITY, AND HERE IS WHY

- **The city cannot pass an ordinance on this at all.** Indiana bars municipalities from regulating tenant **screening**, security deposits, lease applications, lease terms, **required disclosures** and landlord fees, and treats a conflicting ordinance as **void and unenforceable**.
- **The comparison this series makes:** in our Minnesota guide a city was able to bar a landlord from asking about immigration status through its own ordinance. **Indianapolis cannot do that.**
- **We also found no state provision protecting a tenant's immigration status.** We do not say there is none; we say the research could not find one. **There is no source of income protection either**, and what we did find runs the other way: a separate section bars a municipality from compelling a landlord to take part in the federal housing voucher program.
- **What you are left with is national origin.** The state's fair housing provisions protect race, color, religion, sex, familial status, disability and **national origin**. For a tenant from Türkiye that is the ground. **Immigration status is not on that list, and the two are not the same thing.**
- **But there is a concrete and useful program:** the **Eviction Diversion Program** connects tenants facing or at risk of eviction to free legal help. The city's own page names the partners in full: the **Indianapolis Office of Public Health and Safety**, the **Lawrence Township Small Claims Court**, the **Indiana Bar Foundation**, **Indiana Legal Services** and the **Indianapolis Legal Aid Society**. **Tenant information hotline: 317-327-2228.**
- **The city's own wording is blunt:** if you have received an eviction notice or think you will, call as soon as possible and **be sure to attend your hearing**. The city's housing unit is **317-327-4291**, **OPHShousing@indy.gov**. **We found no equivalent program in the other four settlements in this guide.**
- **Without a local ordinance, the lease and the paper trail are your only evidence.** Keep the deposit receipt, repair requests and payment records, and **photograph any problem before you move in.**

The four municipalities left outside the merger: this does not stay on paper

Indianapolis and Marion County were consolidated on **January 1, 1970** and the official name of the combined unit is the **Consolidated City of Indianapolis and Marion County**. But the merger left four municipalities outside and the statute has its own term for them: a municipality whose population exceeds a set threshold does **not** become part of the consolidated city, while every other municipality does. The four are **Beech Grove, Lawrence, Southport and Speedway**. That distinction reaches you in two places: the city's rental registration page states, in these words, *Properties in excluded cities are exempt*, and the library card is conditioned on **Marion County, except Speedway**. So of two neighbors in the same county, one is subject to a city rule and the other is not. **One warning:** the text we hold states that **a different version of this section takes effect on January 1, 2027**, so the definition may change.

LAYER LEFT OUTSIDE	WHERE IT FINDS YOU
School districts	Eleven separate districts in the county. The city's own district keeps only the old, pre-merger city limits
Township government	Eviction and small claims cases are heard in nine separate township courts
The four municipalities outside the merger	Some city rules do not apply at those addresses; rental registration and the library card are two concrete examples

A naming trap belongs here too: in population comparisons you will see a unit called **Indianapolis city (balance)**. That is the consolidated city **with the excluded cities taken out**, not the whole county, and the two are constantly confused. And a building you cannot find in the registry is not necessarily unregistered: **first check which municipality the address is in**. One further limit, stated plainly: this is a **registration** program, not an **inspection** program, so a building that appears in the registry **is not a building that has been inspected**.

October: the one thing to do before winter

THE SHUTOFF BAN AND THE TRAP PECULIAR TO THIS CITY

- The statute bars a utility from cutting **electricity or gas** for non-payment between **December 1 and March 15** for a residential customer who is **eligible for and has applied for** heating assistance, and the rule applies to **municipally owned, privately owned and cooperatively owned** utilities alike.
- **The protection is not automatic.** Being eligible is not enough; you must **have applied**. You do not have to wait for the money to arrive; the application alone triggers the protection. Apply **in October, not in November**.
- **Water and sewer are outside it.** The statute names only electricity and gas. The water and gas provider also states in its own notice that during the moratorium an energy assistance customer's **water and wastewater service can still be disconnected; that notice carries an old date and we could not verify that it is current**, but the state's consumer counselor says the same thing.
- **We print the conflict and take no side:** one local news source wrote that the moratorium covers water as well. Two institutional sources point one way and one news source the other. **The practical consequence does not change: do not defer a water bill in reliance on the winter protection.**
- **That matters especially in Indianapolis**, because water, wastewater and gas arrive on **one bill** and one unpaid bill puts three services at risk. **We found no separate protective rule for water**; we do not say there is none.
- **The procedural side does work and it is the same statewide: fourteen days of written notice, a postponement on a physician's certificate, a right to installments in financial hardship, no disconnection for a previous occupant's debt**, and disconnection only during business hours. The provisions are in the [utilities section of the state guide](#).

Within 30 days

TASK	WHERE OR HOW
☐ Vehicle registration and insurance	Sixty days is reported for a new resident and forty-five days for a newly acquired unregistered vehicle. There is no emissions test in this county. Compare quotes by the coverage list ; personal injury protection is not mandatory here. We could not verify a single fee figure
☐ Set up the tax side	Two separate income taxes come out of your pay: the state at 2.95 percent and this county at 2.02 percent . Thanks to consolidation there is no separate city income tax; do not look for a fourth line on your pay stub
☐ Read the withholding form	In your first week you are handed WH-4 , and its first line reads exactly Social Security Number or ITIN , so a person holding an ITIN completes the form. If you neither lived nor worked in Indiana on January 1 , you write not applicable on the county lines

TASK	WHERE OR HOW
☐ Register with a sliding-fee health center	Before a problem arises. A sliding fee is not free , and you have to request the discount by name . The two organizations the research found for this city that state themselves that they provide services on a sliding fee scale are HealthNet and Eskenazi Health , but a substantial part of that information came from third-party directories and could not be verified in detail from the organizations' own pages ; so we print no address, hours, telephone number or fee tier . Find the center nearest your neighborhood by entering your address in the federal locator and do not set out without confirming by telephone
☐ Get your proof of income ready	What a sliding fee asks for is documentation of gross income : the most recent tax filing, wage statements, Social Security or disability award letters, unemployment statements. An immigration document is not on that list
☐ Report a city problem	317-327-4622 or the Request Indy portal, open twenty-four hours. Anonymous reporting is possible : a request can be sent with the personal fields left blank. Some case types do require personal details

IN COUNTY INCOME TAX THE COUNTY FREEZES ON JANUARY 1

- **The order is clear:** withholding follows **the county you lived in on January 1**. If you lived outside Indiana on January 1 but your principal place of work was in an Indiana county on that date, withholding follows **the county of that workplace**.
- **Moving during the year gains you nothing.** The withholding form says it in its own words: if you move to another county or begin working there after January 1, **your county status does not change until the following calendar year**.
- **What that looks like:** move in March to a county with a lower rate and you are still withheld at this county's rate for the rest of that calendar year. The reverse is also true. **If you are thinking about a move late in the year, this is a planning item.**
- **Do not trust the rate circulating online.** A widely used tax site gives 1.62 percent for this county; the revenue department's own document says 2.02 percent. The secondary source is wrong and the gap is hundreds of dollars on a salary.
- **The statute writes the same order at greater length**, and its second step is voter registration. **Do not do what that sentence suggests:** registering to vote when you are not a citizen is a crime and will damage your immigration file.
- **A calendar warning:** a statute out of the 2025 session is reported to **end all existing local income tax rates on December 31, 2027**. **We could not confirm this from the statutory text**, because our statute source is a January 1, 2026 snapshot. Check your rate again at the end of 2027.

If you bought a home: two dates conflict, plan to the earlier one

THE HOMESTEAD DEDUCTION

- The application goes to the **Marion County Auditor's Office**, and thanks to consolidated government the door is the city's own site. Contact: **317-327-4646**, **AuditorCustomerService@indy.gov**, City-County Building, open **8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**
- **The dates conflict:** the county's own page says **January 15** and a version of the state form we hold says **January 5**. A ten-day gap can cost a year, so **plan to the earlier date**.
- **The deduction amount conflicts too, with three sources giving three figures.** We take no side; ask the county auditor before you file and ask for the answer in writing. Remember too that the deduction shrinks in steps.
- **The number question:** the form asks for the **last five digits of a Social Security number**, and beside it sits a second field, the last five digits of a driver's license, identification or **other** number. **The good news:** not having a number does not by itself close the door. **The honest gap: the word ITIN does not appear on the form** and whether one is accepted in that field we **could not verify**.
- **The position is different on the withholding form** and confusing the two costs money: there the ITIN is named, here it is not. Two different agencies, two different rules.
- **A spouse's number is required even if the spouse does not live in the home.** In a newly arrived family that spouse is often still in Türkiye; call the county before you file and ask which declaration they want.
- **Leaving it blank costs real money:** in a state tax review board decision, a homeowner who did not enter the last five digits was discussed as having lost the standard deduction the following year. Numbers entered on the form are **confidential** by statute.
- **You file once**, but you refile if the title changes, if you stop living in the home, or if you move to a new principal residence during the year. **If you apply for two properties in the same year the auditor may deny both.**
- **We print no property tax rate**, because this research could not verify a single one. Before you make an offer, ask the assessor for the parcel's current valuation.

Within 90 days

TASK	WHERE OR HOW
☐ Plan the Türkiye errands	Indiana falls under the Consulate General in Chicago and there is no Turkish mission in the state. The consulate is on Central time and you are on Eastern: read the published hours by adding an hour . The detail is in our consulate guide
☐ Start early if you need an apostille	The state's only authentication office is in this city, but it works by appointment only . Do not break the order: obtain the document, have it translated and have the translation notarized , and do the apostille last
☐ Voter registration and jury duty	Registration and voting belong to U.S. citizens only ; do not tick a citizenship box on any form and do not fill in registration forms handed to you door to door. If a jury summons arrives, call the court named on the letter and do not throw the letter away

TASK	WHERE OR HOW
☐ Ask an attorney before applying for a public benefit	The federal public charge rule that took effect on September 18, 2026 widened officer discretion; the same rule says benefits received before that date are assessed under the older rule . Put two dates in the calendar: October 1, 2026 and January 1, 2027
☐ Note the two health dates	October 1, 2026: federally matched Medicaid is open to four status groups only and refugees and asylees are not on that list . January 1, 2027: marketplace premium help narrows to three statuses; other statuses may buy a plan but without the discount
☐ Keep your tax records	Copies of federal and state returns are often requested in green card and citizenship applications

Numbers to know in Indianapolis

TOPIC	FIGURE
School districts and eviction courts	11 school districts · 9 township small claims courts · 4 municipalities outside the merger
City service line	317-327-4622 . A three-digit 311 number does not appear on the city's own page; anonymous reporting is possible
Tenant hotline and housing unit	317-327-2228 · 317-327-4291 · rental registration program 317-327-8700
Trash department and collection	317-327-4000 · five days a week · collection starts at 7 a.m. · bulky items once a month, two pieces
Shutoff ban window	December 1 to March 15 , electricity and gas only. Water is outside it and in this city water is on the same bill
Income tax	State 2.95 percent · county 2.02 percent · the county freezes on January 1
Transit	Two hours \$2.75 · daily cap \$6.00 · weekly cap \$24.75 · capping only with the card
Homestead filing	The county says January 15 , the older form says January 5; plan to the earlier one
Short-term rental permit	A one-time \$150 on the first permit, no renewal fee
Apostille	\$2 per authentication , non-refundable · by appointment only · normal turnaround one to two business days
Passport acceptance facilities	9 in the county ; the earliest opens at 8:30 a.m. and the latest closes at 6 p.m.
Immigration court window	Three windows a day · no documents accepted after 4 p.m.

A WEEKEND PLAN: CHEAP, BUT NOT FREE

- **For a household on a tight budget the answer in this state is not free but discounted**, and the good news is that the discount is worth more in this city than anywhere else, because **almost every participating institution is here**.
- A statewide card gives Indiana residents enrolled in certain benefit programs admission at participating cultural institutions for **five dollars a head**; a separate national scheme gives **three dollars a head** on an EBT card. **Neither is free**.
- **Two barriers hit a newcomer directly: employee and student IDs are not accepted**, and **out-of-state IDs are not accepted either**. Indiana identification in turn depends on lawful status.
- **There are items that really are free and that we could verify**: the guided tour of the Indiana Statehouse is **free** and leaves **every hour on the hour** on weekdays between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., running 30 to 45 minutes; **Holliday Park** on the north side and its nature center are free and **all three parking lots are free**; the outdoor art and nature park at **Newfields** is **always free**; the **Indianapolis Cultural Trail** is an eight-mile free walking and cycling route; and the art park in the grounds of the **Indianapolis Art Center** is free every day.
- **Keep the distinction**: the outdoor park is free while the art museum galleries and the garden on the same campus are **ticketed**. There is one free museum day a month, but **book the ticket ahead**, because the institution's own page and other sources conflict on whether it is required.
- **Name traps cost money**. White River State Park carries state park in its name but is **an urban park with no gate fee**; the actual gated park in the county is Fort Harrison State Park, and **walking in is not free there either**. The annual state park pass **does not work at the state museum or the historic sites**, although the name suggests the opposite and both are in this city. And a conservatory here and the conservatory of the same name in Chicago are **not the same place**.
- **We print no state park fee**, because the amounts come from an archive capture and because **two 2026 documents from the same agency give two different figures** for the park in this county. The annual pass runs for the **calendar year**, not a year from the month of purchase.
- **A park pass borrowed from the library**: Indiana libraries lend them, but the terms are set by each library and **a 2026 pass could not be confirmed for this city's system**. We do not write that every library lends one; **call your own branch**.

IF YOU ARE NOT A CITIZEN, REMEMBER

- Do not tick a citizenship box on any form and do not register to vote. If a jury questionnaire arrives, do not leave it blank; tell the court named on the letter.
- Talk to an immigration attorney before you or a family member applies for a public benefit, drops one, or moves from one program to another.
- Check your entry record at i94.cbp.dhs.gov. Your work permit, the expiry date of your license and some filing eligibilities depend on it; in Indiana a credential issued on temporary lawful status ends **on the last day of the stay**.
- If you have a pending green card application, do not travel abroad without advance parole.
- If you are detained, ask to speak with an attorney before discussing your status, and if you are a Turkish citizen ask that the consulate be notified.



TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN INDIANAPOLIS

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