

CHECKLIST · IRVINE

Moving to Irvine Checklist: The First 90 Days

What newcomers should do, in order, with deadlines and where to do it. Print it and check items off.

SHORT ANSWER

If you are subject to the address-reporting requirement, report your new address to USCIS within 10 days. Once you are a California resident, your previous license is good for only 10 days, so look for a DMV appointment right away; Irvine has no DMV office, so you will go to a neighboring city such as Santa Ana or Costa Mesa. Pay your car's California registration fees to the DMV within 20 days. In Irvine, SCE delivers electricity but the default electricity supplier is OCPA; gas is SoCalGas, water and sewer are IRWD (not the City), and trash is Waste Management. Metrolink fares rise on October 5, 2026.

First 10 days

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ Report your address to USCIS (AR-11)	As a general rule, required for most noncitizens, including green card holders; A and G visa holders and Visa Waiver visitors are exempt. uscis.gov/addresschange
☐ Book a DMV appointment for your California license	You have only 10 days from establishing residency (California Vehicle Code section 12505). Irvine has no DMV office; Santa Ana and Costa Mesa are nearby options. dmv.ca.gov/office locator
☐ In immigration court? File EOIR-33	Within 5 days: respondentaccess.eoir.justice.gov
☐ ICE check-in obligations?	Update ICE too: portal.ice.gov
☐ Change your address with USPS	Separate from USCIS; one does not update the other.

First week

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ Electricity	In Irvine, SCE runs the lines and sends the bill, while the default electricity supplier is OCPA (Orange County Power Authority). You can opt out to SCE generation by calling OCPA: OCPA 866-262-7693, SCE 800-655-4555. SCE's online form may ask for an SSN; under SCE's rules you can decline, but a deposit may be charged, so consider calling instead.

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ Gas	SoCalGas: 800-427-2200. According to SoCalGas's pages there is a \$25 activation fee; if you have no SSN or your identity cannot be verified, call 1-877-238-0092, where two valid IDs (one with a photo) are accepted. Confirm the details by phone.
☐ Water and sewer	Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD), not the City: 949-453-5300, at least 1 business day in advance. IRWD's 2026-27 rate schedule lists a \$31 service establishment fee, and new residential customers may be charged a \$75 deposit (credited to the bill after 12 months of good payment history); confirm the deposit amount when you apply. Office: 15600 Sand Canyon Ave., Irvine, CA 92618.
☐ Trash and recycling	Waste Management: 949-642-1191. The City's Recycle Hotline: 949-724-7669. Two-cart and three-cart systems exist depending on the neighborhood.
☐ School enrollment	Check which school district your address is in first (Irvine has four): iusd.org/about/iusd-enrollment
☐ Library card	An Irvine Public Library card is free to California residents; it needs a valid government photo ID and proof of a California address. The page does not say whether a foreign passport is accepted, so ask at a branch. Three branches: Heritage Park, Katie Wheeler, University Park (949-724-4444).
☐ SSN application (if eligible)	Start online, then visit an SSA office: ssa.gov . There is no SSA office in Irvine; the nearest are Santa Ana and Mission Viejo.

Within 20 days

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ California car insurance	At least \$30,000/\$60,000/\$15,000.
☐ Smog check	Required for most gasoline vehicles; the certificate is valid 90 days after testing.
☐ Vehicle registration	DMV, Form REG 343, your previous state's title or registration, and a REG 31 Verification of Vehicle.
☐ The Toll Roads FasTrak account (if you drive SR-73, 133, 241 or 261)	A Prepaid account has no fee. Without an account, pay online within 5 days before or after the trip or face a \$57.50 penalty plus the toll: thetollroads.com . The I-405 Express Lanes require a FasTrak transponder.

Within 90 days

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ Homeowners' exemption (if you bought a home)	Property tax is run by the Orange County Assessor and Treasurer-Tax Collector, not the City. The Homeowners' Exemption takes \$7,000 off your home's taxable value. The claim form is mailed to new owners and is not online; if it has not arrived within 90 days, call 714-834-3821. The deadline is February 15; per the county's page, filing by December 10 earns a partial exemption. 2026-27 tax installments are due November 1 and February 1 (delinquent after December 10 and April 10).

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ Renting? Know your rent rules	The statewide Tenant Protection Act (AB 1482) applies, and the City of Irvine's renter page cites only that law. For tenant problems, the legal aid and fair housing numbers on that page can help (for example Fair Housing Council of OC: 714-569-0823). Short-term rentals are prohibited in residential zones in the city.
☐ Budget for transit	OC Bus is \$2 one way, capped at \$4.50 a day and \$69 a month with a Wave card. Youth ages 6 to 18 ride free (enrollment required), and seniors and riders with disabilities pay \$0.75. The City's Irvine CONNECT shuttle is free. Metrolink fares rise on October 5, 2026: the SoCal Day Pass goes from \$15 to \$19 on weekdays and from \$10 to \$12 on weekends.
☐ Starting a small or home business?	Irvine requires a City business license for every business, including home-based ones (fewer than 10 employees: \$78.37). Apply within 60 days of starting; the online application asks for a federal EIN. Information: 949-724-7128.
☐ Turkish citizens: consulate services	Irvine has no consulate of its own; the Turkish Consulate General in Los Angeles (Beverly Hills, about 45 miles away) serves the area. Appointments at konsolosluk.gov.tr

IF YOU ARE NOT A U.S. CITIZEN

- Never check "U.S. citizen" on any form, and never register to vote.
- Since January 1, 2026, adults 19 and older without a satisfactory immigration status can no longer newly enroll in full-scope Medi-Cal; new applicants in that group get restricted-scope coverage (emergency and pregnancy care only). Children and pregnant people are not affected.
- Talk to an immigration attorney before applying for Medi-Cal or any public benefit: a new public charge rule has been in effect since September 18, 2026.
- Only U.S. citizens may vote or serve on a jury in California; if the Orange County Superior Court sends you a jury summons and you are not a citizen, use the online eJuror portal to request disqualification.
- Check your I-94 at i94.cbp.dhs.gov. Your license term and work authorization depend on it.
- With a green card application pending, do not travel abroad without advance parole.



TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN IRVINE

Have a question about your immigration status?

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