

CHECKLIST · LEXINGTON

Moving to Lexington Checklist: The First 30 Days (2026)

Start with the good news: you do not have to work out which municipality you are in. But you do have to work out which tax district you are in, because your trash service and your rate follow from it.

SHORT ANSWER

Begin this list with a piece of relief: there is no municipality inside Fayette County other than Lexington, and we measured that from two separate official sources - the Secretary of State's city registry returns **one city in "Active" status** in the county, and the state's own map layer shows a **single polygon**. So if your envelope says Lexington, you are in Lexington. But before you relax, ask the right question: which **tax district** is your address in? The city divides the county into **seven tax districts**, and the district determines both **whether the city collects your trash** and **your property tax rate**. The list below covers **the first thirty days**.

Day one

TASK	WHERE OR HOW
☐ Look up your address's tax district	The city's own address tool is Lex Find and the valuation office has a tax district calculator , both free. Run them both before you sign a lease or make an offer
☐ Register for emergency alerts	LEXALERTS : text " Join LEXALERTS " to 31002 , or register fully at bereadylexington.com . The system targets geographically , and a registration from another city does not work here
☐ Collect your documents in one folder	Passports, immigration documents, birth certificates, previous school records, immunization cards. Offices want originals and do not accept photocopies

First week: utilities and the vehicle

TASK	WHERE OR HOW
☐ Call before filling in the electric and gas form	The online application asks for full Social Security numbers and a credit check consent , and electric service also requires an electrical inspection . The form shows no path without a number - we do not write "you cannot open an account without one," we write that no alternative was found on the form
☐ File the sales tax exemption declaration with every provider	Since January 1, 2023, utility bills for residences other than a primary residence carry Kentucky sales tax. Skip it and you pay unnecessary tax , with no retroactive correction . Electricity, gas and water are separate companies

TASK	WHERE OR HOW
☐ Open the water and city accounts together	Water comes from a private company ; sewer and landfill fees are on the city's LEXserv bill. The city's warning: an overdue LEXserv balance shuts off the water , and the full balance is required to turn it back on. LEXserv: (859) 280-8047
☐ Know where a billing dispute goes	The city's sentence: water, gas and electric rates are regulated by the Kentucky Public Service Commission, not by the city . A rate complaint goes to the state
☐ Book the driver license appointment	The city has two regional offices (Leestown and Spindletop) and you may book at any office in the Commonwealth . Deadline: 30 days from establishing residency
☐ If you arrived on a Turkish license, prepare for the testing set	Turkey is not on the reciprocity list, and the consequence is not a course - it is vision, written and road tests , starting with an instruction permit. The written test is offered in twelve languages and Turkish is not one
☐ Register the car	In order: Kentucky insurance (original, effective within 45 days), then the sheriff's inspection by appointment (\$15.00, (859) 252-1771) , then the Fayette County Clerk . The agency's own page says both 10 and 15 days ; going in week one clears both

Right away: children and health

TASK	WHERE OR HOW
☐ Enroll your children in school	Enrollment follows the address : in the district's words your child enrolls at the school your home is zoned to. No application window, no lottery and no waiting . Look the address up in SchoolSite Locator
☐ Prepare two separate proofs of residence	A deed or lease plus a bill. Your first utility bill serves here and for the library card
☐ Book the immunization appointment	You may enroll, but your child cannot attend until the certificate is on file ; it is due within two weeks of enrollment
☐ Plan the eye and dental examinations	Both by January 1 at the latest
☐ Apply for health coverage	The five year waiting period does not apply to children or pregnant people , and application help is free

First month: money, contracts and housing

TASK	WHERE OR HOW
☐ Ask one question before you sign a lease	Ask the city or the county clerk: <i>"has the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government adopted the tenant protection act?"</i> The rule is not automatic statewide and could not be verified from an official source for this city . Ask for the answer in writing

TASK	WHERE OR HOW
☐ Photograph the unit at move-in and move-out	For the deposit return deadline the sources say 30 days, 60 days and "no fixed period" ; we print the contradiction and publish no figure . Do not sign a damage list you have not read, and leave a written forwarding address when you move out
☐ Read your pay stub	The city's sentence: "The Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government assesses an occupational license fee of 2.25%." A single rate of 2.25 percent ; no resident split, and no second municipal withholding because there is no other municipality in the county
☐ Ask about the refund form if too much was withheld	The employee refund form is Form 211-22 , with Form 211-65 for those over 65. The office is the LFUCG Division of Revenue , 218 E. Main St., (859) 280-8300
☐ If you are marrying, go to the Fayette County Clerk	\$60.00 , both parties together in person, no waiting period and no blood test , the license is valid 30 days and usable only inside Kentucky; an additional certified copy is \$5.00 . Address: 162 E. Main St., Rm. 132
☐ Relax about your foreign documents	The Attorney General's guide says: "Are foreign documents acceptable to satisfy the marriage license requirements? - Yes." If you were married before, bring a certified and translated copy of your divorce decree
☐ If you are buying, ask three things together	The tax district, the rate and the assessment . In the valuation office's 2026 table the first eight rows are identical across every district ; the difference comes only from the service line , and the gap between the highest and lowest district is 0.1730 per \$100 of value
☐ Know who the exemption is for	The homestead exemption is \$49,100 for 2025-2026 , but it is an age or disability exemption . A passport is explicitly accepted as proof of age, and no immigration status condition appears in the exemption rules at all
☐ Buy the flood policy	Flooding is this state's number one disaster , homeowner policies do not cover it , and there is a 30 day waiting period - you cannot buy it once the water is rising
☐ Get a library card	Free for Fayette County residents. The library's own sentences: "We offer free weekly classes and conversation groups for people who want to learn English" and regular citizenship classes . A card needs photo identification plus proof of address

KEEP TRACKING AFTER DAY THIRTY

- **Ten days if your status changes:** the statute requires an application to update the driver license **within 10 days** of a change in immigration status. That rule follows **status**, not moving.
- **Ten days if you are subject to address reporting:** reporting a new address to the immigration agency applies **even when you move within the state**. **If you have a pending application, ask your attorney.**
- **Changing insurers:** online registration renewal does not open until **45 days** with the new company.
- **A second vehicle's debt:** an overdue vehicle tax **locks the renewal of your other vehicles**.
- **Moving within the city does not change your municipality**, but it can change **your tax district, your school zone and your emergency alert registration**. Update all three on moving day.
- **Petitioning to change tax district:** residents may petition - **but only to receive more services, not less** - and the procedure requires the signatures of **at least 51 percent of the property owners on the street** and a filing **before August 1**.

What the tax district changes

In the city's own definitions: **district 1 is full service** (waste collection, street lights and street cleaning), **district 2 has no additional services**, **district 3 waste only**, **district 4 street lights only**, **district 5 waste and street lights**, **district 6 street lights and street cleaning**, **district 7 waste and street cleaning**. So **your trash is collected by the city in districts 1, 3, 5 and 7 and not in 2, 4 and 6**, where you have to arrange your own solution - a monthly cost. The city's own rules: **new homes along public streets go into district 1 and new homes along a private street into district 3**, and the decisive line is **"The services a location receives determine the property tax rate."**

What is deliberately missing from this list

We write down what we did not publish, because you will notice the gaps. This guide has **no street addresses for the immigration agency, the immigration enforcement unit, customs and border protection or the social security administration** - book through **the agency's own system**, do not pay an intermediary site, official systems are free. **No figure for the deposit return deadline** (the sources conflict and the official text could not be reached). **No base annual registration or plate fee** (not found on the agency's pages). **No transit fares** (the operator's page could not be read). **No winter tire rule** - we do not say there is none, **the research did not find one**. **No path to an electric account without a number**, because none was found on the form - **but we do not say it is impossible either**. And **no population, distance or driving time figure anywhere**.



TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN LEXINGTON

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