

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE · LONG ISLAND

Long Island Car Registration, Inspection and Bridge/Tunnel Toll Guide 2026

Insurance, inspection, registration fees, E-ZPass, tolls into the city and parkway rules, covered start to finish for Nassau and Suffolk newcomers.

SHORT ANSWER

New residents have about 30 days to register a vehicle in New York. Buy New York insurance first (25/50/10 liability, plus \$50,000 no-fault and uninsured-motorist coverage), then register at the DMV; every vehicle needs a combined safety-and-emissions inspection once a year. Nassau and Suffolk are in the MCTD zone, which adds a \$50 surcharge every 2-year registration cycle. Commercial vehicles, including vans and moving trucks, are banned on Long Island parkways.

Step by step

- 1 Buy New York insurance.** Minimum: \$25,000 per person / \$50,000 per accident liability (rising to \$100,000 if death results), \$10,000 property damage, plus mandatory \$50,000 no-fault (PIP) and uninsured/underinsured motorist coverage. Ask your insurer for the FS-20 insurance ID card; DMV will not register your car without it.
- 2 Register and title the car at DMV.** The 7 state DMV offices in Nassau and Suffolk handle plates and registration (see the driver's license guide for the list). If you are coming from out of state, bring your previous title or registration.
- 3 Get it inspected.** Every registered vehicle needs a combined safety-and-emissions inspection at least every 12 months, before the sticker expires. The state's published New York City-area fee cap is \$37; ask the Long Island station for its current price before you go. Vehicles under 2 model years old or over 25 are exempt from the emissions portion.
- 4 Handle your license** at the same visit or a separate appointment.

Fees (2026)

ITEM	AMOUNT
Title application	\$50
New plates	\$25
Registration (2-year, weight-based)	about \$26-\$140
Vehicle use tax (2-year)	\$30

ITEM	AMOUNT
Sales tax (state 4% + local)	about 8%-8.875% depending on the county
MCTD surcharge (Nassau, Suffolk and other MCTD counties, per 2-year cycle)	\$50
Inspection (NYC-area fee cap, yearly)	up to \$37

The MCTD surcharge applies in NYC's five boroughs plus Nassau, Suffolk, Westchester, Dutchess, Orange, Putnam and Rockland counties. New York requires a combined safety-and-emissions inspection for every vehicle once a year.

Commercial vehicles are banned on the parkways

The New York State DOT parkway brochure says commercial vehicles and tractor trailers are not allowed on the state's parkways, and some stone bridges are as low as 6 ft 11 in. If you are moving with a rented van, moving truck or box truck, plan a route that avoids parkways such as the Northern State and Southern State and uses expressways and service roads instead. The brochure does not state a penalty; ask your rental company.

Tolls into the city: bridges, tunnels and E-ZPass

Passenger-car rates (since January 4, 2026) at MTA crossings that Long Islanders often use to reach the city:

CROSSING	E-ZPASS	TOLLS BY MAIL
Bronx-Whitestone, Throgs Neck, RFK (Triborough), Hugh L. Carey, Queens Midtown, Verrazzano-Narrows	\$7.46	\$12.03
Cross Bay and Marine Parkway Bridges	\$2.80	\$6.02

One E-ZPass account works across New York, including the 426-mile Thruway from New York City to Buffalo. Open an account at e-zpassny.com; a tag costs \$30 in NYC and Long Island, \$25 in the rest of the state. Without a tag, Thruway tolls run about 30% higher plus a flat \$2 administrative fee. If you drive into Manhattan at or below 60th Street, a separate congestion toll has applied since January 5, 2025 (\$9 with E-ZPass in the daytime, charged once a day); a plate not linked to your account is billed the higher Tolls by Mail rate. See the [MTA congestion pricing page](#).

NOTE FOR IMMIGRANTS

Toll bills go to the address on your vehicle registration, so update both your registration and your E-ZPass account after you move. If you are subject to the address-reporting requirement, you must also report your new address to USCIS within 10 days (AR-11).



TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN LONG ISLAND

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Attorney Asim Clinch serves clients in Long Island and the surrounding area, in Turkish and English.

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