

CHECKLIST · LONG ISLAND

Moving to Long Island Checklist: The First 90 Days

What Nassau and Suffolk 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. In the first week, put electricity (PSEG Long Island), gas (National Grid) and water in your name, find out your trash day from your town, and confirm your school district by address before enrolling your children. Within 30 days, get New York insurance, register your car and open an E-ZPass account; a New York driver's license is also due within 30 days of becoming a resident. Long Island has no single water or trash provider; both depend on your address.

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 online account: uscis.gov/addresschange
☐ 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.
☐ Moved between Nassau, Suffolk and New York City?	Your case can move to a different USCIS office; report the move even if you stay on the island.

First week

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ Electricity	On Long Island electricity comes from PSEG Long Island, not Con Edison. Start service online or call 1-800-490-0025; report outages at 1-800-490-0075 (24/7). The company says it usually does not ask new residential customers for a deposit (except short-term or seasonal customers, or those with an overdue balance).

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ Natural gas	National Grid: 1-800-930-5003 (Mon-Fri 8 a.m.-8 p.m.) or myaccount.nationalgrid.com . Give 5-7 days' notice so a technician can turn the gas on. Many homes heat with oil or propane; ask your landlord what yours uses.
☐ Water (Suffolk)	Mostly Suffolk County Water Authority (SCWA): one photo ID (driver license, state ID or passport), a \$30 initiation fee and, for tenants, a \$50 deposit (waived in some districts). (631) 698-9500 · scwa.com
☐ Water (Nassau)	Nassau has about 46 separate water suppliers (water districts, villages, Liberty Utilities); find yours by address: liwc.org/findyourwaterprovider
☐ Trash and recycling	Set by your town or village. Brookhaven (East Patchogue, Terryville): twice a week, recycling Wednesday, 631-451-8696. Babylon (West Babylon): Red zone Mon/Thu, Blue zone Tue/Fri, recycling Wednesday, EnCon (631) 491-3200. Hempstead (Merrick, Levittown, East Meadow and others): 516-378-4210. Confirm your address on the town map.
☐ DMV license reservation	Use the "Make A Reservation" button on the page of one of the 7 Nassau and Suffolk DMV offices (see the driver's license guide) · test slots fill up, so book early
☐ Children's school enrollment	Confirm your school district by address with the district's school finder, then go to its central registration office (see the school enrollment guide)
☐ SSN application (if eligible)	Long Island residents do not use the New York City Social Security Card Centers; apply at a regular SSA office. Office locator: ssa.gov/locator · 1-800-772-1213

Within 30 days

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ New York car insurance	25/50/10 liability plus \$50,000 no-fault and uninsured-motorist coverage; ask for the FS-20 card
☐ Vehicle registration	Title and registration at DMV; the MCTD surcharge applies in Nassau and Suffolk. Details: dmv.ny.gov
☐ Vehicle inspection	Annual combined safety-and-emissions inspection
☐ E-ZPass account	e-zpassny.com · a tag costs \$30 in NYC and Long Island. Budget for the congestion toll if you drive into Manhattan. Commercial vehicles are banned on parkways, so plan moving-truck routes.
☐ LIRR and NICE	LIRR fares depend on your zone; buy before boarding at a machine or in the TrainTime app, since onboard tickets cost much more. NICE Bus (Nassau) is \$3. Fare tables: mta.info .
☐ Library card	In Nassau, apply at the library of the district or village where you live; the card works at Nassau Library System member libraries. In Suffolk, each library sets its own rules; some, like Patchogue-Medford, require proof of residence in the district.
☐ New York driver's license	Due within 30 days of becoming a resident (living in the state 90 days counts as evidence of residency). Knowledge test, 5-hour course and road test

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ If renting, keep a copy of your lease	Statewide, a security deposit can be no more than one month's rent, and the landlord must return it within 14 days after you move out with an itemized list of deductions

Within 90 days

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ Turkish citizens: consulate services	Turkish Consulate General in New York, appointments at konsolosluk.gov.tr; Nassau and Suffolk are in its district, and you can reach it by LIRR to Penn Station or Grand Central
☐ Bought a home? Property tax	In Nassau the bill comes from your town's Receiver of Taxes (Hempstead, North Hempstead, Oyster Bay, Long Beach or Glen Cove), not the county; the school tax bill is mailed October 1, 2026 and the general bill January 4, 2027. In Suffolk, property tax is paid to the town Receiver of Taxes in two installments, generally by January 10 and May 31. The STAR credit applies statewide.

IF YOU ARE NOT A U.S. CITIZEN

- Never check "U.S. citizen" on any form and never register to vote. New York's law letting noncitizens vote in city elections was struck down by the state's highest court in March 2025 and is not in effect.
- Talk to an immigration attorney before applying for Medicaid, the Essential Plan, or any public benefit: a new public charge rule took effect on September 18, 2026.
- Check your I-94 at i94.cbp.dhs.gov. Your work authorization and green card eligibility depend on it.
- With a green card application pending, do not travel abroad without advance parole.



TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN LONG ISLAND

Have a question about your immigration status?

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