

CHECKLIST · MARYLAND

Moving to Maryland Checklist: The First 90 Days

What to do in order, when it is due and where to do it. Print it and tick the boxes.

SHORT ANSWER

If you are subject to the address reporting rule, report your new address to USCIS within 10 days. In the first week put the electricity and gas in your name (the deposit rule is written by a state regulation, and that regulation never mentions an SSN) and enroll your children in school. Then write one date on your calendar: **60 days from the day you became a Maryland resident**. That is the deadline for both the license and the vehicle, and missing it burns the titling tax credit you earned in your former state. While you are house hunting, ask which county the address is in and whether it sits inside a municipal boundary: both are money questions.

The first 10 days

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ Report your address to USCIS (AR-11)	Most non-citizens, green card holders included, must report within 10 days of moving; holders of A and G visas and Visa Waiver visitors are exempt. It is free. Enter every pending receipt number : uscis.gov/addresschange
☐ If you have an immigration court case, file EOIR-33/IC	Within 5 days , separately for each case: respondentaccess.eoir.justice.gov . The USCIS filing does not cover it
☐ If you have an ICE reporting obligation	Update the address through the ICE portal as well
☐ Change of address with the post office	A USPS forward moves your mail but notifies no agency
☐ If you crossed the Potomac, tell your attorney	A short move between Montgomery County and Virginia or Washington DC can change the USCIS field office you belong to; if you have a pending case, discuss it before you move

The first week

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ Electricity account	The deposit rule is COMAR 20.30.02.04 , and the text never mentions a Social Security number . A deposit is capped at roughly two months of billing; you have a right to installments on any deposit over \$50 (at least 8 weeks for \$50 to \$150, at least 12 weeks above \$150) and the utility must pay you interest
☐ Natural gas account	Washington Gas asks for an SSN in its sign-up flow and publishes no alternative; we could not confirm one. Rather than fight the form, call 844-927-4427 , say you have no SSN and ask which identification they accept, then note the answer with the date. Opening an account requires speaking to a representative at least 48 hours ahead; service initiation is \$25.00 if the gas is on and \$68.00 if it is off
☐ Water and sewer	Where a municipality supplies it this is the cleanest answer in the guide: in Rockville an account needs only a copy of the lease , with no SSN, no photo ID and no deposit. Where the regional authority supplies it, the account is in the property owner's name , so a tenant usually opens nothing; do not waste the phone call
☐ Do not sign with a doorstep supplier	No distribution utility sends anyone to your door to sign you up with a supplier. If you do nothing you stay on the utility's Standard Offer Service , which is a valid choice. Check the supplier name on your bill every month
☐ Library card	The county library card is free; an out-of-country passport plus a residential lease is enough and no SSN is asked for. For a newly arrived family it is the easiest local document to obtain
☐ Enroll the children in school	Your district follows your county. If there is foreign schooling, start at the district's international admissions office; required immunizations must be completed within 20 days of enrollment

THE RENT CAP: BEING IN THE COUNTY IS NOT ENOUGH, IS THE ADDRESS INSIDE A MUNICIPALITY?

- **Maryland has no statewide rent cap.** A binding cap exists in exactly one place, **Montgomery County**, and it does not cover the whole county.
- The county housing department's own page says that **rental units in the Cities of Gaithersburg, Rockville and Takoma Park, and in the Towns of Barnesville and Laytonsville, are not subject to rent stabilization**, and that tenants at those addresses should contact their own municipality. The **unincorporated** parts of the county are covered. Municipal numbers: Gaithersburg 301-258-6340, Rockville 240-314-8300, Takoma Park 301-891-7119.
- At covered addresses the allowable annual increase is **5.2%** from July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027; the formula is the consumer price index plus 3 points or a flat 6%, whichever is lower. **Ninety days written notice** is required before an increase. Coverage is county-licensed rental units at least 23 years old.
- **Living in an exempt municipality does not mean no protection, it means different protection.** Rockville's own city code limits rent increases to once in any 12 months and requires 90 days written notice, and those are binding. The maximum increase percentage the city announces (2.59% effective April 14, 2026) is a **voluntary guideline**, not a binding cap.
- If an agent says the county has a rent cap, do not take that as the answer. Check the county's rent stabilization page and the municipality's page separately.

The 60-day clock: license and vehicle

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ Book in your first week	The appointment type is Out of Country ; the agency is the MVA , not the DMV, and the call center is 410-768-7000. An appointment is required and there is no walking in
☐ The test is not in Turkish, so line up your interpreter	The test comes in 17 languages and Turkish is not one . A spoken interpreter is allowed for noncommercial tests but you pay; book one days ahead
☐ Prepare two Maryland residency documents	A lease is the easiest; the second can be a utility bill, bank correspondence, an insurance policy or a copy of a tax return. Originals are required , photocopies are not accepted
☐ Insurance first, then registration	The minimums are \$30,000 / \$60,000 / \$15,000 ; Virginia's minimums are higher, so do not carry those numbers over. An uninsured registered vehicle costs \$200 for the first 30 days, then \$7 a day
☐ The safety inspection is one-time	The state does not set the price , so call a few licensed stations. The certificate is valid for 90 days
☐ Emissions depend on your county	13 counties plus Baltimore City test; the other 10 counties do not. The cycle is two years, \$30 at a staffed station and \$26 at a kiosk. Hybrids are not exempt
☐ Open an E-ZPass Maryland account	The interior windshield transponder is free and the account can be funded with cash or a check , which makes it the only real option without a card. Without an account the notice goes to the address in MVA records, and an unpaid toll can block your registration renewal

MISSING THE 60 DAYS IS NOT A FINE, IT IS LOST CASH

The MVA's own page says that missing the 60-day window **removes the credit you would otherwise get for the titling tax you already paid in another state**. Inside the window, if your former state's rate was 6.5% or higher you pay a flat **\$100**; if the rate was lower you pay only the difference. Miss the window and on a vehicle 6 model years old or newer you pay **the full 6.5% of value**. If you are shipping a car from Türkiye there is a separate and earlier clock: the vehicle must be titled **within 60 days of entering the United States**, and the foreign title needs a translation **bearing an embassy seal**. Book the consular appointment before the car reaches the port.

Within 60 to 90 days and after

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ Form MW507 at your first job	On this form you enter the county you live in , because the local rate follows your home, not your workplace . For the many people who commute into Washington DC or Virginia that is a direct difference; put the wrong county down and you under-withhold or over-withhold all year
☐ Two income taxes, one return	The state tax is graduated (the \$3,001 to \$100,000 band is 4.75%) and the county income tax sits on top; statewide it runs from 2.25% to 3.30%, and Montgomery County is 3.20%. The statutory ceiling rose from 3.2% to 3.30% in 2025, so your rate can go up
☐ An ITIN if you cannot get an SSN	Form W-7, as a rule filed with the return. Maryland is well placed: seven IRS offices provide in-person ITIN document review (Annapolis, Baltimore, Frederick, Hagerstown, Landover, Rockville, Salisbury), so you need not mail your passport to Texas. Appointment line 844-545-5640
☐ If you bought a home, file the Homestead Tax Credit	Right after closing, with SDAT rather than the county. It is one-time, has no income test and does not transfer from the seller . It is the most common and most preventable property tax mistake in Maryland
☐ Check your mailbox at the end of December	The state does the assessment, on a three-year cycle, and notices are mailed at the end of December; the appeal window starts with the notice. The 2026 cycle was Group 2, and Group 3 notices are expected around the end of December 2026
☐ Health coverage	Maryland does not use healthcare.gov; it runs its own exchange, Maryland Health Connection , and one application is screened for Medicaid, MCHP and marketplace plans together. For Medicaid most immigrants need qualified status plus a five-year wait ; if you are pregnant or under 21 and lawfully present, you do not have to wait the five years
☐ If you are uninsured	Maryland sets hospital rates by state regulation , and rates must be set without discrimination among payers, so an uninsured patient is billed at the same regulated rate as a large insurer. State law also requires hospitals to maintain a financial assistance policy . The program that would let residents without status buy marketplace coverage is currently suspended
☐ Turkish military registration	For men born in 2007 the deadline is December 31, 2026 . Through the consular section in Washington or through e-Devlet

Know which door to knock on

- **County or state business:** schools, libraries, health, fire, property assessment, the property tax bill and both income taxes.
- **Possibly municipal business:** the rental license, trash, water in most places and local code enforcement.
- **Baltimore City is an independent city**, not part of Baltimore County: separate government, separate courts, separate departments.
- On the day you move, save two numbers together: your county information line and your municipal switchboard. In Montgomery County the line is **MC311**, dial 311 inside the county or 240-777-0311 from outside, weekdays 7:00 to 19:00. MC311 says on its own page that it offers interpretation in more than 150 languages, but **the only language it names is Spanish**, so know that you will have to ask for an interpreter.

IF YOU ARE NOT A CITIZEN, REMEMBER

- Voter registration and voting are for citizens only. Registering or voting without citizenship is a federal crime.
- Talk to an immigration attorney before you apply for, or drop, any public benefit.
- Check your I-94 record at i94.cbp.dhs.gov. Your license term and your work authorization may depend on it. Corrections are made by CBP deferred inspection; the relevant airports for this region are Washington Dulles and Baltimore/Washington, but we could not confirm the BWI unit, so we publish no address or hours for it.
- If a green card application is pending, do not travel abroad without advance parole. If you are going to Türkiye for military service, discuss in advance how long you will stay and whether you need a re-entry permit.
- We **could not find** a Maryland statute in force governing local cooperation with federal immigration authorities. That does not mean no such law exists; we did not find one. If you have heard something about your county's practice, confirm it with an attorney rather than from this list.

Deadlines and fees change. Check the relevant agency's official page before you act. Information as of October 6, 2026.



TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN MARYLAND

Have a question about your immigration status?

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