

CHECKLIST · MINNEAPOLIS

Minneapolis Moving Checklist: The First 90 Days (2026)

What newcomers should do, in order, with the deadlines and where to do it. Print it and tick the boxes.

SHORT ANSWER

The first ten days are federal: **if you are subject to address reporting, report to USCIS within 10 days**, and if you have a case in immigration court, report to the court **within 5 days**. The first week belongs to the City: **open the water account in your own name**, because the lease is enough, there is no number on the list, opening is free and trash enrollment happens by itself; it all arrives on **one bill**. The same week, find out **whether your building number is odd or even** and save the snow line. When you rent, ask for two things in writing: **the screening criteria and the deposit amount**. And put two dates in your calendar today: **December 31** for the homestead application and **January 31** for your landlord's rent certificate.

First 10 days

TASK	WHERE OR HOW
☐ Report your address to USCIS	As a general rule required for most noncitizens including green card holders, within 10 days ; holders of A and G visas and visa waiver visitors are outside it. uscis.gov/addresschange . A move from one neighborhood to another counts , and so does moving to another unit in the same building
☐ Update the address on every pending case separately	Filing an AR-11 does not change the address on a pending application by itself; enter the receipt number for each one
☐ If you have an immigration court case	Within 5 days , on Form EOIR-33/IC: respondentaccess.eoir.justice.gov . There is one court in the state, so moving within the metro does not move your case to another court
☐ If you have an ICE reporting obligation	Report the address through portal.ice.gov as well. Confirm reporting locations on the agency's own check-in page; if you hold an appointment notice, the address on that notice governs
☐ Do not mistake mail forwarding for a report	The change of address you give the post office does not update the USCIS record, and giving your address to the licensing department or the county does not satisfy the federal duty

THE TWO ADDRESS MISTAKES MADE MOST OFTEN IN THIS CITY

- **Treating the metro as one city.** Minneapolis and St. Paul are **separate cities in separate counties**; the western suburbs are separate municipalities too. Moving across the river is not "staying in the same place".
- **Not reporting because you crossed no boundary. What triggers the duty is the move itself**, not whether you crossed a county or city line. Spending the first year in two or three different rentals is common here; repeat the report every time.
- **Renting a mailbox is not a solution**, because the agency wants the address where you actually live.
- One thing changed in 2026: factor in the federal rule that **took effect on June 29, 2026** and reorganized alien registration and what counts as evidence of registration, readable in the [federalregister.gov](https://www.federalregister.gov) record.

First week

TASK	WHERE OR HOW
☐ Open the water and sewer account in your name	The service is the City's own, the account can be opened in a tenant's name , the document asked for is a deed if you own and a copy of the lease if you rent , the City's list does not mention a number , and opening is free (restoring after a shutoff is \$90). Utility billing 612-673-1114
☐ Do not apply separately for trash	Opening the water account enrolls you in trash and recycling automatically , all on one bill . Solid waste 612-673-2917 ; the 2026 base charge is \$33.99 per unit , and rates change every year
☐ Find out which company supplies your power and gas	Neither is the City's: both come from private companies regulated by the state , which means the regulated-company branch of the winter shutoff ban is your branch. We do not name a provider , because we could not verify the names or their deposit rules; ask the landlord for the name
☐ Find out whether your building number is odd or even	In a snow emergency the side you park on turns on that number. Snow line 612-348-SNOW (7669) , general questions 311 , or 612-673-3000 from outside the city
☐ Ask 311 about the building's rental license	In this city every rental unit must be licensed , even if no rent is collected and even if a relative lives there. The building's address is enough
☐ Get a library card	The card comes from the county system , it is free to residents, and the published requirements do not mention a number ; at a branch, identification showing your current address is enough, and an online applicant gets an instant digital card. Free computers and printing come with it
☐ Start school enrollment for the children	There is a single district, no number on the document list, and address verification is not even on the standard list. Make the interpreter request at enrollment and in writing
☐ Do not delay the health application	A child under 18 can enroll in MinnesotaCare regardless of status ; pregnancy coverage runs 12 months after delivery . Minnesota Department of Human Services line 1-800-657-3672 , MNsure 1-855-366-7873

TASK	WHERE OR HOW
☐ Get the transit card	The regional card works on buses, both light rail lines and the rapid bus lines; a 7-day pass is \$20, a 31-day local pass \$65. The low-income program brings the fare to \$1 per ride and an organization vouching for you replaces income documents

A LANDLORD MAY NOT ASK YOUR IMMIGRATION STATUS, AND THIS PROTECTION IS SPECIFIC TO THE CITY

- The City's renter protections put three separate bans on a landlord: a landlord **may not ask** a tenant or an applicant about immigration or citizenship status, **may not demand proof** of it, and **may not reject an application because the applicant uses an ITIN** instead of a number. A landlord also **may not retaliate** against you for requesting repairs or seeking housing assistance.
- **The exceptions are narrow and the page lists them:** where state or federal law requires it, referral to a support service, and **verification of financial qualification**. Do not confuse that last one: asking about your job and income is legitimate, asking about your status is not.
- **This protection is specific to Minneapolis.** It comes from the City's own ordinance rather than state law, and **research could not confirm an equivalent in St. Paul**; we do not carry that provision there. Do not assume the protection travels with you past the city line.
- **The state provision is a retaliation rule, not a screening rule.** The relevant state provision lists **contacting law enforcement about a tenant's immigration status** among a landlord's prohibited acts of retaliation, but the ban is **triggered by the tenant having done one of the enumerated protected acts**, such as reporting a code violation or organizing a tenant union. So **it would be wrong to write that "a landlord cannot report you."**
- **And "prohibited" is not the same as "will not happen."** If a status question comes, note the date, the time and who you spoke with, and keep the listing and the correspondence. A rental problem is reported to the City through **311**; ask an attorney whether it touches your immigration case.

Renting: not price, but entry and exit

TOPIC	THE MINNEAPOLIS RULE
Cap on rent increases	None. State law does not block rent control with a flat prohibition; it attaches a referendum condition . St. Paul held that vote in 2021, Minneapolis did not . So your lease sets the increase , not an ordinance
Deposit ceiling	One month's rent. If the landlord asks up front for more than one month's rent, the ceiling drops to half a month and the tenant gets a right to pay in three installments ; up to one and a half months for a tenant referred by a public agency or a nonprofit
Return of the deposit	Within 21 days of the tenant moving out and giving a new address , returned with interest or accompanied by a written statement of the grounds for withholding. Give the new address in writing and note the day you gave it
Screening	No minimum credit score may be imposed ; an arrest without conviction and a misdemeanor more than three years old cannot be grounds for rejection. If a fee was charged and the application rejected, the landlord must give written reasons and the screening company's contact details within 14 days

TOPIC	THE MINNEAPOLIS RULE
Notice before eviction	30 days , and the period begins when the notice is mailed or delivered. The state floor is 14 days, but the statute expressly allows a local government to set a longer period. In St. Paul that period is temporarily 60 days through the end of 2026 ; do not mix the two figures
Contents of the notice	The total owed, an itemized breakdown , the name and address of the person authorized to collect, a legal aid statement , a financial assistance statement, and a statement that an action may be filed. If a notice arrives without the breakdown or the statements, note it as a defect and show it immediately
Rental license	Required for every unit; an owner who buys a rental property applies within 60 days of closing . Inspection is tiered : 0 to 19 points every eight years, 20 to 39 every five, 40 and above every year . Revocation or denial of a license can give a tenant a right to relocation assistance

The logic of asking about the tier is this: **a third-tier building has accumulated serious violations over the past two years**. But one caveat: a property that has gone more than five years without a routine inspection shows in the system as **first tier by default**, so the first tier does not always mean "no problems"; sometimes it means "nobody has looked in a long time". On fees we give our figures with a reservation, because **at the end of 2025 the City began work that rebuilds the tiering process**. If you move from one settlement to another the name of the question changes too: St. Paul **issues no rental license**, and there the building has a **fire certificate of occupancy** instead.

Within 30 days

TASK	WHERE OR HOW
☐ Insurance and vehicle registration	Minnesota is a no-fault state; compare quotes by coverage list . We could not verify the number requirement at registration, so call the deputy registrar. Parking tickets are paid to the county
☐ Read the snow regime and save it somewhere	A three-day emergency plus winter restrictions running until April 1. The restrictions resume at 8 a.m. the morning after Day 3 . The rules are not published in Turkish and never receiving an alert is not a defense
☐ If your car is towed	The lot is 612-673-5777 . A standard tow is \$222 and storage \$18 a day. A vehicle abandoned due to ICE detention is released at no cost on proof of detention and ownership ; that is a fee waiver , with no effect on the detention itself
☐ Apply early for energy assistance	The shutoff ban window is October 1 to April 30 , the threshold is 50 percent of state median household income , and there is no temperature trigger . If you receive an assistance program with a qualifying threshold you are deemed to meet the income condition. The protection is not automatic : you have to call when the notice arrives and keep the plan. Water and sewer are entirely outside this regime
☐ Register with a sliding-fee health center	Before a problem arises. A sliding fee does not mean free . We print no clinic name in this guide; enter your address in the official locator
☐ Set up the tax side	No city tax is withheld from your pay and none can be; the state income tax has four brackets with a top rate of 9.85 percent . If you need an ITIN, apply on Form W-7

THERE IS NO LOCAL INCOME OR PAYROLL TAX AND THERE CANNOT BE, BUT THERE IS A LOCAL SALES TAX

- **The correct sentence:** the relevant statute does not allow any county, city or town **to impose a new tax on sales or income or to increase an existing one**, and there is **no exception** in the text. Your pay stub shows only federal and state withholding; you file no separate city return.
- **The wrong sentence:** "there is no local tax in Minneapolis." The ban concerns a city acting **on its own**, and the legislature **grants individual cities local sales tax authority by special law**; that "other law" falls outside the section. So **local sales taxes do exist in practice**.
- **What that means for you:** the sales tax rate you pay at a store, a restaurant or on a service bill **may not be the same inside Minneapolis as in the municipality right next to it**. Because the authority is granted city by city, the metro is not a single rate zone.
- **We print no local sales tax rate in this guide**, because research could not verify one this round. We give you the mechanism; you will read the figure from **the Minnesota Department of Revenue's rate lookup and the City's own tax page**. If you do not see a rate here, that is a deliberate decision rather than an omission.

If you bought a home, and if you rent: two dates, two sums of money

DECEMBER 31 AND JANUARY 31

- **An ITIN is accepted for the homestead classification**, and both the [Minnesota Department of Revenue](#) and the county page say so expressly. There are three conditions: own the property, use it as your **sole or primary residence**, and be a Minnesota resident. The rule is the state's, **the application is the county's**: in Minneapolis it goes to the **Hennepin County** assessor, the county accepts applications by mail, and once accepted it does not need renewing.
- **The first trap is the number of a spouse who does not live there.** The statute asks for the number of every owner named on the title who occupies the property **and the number of each owner's spouse, even if that spouse does not live at the address**; if it is not provided, the household is treated as having elected **partial homestead treatment**. In a newly arrived family that spouse is often still in Türkiye; call the county before closing, ask which declaration they want, and ask for the answer **in writing**.
- **The second trap is that December 31 is a hard date.** Even if you close in October, if the application is not filed by that day the property is classified as non-homestead for that year and the benefit is **lost for a year**. The **December 15 date in older sources is obsolete**.
- **If you rent, the renter credit** is no longer a separate form; it is claimed as a refundable credit **inside your state income tax return**, and one of the conditions is **a valid number or an ITIN**. Your landlord must give you the certificate showing rent paid **by January 31**.
- **If it does not come, your route is not closed: from February 1** you can ask the Minnesota Department of Revenue for a **rent paid affidavit**, and even if the certificate arrives later you attach that affidavit to your return together with proof of rent.
- **We print no county property tax rate and no market value exclusion amount in this guide**, because research could not verify a single rate. Before you make an offer, ask the **county assessor** for the current valuation of that parcel.

Within 90 days

TASK	WHERE OR HOW
☐ Plan your Türkiye errands	Minnesota falls in the consular district of the Consulate General in Chicago , and there is no Turkish mission in the state. In-person service by appointment runs only in the morning window ; the detail is in our consulate guide
☐ If you need an apostille, keep the order	Get the document, have it notarized if required, apostille last . The office is across the river in St. Paul and appointments open only 14 days ahead ; the fee is \$5 per apostille
☐ Voter registration and jury duty	Registration and voting are for U.S. citizens only , municipal elections included; do not check a citizenship box on any form. If a jury summons arrives, call the court named at the top of the letter and do not throw the summons away

TASK	WHERE OR HOW
☐ Ask an attorney before applying for public benefits	The federal rule that took effect on September 18, 2026 widened the officer's discretion. Put two dates in your calendar: January 1, 2026 (MinnesotaCare closed for undocumented adults) and January 1, 2027 (MNsured subsidies narrow to three statuses)
☐ The right door for refugee cash assistance	Hennepin County is on the list of counties where this is administered by the Resettlement Programs Office , so you go to the Resettlement Programs Office of the Minnesota Department of Human Services rather than the county. The line is 1-800-814-4806 ; this item should be confirmed
☐ Keep your tax records	Copies of federal and state returns are frequently requested in green card and citizenship applications

Numbers worth knowing in Minneapolis

TOPIC	FIGURE
Length of a snow emergency	3 days. Day 2 is the odd side, Day 3 the even side; the window for moving is Day 2 between 8 p.m. and 8 a.m.
End of winter parking restrictions	By April 1 at the latest; they resume at 8 a.m. the morning after Day 3
Snow line and City service center	612-348-SNOW (7669) · 311 , or 612-673-3000 from outside the city, weekdays 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Tow and storage	Standard tow \$222 , storage \$18 a day; a vehicle abandoned due to immigration detention is released at no cost . The lot is 612-673-5777
Opening a water account	Free; restoring water after a shutoff is \$90. Utility billing 612-673-1114
Solid waste base charge (2026)	\$33.99 per unit; on the smallest residential meter the monthly fixed charge is \$11.75 for water and \$9.30 for sewer
Deposit ceiling and eviction notice	One month's rent (half a month with three installments if rent is demanded up front) · 30 days
Transit passes	7-day \$20 · 31-day local \$65 · \$1 a ride on the low-income program
Library card	Free to county residents, no number in the published requirements; \$60 a year for out-of-state or otherwise ineligible applicants
Homestead and renter credit dates	December 31 and January 31

WEEKEND PLANS: THREE NAMES SEND YOU TO THE WRONG CITY

- **Two items inside the city are permanently free:** general admission to the Minneapolis Institute of Art is **free every day** with no ticket or reservation required, and the Minneapolis Sculpture Garden is **free from 6 a.m. to midnight every day of the year**, with free wireless internet inside. Over a long winter those two are the default plan. **The garden is free, the galleries of the Walker Art Center next to it are ticketed**; do not confuse the two.
- **First name trap:** the free **Como Park Zoo & Conservatory is not in Minneapolis**, it is in St. Paul across the river. One detail a parent needs: **there are no strollers for rent there**, so bring your own.
- **Second name trap:** the **Minnesota State Capitol with the free guided tour is not in Minneapolis** either, it is in St. Paul too. The tour is **45 minutes** and leaves **on the hour**; weekdays the first tour is at 9 a.m. and the last at 3 p.m., Saturdays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Science Museum of Minnesota is not in Minneapolis either.
- **Third name trap, if you head west:** in the Three Rivers Park District **two places whose names evoke a suburb are not in those suburbs**. Lake Minnetonka Regional Park is at an address in **Minnetrissa**, and Noerenberg Gardens is at an address in **Wayzata**. Go by the address, not the name.
- **And you cannot bring food to Noerenberg Gardens:** because of a condition in the deed of gift, food and drink, swimming, and launching or mooring a boat are prohibited inside the park, and pets are not admitted. These are not house rules anyone can change.
- **The Minnesota DNR loans out the state park vehicle permit through public libraries**, reportedly at more than 200 of them; the permit is good for **seven days**, must be displayed visibly on the dashboard, is limited in number and is picked up in person. **We could not confirm that Hennepin County Library, which serves Minneapolis, takes part in that program**, so call your branch and ask. **We print no park fees**, because we could not verify them.
- **On national park fee-free days we take no side:** the agency's pages carry **three separate formulations** of who those days cover, and **no official page defines who counts as a resident**. If you are not a citizen, call the park you are going to before you set out.

IF YOU ARE NOT A CITIZEN, REMEMBER

- Do not check a citizenship box on any form and do not register to vote. Do not fill in registration forms handed to you door to door, on campus or at neighborhood events. If a jury questionnaire arrives, do not leave it blank; notify the court named on the letter.
- Talk to an immigration attorney before applying for a public benefit, dropping one you have, or moving from one program to another.
- Check your entry record: i94.cbp.dhs.gov. Your work authorization, the expiry date of your license and some application eligibilities depend on it; a license issued to a person with temporary lawful status expires **on the last day of their stay**.
- If your green card application is pending, do not travel abroad without advance parole.



TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN MINNEAPOLIS

Have a question about your immigration status?

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

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