

CHECKLIST · NEVADA

Moving to Nevada Checklist: The First 90 Days (2026)

The disconnection moratorium is triggered by temperature rather than the calendar, water and trash sit entirely outside it, and the watering day runs the opposite way in the north.

SHORT ANSWER

Three warnings to start this list. First: **look at the name on your bill**. The regulator regulates electricity and gas, **does not regulate water districts or trash collection**, and says so by name; it even states the rule by name, excluding entities whose names contain authority, district and mutual. So **one household sits under three separate legal regimes, and you can tell which door to use from the provider's name**. Second: the moratorium has **no calendar window and is triggered by temperature**, and the thresholds both sources share are **105 degrees Fahrenheit or above and 15 degrees Fahrenheit or below**. This is **a postponement, not a cancellation**, and **water and trash are entirely outside it**. Third: **water is a serious rule here**. Your watering day is assigned to your property, penalties are tiered, and **run-off from your property has no exemption at all**.

Deadlines: we separate the certain from the unfound

TASK	DEADLINE	WHERE
USCIS address report	10 days . A move within Nevada counts too	Through your online account or Form AR-11
Notice to the immigration court	5 days , if you have a pending case	Form EOIR-33/IC; there is one court in the state
License, arriving from another U.S. state	30 days . The handbook's own sentence	The state motor vehicle agency; you surrender your old card
License, arriving directly from abroad	We could not verify a period . The thirty-day sentence is written for people moving from another U.S. state	Ask the agency and get the answer in writing
Vehicle registration	Follow the agency's own sequence for new residents; the cost of delay is the insurance chain and plate-based park fees	The same agency
Address change on a driver authorization card	Must be done in person	A second task that needs an appointment, separate from the federal report

Two rows in this table mislead readers often. First: **mail forwarding is not an AR-11** and filing an AR-11 **does not by itself update the address on a pending case**; do both and enter the receipt number of every pending application. You can file at uscis.gov/addresschange. Second, and specific to this state: **here you can move without the city name on your envelope changing at all**. Across much of the valley the postal address carries the big city's name, yet a large share of those addresses lie inside no city boundary; someone moving from one unincorporated area to another **has still moved**. **What triggers the obligation is the move itself**, not crossing a boundary. One more thing changed in 2026: take into account the federal rule that **took effect on 29 June 2026** and redefines the alien registration form and what counts as evidence of registration; the text is readable in the federalregister.gov record.

The first thirty days

TASK	WHERE OR HOW
☐ File the USCIS address report within 10 days	uscis.gov/addresschange ; update the address on your pending case separately, and if you have a court case file EOIR-33/IC within 5 days
☐ Find out whether your address is inside a city boundary	If it is not, your counterpart is the county. Do not call that city's government on the strength of the name on your envelope , they will turn you away. The same answer governs water, trash, zoning, licensing and code enforcement
☐ Look at the name on your bill	If it contains authority, district or mutual, that service sits outside the regulator and your complaint goes to the county commission ; if not, to the regulator
☐ Ask the right question when you open an account	Do not say I have no number ; ask what do you accept as alternative identification . The regulator's own answer: some companies may ask for a number, but many provide an alternative such as a driver license number
☐ Try the two ways of lowering a deposit	A payment history letter from your previous company and automatic payment enrollment . For a newcomer with no U.S. credit file both are real money
☐ Learn your watering day	The day is assigned to the address , so watching your neighbor does not help. Watch your system run once: a sprinkler spraying onto the sidewalk here starts with a warning and climbs into serious amounts
☐ Read the utility division clause in the lease	The statute requires that clause to be in a written lease, and it decides who pays a water penalty. If it is blank, have it filled in
☐ Plan the license appointment after you read the two sentences	The two paths carry different information rules; which one fits you is a legal decision
☐ If you have children, open the school enrollment at once	The two districts do not ask for the same documents and one does not accept a license as proof of address
☐ Do not delay the health application	The state took the option left open for lawfully residing children and pregnant people . Applications go through the state's own portal; we publish no telephone number , two official documents give two different lines
☐ If you bought a home, calendar the property tax cap	Recording the deed removes the previous cap and the new one is not established on its own; send the card or the form back

TASK	WHERE OR HOW
☐ Get a library card and ask about the park pass	There are three separate systems and being in the same county does not mean sharing a library. The card is also the door to the park pass

ELECTRICITY AND GAS: THREE REGIMES, ONE DEPOSIT CEILING, ONE TEMPERATURE THRESHOLD

- **The provider map differs structurally between north and south:** in the south electricity comes from **Nevada Power Company**, trading as **NV Energy**, and natural gas from **Southwest Gas Corporation**, that is a **separate company** with a separate bill; in the north electricity comes from **Sierra Pacific Power Company** and **gas and electricity come from the same company**, which applies two separate tariffs. So **the sentence about two bills is wrong in the north**.
- **The deposit ceiling is defined:** a residential deposit **may not exceed one and a half times the estimated average monthly bill**. The company **must allow it to be paid in installments**, must refund it with interest after **twelve consecutive months of on-time payment**, and **the ceiling is halved for an elderly customer**.
- **The most useful line for a newcomer:** having been a customer of **another municipal or regulated energy utility** within the last two years and having paid the last twelve months on time is also a route to an account without a deposit. **Ask your previous company for a payment history letter before you move**.
- The company also **cannot require a customer to provide a guarantor**, and on request **must give you the range of past energy use at that address**; that is where the question of what the bill will be at the home you are renting gets answered.
- **The moratorium is triggered by temperature.** If the forecast for a **twenty-four hour period** shows **105 degrees Fahrenheit or above** or **15 degrees Fahrenheit or below**, a disconnection for non-payment is **postponed**, and multi-unit buildings are expressly covered. **Both thresholds are shared by two sources**, which is why we write them with confidence.
- **And we do not suppress a conflict:** the state regulation defines lower thresholds for **a household including an elderly person or a person with a disability**, but the **tariffs filed with the regulator carry none of those tiers** and the tariff sheets predate the regulation. **We take no side:** if your household includes someone over 62 or a person with a disability, the threshold **may be lower**, so ask your company.
- **Three nuances not to skip:** this is a **postponement, not a cancellation** and the debt remains; the heat exemption on the gas side is **conditional** and **falls away if natural gas is essential for cooling in that home**; and **water and trash are entirely outside this regime**.
- **Protections other than temperature are real too:** no disconnection on weekends, public holidays or the day before them; **ten days' written notice** before a disconnection and, if unpaid, **a second notice at least 48 hours** beforehand; no disconnection where someone in the home depends on a **life support device** that runs on electricity and the company knows it; and no disconnection where the debt is **\$50 or less**.
- **If a month is coming that you cannot pay, do not wait for a disconnection notice: you have a statutory right to installments**, and where someone in your household has a health condition, a licensed physician's written statement together with your own signed statement gives you **a thirty-day postponement**, extended by **another thirty days** if a renewed statement arrives before the period ends. **The postponement does not erase the debt**. The rules are on [the regulator's disconnection page](#).

WATER, SEWER AND TRASH: THREE STRUCTURAL SURPRISES FOR A TENANT

- **None of the three has a single statewide answer** and all three sit outside the regulator, so the complaint route differs from electricity: **the county commission for water, the local business licensing unit for trash**. The regulator writes this on its own page and publishes the county commissions' telephone numbers.
- **First surprise: in some places there is no sewer account for a tenant to open**. In the unincorporated areas of the south sewer sits with a separate district whose answer is this: **the legal owner of the property is responsible for all sewer bills**. The bill is issued **annually**, and **service is not disconnected** for a sewer debt; the unpaid balance is **added to the property tax roll**. In the second southern city sewer is **on the same account as water**, and in the north the city bills **the property** quarterly.
- **Second surprise: the party named on the trash bill is usually the owner**. In the unincorporated south the subscription is **mandatory** under the county code and the county's own text says the owner is responsible for all charges even when not living there. A tenant may be paying for trash inside the rent and never see an account. **We publish no trash tariff figure**; the only schedule we could verify is years old.
- **Third surprise, and it favors the reader**: on identification for a water account the answer is one of the clearest statements in this guide. The southern water district's own sentence says resident aliens may be asked for **a passport, a state identification number and or a consular identification card**, and that international customers may be asked for **a passport number**; it sets one limit: **expired passports are not accepted**.
- **But we draw one distinction plainly**: the district's binding service rules ask only for **a full name and valid identification information** and **do not list** a Social Security number; what asks for the number is **the web form**. Whether an account can be opened with photo identification alone **we could not verify**.
- **In the second southern city the answer is in writing**: the city says on its own page that someone who does not wish to provide the information requested for identity verification by telephone **may open an account in person at the city office with photo identification**. **We found no answer to the same question at the northern water authority**; we do not write that a number is or is not required.
- **On the water side the deposit rule differs from electricity**: because the water district sits outside the regulator, **the one-and-a-half-times ceiling does not apply here**. In the southern district's own rules the amount is defined as about **two and a half times the highest monthly bill accrued over a twelve-month period**; a **surety bond** may be given instead of cash and interest accrues **quarterly**. **We publish no figures for the northern district**, whose site could not be reached at all.

IRRIGATION RULES AND WATER PENALTIES: THE ONE ACT WITH NO EXEMPTION

- This is a metropolis built in a desert and the irrigation rule is **a permanent regime, not a temporary drought measure**. In the south a seasonal calendar applies: **one assigned day a week** in winter, **three assigned days** in spring and fall, and **every day except Sunday** in summer. **Outdoor watering is prohibited on Sundays in every season** and days are **assigned to the address**.
- **The six acts that count as water waste:** water **running or spraying off the property**; failing to repair a faulty device or supply line **you have known about for forty-eight hours**; breaching the washing rules; draining **pool water off the property** where a sewer connection is available; **sprinkler irrigation between 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. from 1 May to 31 August**; and ignoring the assigned watering group.
- **Penalties are tiered and the level is set by the violation history over the preceding eighteen months:** a warning and time to correct for the first violation, then on a typical residential meter **\$80, \$160, \$320, \$640 and \$1,280**. The schedule rises with meter size. **A misdemeanor citation** may also be issued and appeals go to **an independent hearing officer**. Where the district's rules conflict with a city ordinance, **the stricter one applies**.
- **There are exemptions, but one thing has none:** hand-held hose watering, drip systems and newly planted landscape are **exempt** from the day and time limits; **but run-off from the property has no exemption at all**. This is the easiest mistake a newcomer makes in the first month.
- **Tenant or owner: both**. The fee is charged to **whoever holds the account**; but where waste is not resolved the district may require **the owner shown in the county property records** to take over the account, and the resulting debt belongs to both the customer and the owner and creates **a lien on the real property**. So **the bill sits with the tenant while unresolved waste pulls the landlord in**.
- **And the northern rule is not the southern rule; on some days it is the reverse**. In the north the system runs on **the last digit of the street number: Sunday is a watering day for odd-numbered addresses**, while **Monday has no watering at all**. In the south **Sunday is prohibited in every season**. **The same behavior complies in one city and breaches in the other**. **We could not verify the northern penalty amounts or tiers** and we do not copy the southern schedule north; neither should you.
- **One more item if you will rent inside an association:** the state has a statute requiring the removal of **non-functional decorative grass**, and **single-family homes are outside its scope**, but **the common areas of community associations are not**. The timetable falls around **the end of 2026 and the start of 2027**; ask the association about dues and the common area plan.

IF YOU ARE RENTING: THE THREE VERIFIED THINGS, AND WHAT IS MISSING FROM THE LIST

- **The deposit ceiling:** a landlord may not demand a deposit whose total value, **including last month's rent, exceeds three months' rent**. When the tenancy ends the landlord must provide **an itemized written accounting** and return the balance **within thirty days**; failing that, the landlord may be liable for damages **up to the entire deposit**. A late fee **may not exceed 5 percent of the periodic rent**.
- **The retaliation prohibition is the most concrete protection** and its scope is wide: a code violation complaint, membership of a tenants' union, a habitability proceeding, and **a fair housing complaint**. That last ground matters for our reader, because **a claim of national origin discrimination sits inside the fair housing provisions**.
- **The statute lists what a written lease must contain**, and knowing the list gives you bargaining power: the term, the rent and how it is paid, mandatory fees and their reasons, deposits and the conditions for their return, the landlord's right of inspection, a signed inventory of furnishings, and **the division of utility bills between the parties**.
- **What is on the protected class list:** race, religious creed, color, **national origin**, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, ancestry, familial status and sex. **What is not on it: source of income and immigration status**.
- **Three things we could not find, and we do not say none exists for any of them:** a provision barring a landlord from asking about immigration status, a statewide ban on source-of-income discrimination, and a preemption provision barring cities from passing their own tenant protections. **The absence of the last one could not be verified either**, because the state legislative site was closed and municipal codes could not be read.
- **One item not to confuse:** the handbook the southern county publishes for **housing projects it funds itself** says an applicant may not be refused on the ground of holding a particular housing assistance voucher. **That is a funding condition, not a general rule**.
- **Source note:** we could not read these provisions on the state's official legislative site; we read the text from **a secondary mirror** and that copy carries an access stamp of **26 May 2025**. We cite section numbers only as the agencies themselves cite them.

Tax: no income tax, but do not say there is no tax

Nevada has **no personal income tax**, **no state return**, and **no state equivalent** of the federal form you complete when you start a job. That is a real advantage, but there are items standing in its place and your budget will be wrong without them.

ITEM	DETAIL
Sales tax, Clark County (Las Vegas and around it)	8.375 percent
Sales tax, Washoe County (Reno and around it)	8.265 percent

ITEM	DETAIL
What is inside the rate	In Clark County two separate police components and a water district component ; in Washoe County a school facilities share approved at the ballot box. What local government spends on can be read out of the rate itself
Property tax	Local services are financed largely from here; the cap system is below
Tax on the employer	1.17 percent statewide. Not a line on your pay stub, but it can come up in a salary negotiation
Federal obligation	Unchanged. If you have no Social Security number you file with an individual taxpayer identification number

- **Do not carry a rate from one county to another.** Both figures come from the **Nevada Department of Taxation** component document and were verified separately; read your own county's rate from [the department's own document](#).
- **This is a retail tax, so it is independent of income.** For a low-income household the burden can be proportionally heavier than in a state with an income tax. **Do not base a decision to move on the sentence about there being no income tax alone.**
- **If you work across the state line there is a gap here and we leave it open.** Because Nevada has no income tax there is no state tax to be the subject of a reciprocity agreement; but **whether someone living in Nevada and working in the neighboring state to the west must file there we could not verify**, and we do not invent an answer. Ask a tax adviser before you take the job.
- **On property tax the system is a cap, not an exemption:** the annual increase on a primary residence is limited to **3 percent**, other properties get a cap of **up to 8 percent**, and **only one property statewide may be designated the primary residence. Newly built property or property whose use has changed gets no cap for that fiscal year.**
- **And two sentences that catch new buyers: recording the deed removes the previous owner's cap,** and re-establishing it in your name requires **returning the card or the form; a refinance alone does not affect the cap**, but if the document number in the records changes a new card must be completed for the following year. **The two counties use different procedures:** one mails you a postcard, in the other you complete a form yourself.
- **We could not find which number the cap claim asks for.** Whether an individual taxpayer identification number is enough, or a Social Security number is required, **we could not verify**. If you are buying, **call the county assessor before closing**; it is too short a call to be worth losing a year of the cap.

THE POLICE-ISSUED WORK CARD: THE SEQUENCE STARTS WITH A JOB OFFER

- In Nevada **some jobs require a separate card issued by law enforcement**. This is not a professional board license or a federal work authorization; it is a separate document issued by a police agency, and it appears for the first time in this series.
- **The most important detail: you cannot get the card before you have the job**. The southern agency's own answer is clear: you must be hired first, **your prospective employer gives you the application form** and **the employer signs it**. The order is: **job offer first, card second**. Someone who goes to queue for a card without an offer has wasted the trip.
- **Two regions, two agencies, two procedures**. In the south the card is issued by the **Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department**; in the north by the **Washoe County Sheriff** office, and there instead of one card there are **separate permits by type of work**. In the north the procedure runs **by appointment only** and an employer-signed authorization form is required there too.
- **Someone born abroad is asked for additional identification**. The southern agency's own list reads: if born outside the United States or a U.S. territory, bring **one additional form of identification**, and the three options named are **a United States passport, a naturalization certificate** and Authorization to Work documents. **We do not alter the agency's wording**.
- **Term, scope and bars**: in the south the card is valid for **5 years** and there is no renewal, you reapply. The card is valid **only for the type of work printed on it**; a change of employer must be reported **within 5 days**. Fingerprints are taken at the agency without exception and **no card is issued to someone with a felony conviction**.
- **Fee**: in the south **\$67 from 1 October 2026**, plus **\$40 for a federal background check** if required. Fees are not refunded. **We publish no northern fees**; that agency's schedule could not be read this round.
- **And a warning**: the photo identification the agency lists includes a license it issues, but **whether the driver authorization card is accepted at this counter could not be verified**. We do not write that it is sufficient; ask the agency before you collect the application form.
- **We do not list which jobs require a card**. The agency's own answer is that **city and county ordinances and state law** determine this and that it publishes no list of occupations. **Ask your employer when you take the offer**; they know the answer.

The next sixty days

TASK	WHERE OR HOW
☐ Finish the registration and confirm the emissions coverage	The coverage is a drawn area , not a county line, and exempt rural pockets exist
☐ Keep the insurance unbroken	There is no grace period ; one day of lapse can start the chain of fees, penalties and suspension
☐ If your job requires a work card, calendar it	You get the card on an employer-signed application and not before a job offer

TASK	WHERE OR HOW
☐ Work out how many certified copies you need up front	School enrollment, apostille work and consular matters each need their own; the search fee is not refunded
☐ Ask an attorney before applying for a public benefit	Calendar two dates: 18 September 2026 , when the new public charge rule took effect and the boundary before which benefits are assessed under the older rule; and 1 January 2027
☐ Do not work out the health age limit yourself	The limit is 21 on the medical assistance side and 19 in the children's program. For someone between nineteen and twenty-one the answer depends on the program
☐ Read the record warning before you file a complaint or report	Two separate agencies write on their own pages that your name may be released and will enter the public record ; one adds that you may be called as a witness
☐ Build the travel budget around the plate	State park fees are tied to the plate and there is no free pedestrian entry

HEALTH: NEVADA TOOK THE OPTION LEFT OPEN, AND THAT IS NOT TRUE OF EVERY STATE

- **The federal frame:** from 1 October 2026 full coverage was limited to four status groups, and **refugees, asylees, people with temporary protected status, parolees and visa holders are not on that list.**
- **But the federal rule left three exceptions** and the second is decisive here: **the state option for lawfully residing children and pregnant people.** The federal agency's own implementation document says a state that took that option **must determine those people eligible for full benefits** and **must maintain** benefits for those already covered; the text is readable in [the federal agency's implementation deck](#).
- **Nevada took the option for both children and pregnant people** and the paperwork exists: state plan amendments approved in **2018** for children and in **2023** for pregnant people, the latter covering **all lawfully present pregnant people** including those who would otherwise face the five-year waiting period.
- **Do not merge the ages:** the limit is **21** on the medical assistance side and **19** in the children's program. Two programs, two ages.
- **Two limits, and neither is to be skipped: lawfully residing does not mean any immigration status;** and **there is no emergency equivalent in the children's program**, a real gap for a child outside the option. For everyone else what remains is **emergency coverage**, which survives the change.
- **Do not confuse the names, because the agency's name changed in 2025 and the old one is still everywhere in the paperwork.** The state agency running the program is the **Nevada Health Authority**, the medical assistance program is **Nevada Medicaid**, the separate children's program is **Nevada Check Up**, the application portal is **Access Nevada** and the unit that decides eligibility is the **Division of Welfare and Supportive Services**. All are correct and none is the same thing. Saying which program you mean speeds up a telephone call.
- **The marketplace is the state's own**, not the federal site: it is **Nevada Health Link**, operated by the **Silver State Health Insurance Exchange**. Open enrollment for 2027 coverage runs **1 November to 15 January**. **We publish no income limit figure**, two official sources give two different percentages. **We publish no telephone number either**, two official documents give two different lines.
- **And we state two open ends honestly:** we **could not find** a Nevada text removing the number and status requirement for emergency coverage, and we **found no source at all** on whether the state health agency reports applicants to immigration authorities. We write nothing in either direction. **If that is decisive for you, consult us before you apply.**
- **A sliding-fee clinic is never a free clinic.** The member organization that brings these centers together in the state is the **Nevada Primary Care Association**, and it writes that the centers serve patients regardless of ability to pay and charge on a sliding fee scale. The discount is calculated on household income but there is still a charge; **take proof of income and ask what you will pay before the appointment.** In an emergency a separate federal duty applies: a hospital emergency department must examine and stabilize **regardless of ability to pay and of immigration status**. **We publish no clinic address.**

TRAVEL BUDGET: TWO SURPRISES, AND ONE OF THEM IS ABOUT CHILDREN

- **The first surprise is on the plate:** entrance and camping fees in state parks are **tied to the plate** and **there is no free pedestrian entry**, with **\$2 per person** for anyone on foot or on a bicycle. Annual permits are **tied to plate numbers** and last **twelve months from the date of purchase**, not a calendar year. **Do not go without cash:** at least one park in the system plainly does not take cards.
- **The second surprise is at the pool, and it sits at the center of this section.** The regulator's own text, defining a class of venue inside a hotel casino property, writes that the venue **prohibits patrons under the age of 21 from entering**, and the same definition lists the dance area as possibly being **a swimming pool or a pool deck**. So **a hotel pool can legally be a venue for people over 21**. A family that books a hotel on the strength of the pool photographs may not be able to take their child into that pool. **Call the hotel before you book and ask about the pool's age limit and whether there is a separate pool open to children.**
- **There is a park pass lent through libraries**, valid at all 27 state parks, covering one vehicle of up to eight people and **covering museum admission in state parks too. But it is rationed:** the agency's own bulletin states that **each public library was provided with two passes**, the loan period is **one week**, and **we could not verify this year's participation of the three library systems. We do not say it exists;** we describe the structure and tell you to **ask your branch**. The pass **does not work on federal lands**.
- **The library systems split three ways and the split is not where you would expect;** the second southern city has **its own separate district. We publish no card conditions or document lists**, none of the three systems' sites could be reached this round. What we verified in two systems is this: **we found no statement that a Social Security number is requested** on application, what is asked for is photo identification and proof of address, and **both have a fallback for someone whose documents are incomplete**.
- **A heat item that belongs in planning, in the agencies' own words:** the national park service writes for the lake area that hiking from late spring to early fall can be extremely dangerous in the heat, asks for **at least four liters of drinking water per person per day** and says to drink even when you are not thirsty, and states on the same page that there are **no lifeguards and no designated swimming beaches**. Some facilities **close at midday in summer**.
- **And a name trap runs in both directions:** the **Clark County Museum** is not in the largest city but in the second city in the south, at 1830 S. Boulder Highway, with **free admission** and open daily 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; while the state historic park carrying the big city's name **really is in that city**, so do not try to correct it. The **Clark County Wetlands Park** at the eastern end of the valley is also free to visit in the county's own words. **But we state one warning plainly:** the museum holds **a large memorial collection** gathered after a mass shooting; we name it so a parent can make that decision themselves rather than by walking into the exhibit.



TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN NEVADA

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