

CHECKLIST · PUYALLUP

Moving to Puyallup Checklist: The First 90 Days

What newcomers need to do, in order, with deadlines and where to do it, with Pierce County addresses. Print it and tick it off.

SHORT ANSWER

If you are subject to address reporting, tell USCIS your new address within 10 days. In the first week, open electricity and gas with one call to Puget Sound Energy (1-888-225-5773); water, sewer and stormwater are the city's own service and **a tenant can hold the account in their own name**. Enroll your children with Puyallup School District. Within 30 days get your license (there is no DOL office in Puyallup), then register the car. **For everything, the county is Pierce, not King.**

PUYALLUP IS IN PIERCE COUNTY, NOT KING COUNTY

This is the most-confused point in the Washington guides and it can cost you a whole day. The marriage license, the birth certificate, the property tax, the jury summons and the health department all run through Pierce County agencies. The King County addresses in the Seattle, Kent and Federal Way guides do not apply here.

ERRAND	THE RIGHT AGENCY FOR PUYALLUP
Marriage license	Pierce County Auditor, Tacoma · \$172
Birth certificate	Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department, 3629 S D St, Tacoma
Property tax	Pierce County Assessor-Treasurer, 2401 S 35th St, Room 142, Tacoma
Jury summons	Pierce County Superior Court, Pierce County District Court, Puyallup Municipal Court or the federal court
Public health	Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department
Vehicle registration	Pierce County Auditor and the McCallum agencies in Puyallup
U.S. passport	Pierce County Auditor, Tacoma
Rent help and housing	Pierce County Human Services, Pierce County Housing Authority

One detail to know up front: **these errands are all in Tacoma, but not all in one building**. The marriage license, vehicle registration, property tax and U.S. passports are at 2401 S 35th St, while the birth and death certificate counter is at 3629 S D St. If you plan to finish two errands on one trip, count on two addresses.

First 10 days

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ Report your new address to USCIS (AR-11)	As a general rule, most people who are not U.S. citizens, including green card holders, must. A and G visa holders and Visa Waiver visitors are outside it. A move within Puyallup counts too. uscis.gov/addresschange
☐ If you have an immigration court case, file EOIR-33	Within 5 days: respondentaccess.eoir.justice.gov
☐ If you have an ICE reporting obligation	Update your address through portal.ice.gov as well, within 5 business days of the move
☐ Post office change of address	A USPS change does not update your USCIS record. They are two separate steps

First week

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ Electricity and gas	Both come from Puget Sound Energy: pse.com or 1-888-225-5773. Neither Seattle City Light nor Tacoma Power serves Puyallup. No SSN required; one of several identification options is enough. A deposit may be asked for, but there are three ways around it
☐ Water, sewer and stormwater	The city's own service: Utility Billing, copbilling@puyallupwa.gov , 253-841-5550, 333 S Meridian 3rd floor, weekdays 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (mail to PO Box 35160, Seattle WA 98124-5160). A real difference from Seattle: in Seattle only the owner can hold the water account, while in Puyallup it can be opened in the tenant's name as long as the owner emails the city. The city page asks for no SSN
☐ Garbage	Mandatory, collected by D.M. Disposal. The glass drop-off point is the Elks Lodge at 314 27th St NE. Household hazardous waste is accepted free at the Hidden Valley Transfer Station (17925 Meridian St E, South Hill) and the Tacoma facility (3510 S Mullen); do not put paint, batteries, oil or chemicals in the regular trash
☐ Enroll your children in school	Puyallup School District, online through the Focus Family Portal. Enrollment runs from the Education Service Center, 302 2nd St SE, 253-841-1301. For address, the Verification of Residency Form plus one of nine options: a lease with a current rent receipt, a utility bill, a landlord letter or verification that you live with another person, among others. Neither an SSN nor a status document is on the district's list of required papers. A Puyallup mailing address can sit in a different district (Sumner-Bonney Lake, Bethel, Fife, Orting, Tacoma, Franklin Pierce), so check the boundary map first. Keep the phone number and email on the form working: if the school cannot reach you within three weeks it may remove the registration
☐ Save the city numbers	Puyallup has no 311 line. The city's general number is 253-841-4321 (City Hall, 333 S Meridian, weekdays 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.) and there is an online Report a Concern form on the site. Billing 253-841-5550, library 253-841-5454. In a life-threatening emergency call 911

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ Library card	Puyallup is fortunate here: it has its own city library rather than belonging to Pierce County Library System (324 S Meridian, 253-841-5454), and anyone living in Washington can get a free card. Hours are Mon, Tue, Thu 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Wed noon to 7 p.m.; Fri and Sat 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; closed Sunday. The page does not say whether a foreign passport is accepted, so call and ask before you go. The branch on the South Hill side belongs to a separate system: PCLS South Hill, 15420 Meridian E, 253-548-3303

What does the water bill cost? (February 2026 rates)

ITEM	MONTHLY
Example residential bill (600 cubic feet)	\$142.26
Water (share of that example)	\$37.21
Sewer (share of that example)	\$78.66
Stormwater (per ESU)	\$25.12
Landfill charge	\$1.27
5/8 inch meter base charge	\$15.59
Sewer base charge	\$27.96

- Rates are tied to a construction cost index and updated every year.
- **The senior and disability discount is open to tenants too:** \$11.52 off water, \$12.08 off sewer and \$8.94 off stormwater a month, about \$32 in all. The condition is meeting Pierce County's low-income senior or disability property tax exemption criteria. Documents: a license or birth certificate showing age; tenants bring their most recent income tax return, and for disability a doctor's confirmation is required. Apply through Pierce County: 253-798-2169. The discount is backdated to the first bill of the year.
- **Heat protection:** where water has been shut off for an unpaid bill, a reconnection rule applies while the National Weather Service has a heat advisory in effect; call 253-841-5550.

ON BILL ASSISTANCE, THE PIERCE COUNTY RULE DIFFERS FROM KING COUNTY'S

In Puyallup the federal energy assistance program (LIHEAP) is run by Pierce County Human Services, and the county's own page says plainly that **you have to provide Social Security cards and photo identification**, plus proof of address and household income. For a family with no SSN in the household, that program often will not work. The page says nothing about immigration status and we are not inventing a rule; ask by phone before you apply. Where to go: Pierce County Human Services, 1501 Market Street, Tacoma WA 98402, weekdays 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., 253-798-4400; if your power has been shut off, the emergency line is 253-798-3590. The program is open to Pierce County residents outside the Tacoma city limits, and Puyallup is in that group. Applications for the new program year reopened on October 1, 2026. The city's own resource list also gives United Way (253-272-4263), Pierce County Human Services (1-855-798-4328), Puyallup School District (253-840-8909), Helping Hand House (253-848-6096), LASA (253-581-8689) and Bridges of Love (253-531-2366); the page does not say whether those organizations ask for an SSN or status.

When renting

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ Local rules	Our research found no deposit cap, rent cap or rental registration program of Puyallup's own: Washington's tenant law (RCW 59.18) applies. Seattle's 180-day notice and deposit cap do not apply here. We could not read the municipal code, so we do not claim there is definitely no local ordinance; ask the city while you are house hunting
☐ Installment right	RCW 59.18.610: on written request you may pay the deposit, non-refundable fees and last month's rent in 3 equal installments on leases of 3 months or more, or 2 on shorter ones. No extra charge or interest may be added. A holding fee cannot exceed 25% of the first month's rent
☐ Rent increase	No increase in the first 12 months, then once every 12 months the cap is 7% plus inflation or 10%, whichever is lower: 9.683% for 2026 and 10% for 2027. Some buildings are exempt under RCW 59.18.710. The city does not enforce the cap; tenants and the state Attorney General do, and the Attorney General can fine up to \$7,500 per violation
☐ If rent arrears build up	Pierce County Eviction Prevention: for tenants living in the county who hold a 14-day or 30-day notice or face an eviction case, owe rent, and have income below 80% of area median income. Subsidized housing is excluded. Applications are selected by a lottery at 11:59 p.m. on the 10th of each month, with the result emailed the next business day. Pierce County Human Services, 1501 Market Street, 1st floor
☐ Free legal help	The statewide CLEAR line is 1-888-201-1014 and the Neighborhood Legal Clinic for low-income tenants is 253-572-5134. Tacoma's mediation program is for Tacoma tenants only
☐ Housing assistance	The rental assistance program in this area is run by Pierce County Housing Authority , not King County Housing Authority

Within 30 days: license, car and transit

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ Washington driver's license	There is no DOL office in Puyallup. Parkland (2502 112th St E, Suite 200, 253-536-6220) or Lakewood (6010 Main St SW, Suite 102, 253-593-2990). Lakewood opens on Saturdays, Parkland does not. No SSN needed
☐ Vehicle registration	After the license. Two agencies inside Puyallup: McCallum License Agency, 1325 E Main (253-845-8811) and 16126 Meridian E (253-841-0245), weekdays 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturdays 8:30 a.m. to noon. The county counter is the Pierce County Auditor, 2401 S 35th St, Room 200, Tacoma
☐ Insurance	Minimum \$25,000 / \$50,000 bodily injury and \$10,000 property damage
☐ Good To Go! account	Free. Without one, every toll costs \$2 more. If you commute on SR 167, the \$15 Flex pass makes the express lane free with two people aboard, and WSDOT is handing out one free sticker pass per household

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ ORCA card	A Pierce Transit adult fare is \$2.00 (King County Metro and Link are \$3.00), under 18 free, ORCA LIFT \$1.00. A day pass is \$5 local or \$6 regional, and a monthly pass \$62 or \$72. Buy a card at the Puyallup Station machines, the Pierce Transit Customer Service Center (505 E 25th St, Tacoma, 253-581-8000) or online
☐ Sounder train	Puyallup Station, 131 W Main Ave, downtown. Seattle King Street is \$4.75 and about 42 to 49 minutes, Tacoma Dome \$3.50 and about 20 minutes. There are 1,044 parking spaces and no public restroom. It runs on weekdays and mostly in the peak direction, and you tap the ticket twice, boarding and alighting. There is no station in South Hill

60 to 90 days and beyond

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ Health coverage	MultiCare Good Samaritan Hospital is at 401 15th Ave SE; the neighborhood emergency department at South Hill is at 13106 Meridian E. Both are open 24 hours, so you do not have to leave the city for an emergency room. Before you pay a bill, ask the hospital for its financial assistance and charity care application: that is a bill reduction , not a free clinic. For routine care Community Health Care (201 West Main, appointments 253-722-2161) and Sea Mar (10217 125th St. Ct. E., 253-864-4550) charge on a sliding scale, so they are not free . Healthplanfinder 1-855-923-4633
☐ Insurance navigator	Community Health Care's insurance enrollment navigators are at 253-722-2154 ; the service is free to everyone and you do not have to be a patient there. Healthplanfinder open enrollment runs November 1, 2026 to January 15, 2027
☐ Children's vaccines	Genuinely free: vaccines for ages 0 to 18 are free at Washington providers and pharmacies in the Vaccines for Children program, and the county health department says "you won't be turned away if you can't pay". The venues of the department's free vaccine events change, so get the address from its immunization page
☐ The county health agency	Because Puyallup is not in King County, public health comes from the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department : 3629 S D St, Tacoma, 253-649-1500, weekdays 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. It is not a primary care clinic. In a mental health crisis call 988
☐ Turkish consular services	There is no Turkish consulate in Washington State. The Consulate General of Türkiye in Los Angeles serves you; book at konsolosluk.gov.tr . Passports are issued in person only. Put your passport expiry date in your calendar now
☐ Property tax	Pierce County bills it, not King County: Assessor-Treasurer, 2401 S 35th St, Room 142, Tacoma, 253-798-6111, automated payment line 253-798-3333. The first half is due April 30 and the second half for 2026 falls on Monday, November 2, 2026 because October 31 is a Saturday. Card payments carry a vendor fee (credit card 2.35%, debit card \$3.50, e-check \$0.50)
☐ SSN	Puyallup has its own SSA office: 811 South Hill Park Dr, Suite A, (855) 886-9627, about 2.3 miles from city hall. The open data file shows weekdays 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., but do not rely on the Wednesday hours; confirm at ssa.gov/locator before you set out. The backup office is Tacoma, 2608 S 47th St, Suite A
☐ No SSN but you must file	Apply for an ITIN with Form W-7. The nearest IRS office is not Seattle but Tacoma : 1301 A Street, Room 530, about 9.4 miles from city hall. Appointment required, 844-545-5640

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ If you are getting married	The license comes from the Pierce County Auditor : 2401 S 35th St, Room 200, Tacoma, 253-798-7435, and you should book. \$172 , a three-day wait, valid 60 days, and the license is handed to you at the time of purchase. Do not budget King County's \$169 and do not use the Seattle counter. Certified copies are \$3 each and have to be requested
☐ A baby was born	A certified birth certificate comes from the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department : 3629 S D St, Tacoma, (253) 649-1401, weekdays 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (last Tuesday of the month 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), walk-in. It is \$39 at the counter and usually the same business day, \$33 by mail and \$48.50 online through VitalChek. Wait at least 15 days after the birth. Do not go to the King County counter. Order at least two certified copies
☐ If a jury summons arrives	It can come from Pierce County Superior Court, Pierce County District Court, Puyallup Municipal Court or the federal court, and none of them is King County. Do not ignore it: sign the eligibility declaration that comes with it and send it back. A noncitizen cannot serve on a jury

A REDUCED-COST CLINIC IS NOT A FREE CLINIC

Draw this line in your first month. **Inside the Puyallup city limits we could not verify a general clinic that describes its regular care as free on its own official page**; that is not the same as saying none exists, only that it was not verified on an organization's own page. The two addresses that come up in a search, Community Health Care and Sea Mar, charge on an income-based scale: the price comes down, but you pay something on the day, and Community Health Care asks for a **\$45 minimal fee or deposit** at a first visit. Bring proof of income for everyone in the household who earns, because the discount only applies once the documents are in. The services whose own pages say there is no charge are in Tacoma and they have limits: the evening clinic there is for an **acute complaint**, not a primary care practice that follows diabetes or blood pressure. On immigration status, Sea Mar states on its own page that it does not look at status, while Community Health Care, MultiCare and the county health department say nothing either way; that is neither a welcome nor a bar, and you have to ask.

IF YOU ARE NOT A CITIZEN, REMEMBER

- Do not register to vote. You will be offered registration at the DOL appointment; decline. Registering or voting as a noncitizen is a federal crime.
- Before you apply for SNAP, Apple Health or any other public benefit, talk to an immigration attorney.
- Check your I-94 record at i94.cbp.dhs.gov.
- If your green card application is pending, do not travel abroad without advance parole.

Information as of October 1, 2026. See the matching sections of the Puyallup page for detail.



TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN PUYALLUP

Have a question about your immigration status?

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

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