

CHECKLIST · ST. PAUL

St. Paul Moving Checklist: The First 90 Days (2026)

What newcomers need to do, in order, with the deadlines and where each one is done. Print it and tick it off.

SHORT ANSWER

The first ten days are federal: **if you are subject to address reporting, tell USCIS within 10 days**, and if you have a case in immigration court, tell the court **within 5 days**. When you rent, this city has one question worth real money: **is this unit covered by rent stabilization, and if not, when was the building's first certificate of occupancy issued?** Rentals whose first certificate came **after December 31, 2004** are **permanently exempt** from the percentage cap, and the landlord must tell you **before the lease is finalized**. The first week is about the City: **water, trash and recycling are billed from three separate places, there is no 311**, and the snow rule reads **the sign on the street**. And put two dates in your calendar today: **December 31** for the homestead application and **January 31** for your landlord's rent certificate.

The first 10 days

TASK	WHERE OR HOW
☐ Report your address to USCIS	As a general rule required for most non-citizens including green card holders, within 10 days ; A and G visa holders and visitors arriving under the visa waiver are excepted. uscis.gov/addresschange . Moving from one neighborhood to another counts , and so does moving to another apartment in the same building
☐ Update the address on every pending case separately	Filing AR-11 does not change the address on a pending application by itself; enter each application's receipt number
☐ 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 treat mail forwarding as a report	The change of address you give the post office does not update the USCIS record, and giving your address to DVS or to the county does not satisfy the federal obligation

THE TWO ADDRESS MISTAKES MADE MOST OFTEN IN THIS CITY

- **Treating the metro as one city.** The two large cities on either side of the river are **separate municipalities and separate counties**, and the suburbs are separate municipalities too. Moving here from across the river is not "staying in the same place", and someone moving to this city **changes county at the same time**.
- **Not reporting because you did not cross a line. What triggers the obligation is the move itself**, not crossing a county or city boundary. Spending the first year in two or three different rentals is common here; repeat the report with every move.
- **In your first week you will give your address to several state and county agencies**, from DVS to the county human services unit. **None of those is an AR-11.** Because you changed county, your human services file may also need to move to the new county; that is a separate errand and does not stand in for this one.
- **Renting a mailbox is not a solution**, because the agency wants the address where you actually live.
- One thing changed in 2026: account for the federal rule that **took effect on June 29, 2026** and re-set which documents count as alien registration and evidence of registration, readable in the [federalregister.gov](https://www.federalregister.gov) entry.

THE ONE SENTENCE TO SAY WHEN YOU RENT, AND WHY IT IS THE MOST VALUABLE ITEM HERE

- **This city has a percentage cap on rent increases:** over any twelve-month period a landlord may not demand an increase of more than **3 percent** of the current monthly rent. The reason it exists is procedural: state law does not block rent control with a flat prohibition, it lifts the prohibition where the rule was **approved in a general election**. This city held that vote in the fall of 2021; **the city across the river did not**, which is why one state holds two opposite regimes.
- **But the exemption is what matters.** Newly constructed rentals whose first building certificate of occupancy was issued **after December 31, 2004** are **permanently exempt** from the cap, and so are properties converted to residential use whose first certificate came after the same date.
- **And this is a fixed date, not a rolling window.** The rule used to read as "buildings newer than twenty years are exempt", so a building entered the cap as it aged; the amendment effective **June 13, 2025** fixed the test at **December 31, 2004** and that date does not move forward. A building that took occupancy in 2005 is **exempt today and exempt ten years from now**.
- **The practical consequence for a newcomer:** the places that most readily open their doors to a family with no U.S. credit history are usually new, professionally managed apartments, and a large share of those buildings sit **inside exactly that exempt band**. So the lease you sign while reassured that "this city has rent control" may be for a unit the percentage cap never touches.
- **The ordinance gives you a right in writing, so use it:** if the unit is not subject to the cap the landlord must tell a prospective tenant **before the lease is finalized**. Do not let that be satisfied with a verbal answer; **ask for it in writing** and keep it. Moving into an exempt building is not a bad decision, but then **your lease rather than an ordinance** determines how much your rent can rise, so asking about the increase at renewal and negotiating a ceiling into the lease becomes real work.
- **If you are inside the cap, do not rush:** an increase above 3 percent **does not take effect before a final determination**, either party may appeal the City's determination within **45 days**, and **a lease provision waiving that right is void**. We open the statutory mechanism in [the renting section of the state guide](#).

Renting: price, entry and exit

TOPIC	THE ST. PAUL RULE
Rent increase cap	At most 3 percent in twelve months, but new construction whose first certificate of occupancy came after December 31, 2004 is permanently exempt. There are defined routes above the cap: self-certification between 3 and 8 percent, inflation plus 8 percent on a just cause vacancy, and a staff determination with stated reasons. Where the vacancy is not based on just cause the 3 percent cap still applies , so a change of tenant does not by itself lift the cap
Deposit ceiling	One month's rent; but where the application would otherwise be denied, one more month of deposit or prepaid rent can be requested as a condition of approval. Pet deposits and application fees sit outside that cap. A family with no U.S. credit history can fall squarely within that definition, so a two-month demand is possible here; budget accordingly

TOPIC	THE ST. PAUL RULE
Screening	A landlord must use uniform criteria and must give you those criteria before your application is accepted . The grounds for rejection are enumerated: evictions in the last three years, relevant credit information but not a credit score standing alone , misdemeanor and gross misdemeanor sentences in the last three years, and felony sentences in the last seven years. The ordinance does not stop owners from using less restrictive criteria, so you can ask
Notice before eviction	60 days right now, and that is temporary . The state floor is 14 days, this city's ordinary regime is 30 days, 60 days between May 14, 2026 and December 31, 2026 , and 30 days again from January 1, 2027 . The statute expressly allows a local government to set a longer period. We print no ordinance number , because the City's own page does not use one
Contents of the notice	The total amount owed, an itemized breakdown , the name and address of the person authorized to collect rent, a legal aid statement , a financial assistance statement, and a statement that an action may be filed. The notice is delivered by hand or by first class mail to the rented address . If what reaches you has no breakdown or no statement, note it as a defect and show it immediately
If the building is sold	In buildings where at least 20 percent of units are affordable, the new owner must notify affected tenants within 30 days of closing and a three-month tenant protection period begins: no rent increase, no re-screening, and no termination or non-renewal without cause. Certain violations give the tenant relocation assistance equal to three months' rent
The document	This city issues no rental license . What you ask about is the building's fire certificate of occupancy , and if you are renting a single-family home or duplex, also whether the property is registered . Owner-occupied single-family homes and duplexes are exempt from the certificate

Read two things together on the certificate. First, **we print a conflict and pick no side**: one City page defines the scope as "all residential buildings not occupied by the owner", while the short-term rental page says "all buildings with three or more units". Those are not the same thing, and the gap covers exactly **the tenant living in a two-unit building**; ask the City safety and inspections department which applies to your building on **651-266-8989**. Second, **for a single-family home and a duplex no certificate is issued or renewed without an affidavit on smoke and carbon monoxide detectors**, so the existence of that certificate is a concrete safety signal for you; check that the detectors work when you move in and report it in writing if they do not. The information in this item comes from the City's own information pages and **we could not read the ordinance text itself**, which is why the scope conflict is unresolved. And let us be plain on immigration status: the city across the river has an explicit provision barring a landlord from asking about status and from rejecting an applicant over an ITIN, but **research could not confirm an equivalent here**; the protected classes listed in this city's human rights ordinance summary include national origin and ancestry, and do not include citizenship or immigration status. **We do not say there is none, we say we could not find one**, and we do not carry that provision here. If the question comes, note the date, the time and who you spoke to, keep the listing and the correspondence, and ask an attorney about the national origin discrimination route.

The first week

TASK	WHERE OR HOW
☐ Call the water utility and ask three questions	Water and sewer come from Saint Paul Regional Water Services ; it is a City department but has its own Board of Water Commissioners and sells to neighboring municipalities too. Customer service is 651-266-6350 . The questions: do you open the account in a tenant's name, which documents do you require, is there a deposit? We could not find the document list , and the Minneapolis list does not carry here
☐ Know that trash and recycling are billed separately	Collection is organized by the City but done by a private hauler; the bill comes from the City and is quarterly . The 2026 amounts: 35 gallon every other week \$61.04, 35 gallon weekly \$86.08, 64 gallon weekly \$119.80, 96 gallon weekly \$146.66. On top of that the property tax statement carries a \$43.50 annual service charge per unit and the recycling fee
☐ Find out which company supplies your electricity and gas	Neither is a municipal service; 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 or the listing for the name
☐ Read and photograph the sign on your block	In a snow emergency the rule reads the sign , not your house number, and an emergency runs 96 hours . Sign up for the alert list; alerts are not issued in Turkish
☐ Save the City line, and do not dial 311	Information and complaints 651-266-8989 , weekdays 7:30 to 4:30; parks and trees 651-266-6400; Saint Paul Public Works 651-266-9700. A caller who does not speak English can reach an interpreter through Language Line, which covers more than 200 languages; we could not verify by name that Turkish is covered , so say which language you need and ask for an interpreter
☐ Get a library card	The card comes from Saint Paul Public Library and is free to residents; no number appears in the published requirements . Three routes: a photo ID showing name, date of birth and address together; or a photo ID showing name and address plus recently received mail and a separate document for the date of birth; or, if identification is short, the Saint Paul Public Library eCard , a starter card that lends up to ten items
☐ Start school enrollment for the children	There is one district, Saint Paul Public Schools . We could not verify the document list , so call and ask for it. Make the interpreter request at enrollment and in writing ; once enrollment is complete the Saint Paul Public Library card arrives automatically through Library Go
☐ Do not delay the health application	A child under 18 can enroll in MinnesotaCare regardless of status and the adults' situation does not affect it; pregnancy coverage runs 12 months after delivery . The Minnesota Department of Human Services line is 1-800-657-3672 , MNsure is 1-855-366-7873
☐ Get a transit card	The Go-To Card works on buses, on light rail and on bus rapid transit; 7-day \$20, 31-day local \$65. The Transit Assistance Program cuts the fare to \$1 a ride and an organization's vouching takes the place of income papers

Three things about the bills that belong to this city

- **There is no single bill, and that is the item that surprises people most.** Water comes from Saint Paul Regional Water Services, trash on the City's quarterly bill, and part of recycling on the property tax statement. Across the river all three sit on one bill and opening the water account enrolls you in trash automatically; **that convenience does not exist here.**
- **Two items on the water account are verified and both are useful.** Registering for the payment portal requires **the account number, the customer number and an email address**; the first two are printed on the bill. And if you cannot pay in full you can call and ask for a **credit arrangement**, which prevents the debt being **certified to your property taxes** and avoids a **\$15 certification fee**. When money is short the right move is not to wait but to call.
- **Day-to-day items on trash:** changing cart size is free once a quarter and \$40 after that; an extra bag that does not fit the cart is \$4.25; bulky items include twelve pickups per cart per year, with extras at \$30. **From July 1, 2026 no appointment is needed for bulky items**, putting them out by 6 a.m. is enough; **from January 1, 2026 the number of carts can be reduced at multi-unit properties** and the application is free, but a response can take up to three weeks.
- **The winter shutoff ban:** the window runs **October 1 to April 30**, the threshold is **50 percent of the state median household income**, and there is **no temperature trigger**. If you receive a public benefit whose own threshold qualifies, you are **deemed to meet** the income condition. State both limits together: **the protection is not automatic**, you have to call when the notice arrives and keep the plan going; and **water and sewer are entirely outside this regime**, because the statute's definition covers only gas and electricity. The comparison of the two statutory sections is in [the utilities section of the state guide](#).
- **If you rent, ask:** whether the trash and recycling items are inside your rent, and ask for the answer in writing.

Within 30 days

TASK	WHERE OR HOW
☐ Insurance and vehicle registration	Minnesota is a no-fault state; compare quotes on the coverage list . We could not verify the number requirement at registration, so call the deputy registrar. A snow emergency ticket is paid to the courts
☐ Read the snow regime and write it down somewhere	An emergency begins at 9 p.m. and runs 96 hours in three phases, and the rule reads the sign. Residential streets are plowed only during a declared emergency, and alleys are never plowed
☐ If your car has been towed	The lot is at 1129 Cathlin Street, 651-502-7480 . Towing and impound \$246, each additional day \$15, and the ticket is separate at \$56. Only the registered owner can collect the vehicle ; we could not confirm an equivalent here of the immigration detention waiver published across the river
☐ Apply for energy assistance early	The shutoff ban window is October 1 to April 30 , the threshold is 50 percent of the state median household income , and there is no temperature trigger . The protection is not automatic, and water and sewer sit outside this regime

TASK	WHERE OR HOW
☐ Register with a sliding-scale health center	Before a problem arises. Sliding scale does not mean free. We print no clinic name in this guide; enter your address in the official search tool and ask for language support when you book
☐ 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; processing normally takes about seven weeks
☐ If you are forming a company, budget the notice	Formation goes to Minnesota Secretary of State : LLC articles \$135 by mail, \$155 in person or online, annual renewal free. If you register an assumed name it must be published in a qualified legal newspaper in the county of the principal place of business, in two consecutive issues ; the private publisher sets the price and we do not print it. The Minnesota Secretary of State counter is in this downtown, but by appointment

THERE IS NO LOCAL INCOME 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 income or sales, or to increase an existing one**, and the text carries **no exception**. Your payslip shows only federal and state withholding; you file no separate city return.
- **The wrong sentence:** "there is no local tax in this city." The prohibition concerns a city acting **on its own**, and the legislature **authorizes local sales taxes city by city through special law**; that "other law" sits outside the section. So **local sales taxes do exist in practice**.
- **The practical consequence, and it is often got wrong in this metro:** the sales tax rate you pay at a store, in a restaurant or on a service bill **may not be the same inside the city limits as in the municipality next door**. Because the authority is granted city by city, the metro is not a single rate area; **do not take the rate across the river as your own**. On a large purchase or a vehicle that is real money.
- **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 rate lookup and the City's own tax page**. If you do not see a rate here, that is not an omission but a deliberate decision.

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

DECEMBER 31 AND JANUARY 31

- **An ITIN is enough for the homestead benefit**, and both [the Minnesota Department of Revenue](#) and Ramsey County say so plainly on their own pages. There are three conditions: own the property, occupy it as **your sole or primary residence**, and be a Minnesota resident. The rule is the state's, **the application is the county's**: here it goes to the **Ramsey County** assessor, can be filed online, and **once accepted does not need renewing**. The **Ramsey County Homestead Unit** is at the Plato Building, 90 Plato Blvd. West; phone **651-266-2040**.
- **The first trap is the number of a spouse who does not live in the home**. The statute asks for the number of every occupying owner named on the title and **the number of each owner's spouse, even if that spouse does not live at the address**; if it is not supplied the household is treated as having elected **partial homestead treatment**. In a newly arrived family that spouse is often still in Türkiye; call Ramsey County before closing, explain the situation, ask which declaration they want and ask for the answer **in writing**. For an owner who **does not occupy** the property only a name and address are required.
- **The second trap is that December 31 is a hard date**. Even if your closing was in October, if the application is not in by that day the property is classified nonhomestead for the year and the benefit is **lost for a year**. The **December 15 date in older sources is obsolete**. If you move, sell, or your marital status or your spouse's occupancy changes, you must tell the assessor **within 30 days**.
- **We highlight one sentence with a hedge**: the Ramsey County page states, on the basis of a legislative change, that **people who never applied for homestead before may now qualify**. For a family that has lived in a home for years and never filed, that is money. But we **could not verify which statutory change** that statement rests on; call Ramsey County and ask whether your situation falls within it.
- **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 ITIN**. Your landlord must give you the certificate showing the rent you 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 with your proof of rent.
- **We print no county property tax rate and no market value exclusion amount**, because research could not verify a single rate. Before you make an offer, ask the **Ramsey County assessor** for that parcel's current valuation. And in this city the property tax statement carries more than tax: **part of the trash service charge and the recycling fee appear on it**, and unpaid water debt can be certified to it as well. Read it line by line when it arrives.

Within 90 days

TASK	WHERE OR HOW
☐ Plan the Türkiye errands	Minnesota falls within the jurisdiction of the Consulate General of Türkiye in Chicago and there is no Turkish mission in the state. In-person visits by appointment run only in a morning window ; from here the train is also an option, and 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 desk is in this downtown and the fee is \$5 per apostille ; going in person is by appointment and appointments open only 14 days in advance
☐ Voter registration and jury duty	Registration and voting belong to U.S. citizens only , municipal elections included; do not tick the 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. We could not verify which records the state builds its jury master list from, so we do not say "you will not be summoned"
☐ Ask an attorney before applying for a public benefit	The federal rule that took effect on September 18, 2026 widened the officer's discretion. Put two dates in the calendar: January 1, 2026 (MinnesotaCare closed for undocumented adults) and January 1, 2027 (MNsure subsidies narrow to three statuses)
☐ The right door for refugee cash assistance	Ramsey County is on the list of counties where this work is run by the Resettlement Programs Office , so you go not to the county but to the Resettlement Programs Office within the Minnesota Department of Human Services . 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 to know in St. Paul

TOPIC	FIGURE
Rent increase cap	3 percent in twelve months; the appeal window is 45 days
The exemption date	December 31, 2004 . New construction whose first certificate of occupancy came after it is permanently exempt
Notice before eviction	60 days through December 31, 2026; reverts to 30 days on January 1, 2027
Snow emergency	96 hours , three phases, beginning at 9 p.m. The rule reads the sign ; alleys are never plowed
Ticket and tow	Ticket \$56 to the courts · towing and impound \$246 , each additional day \$15 · the lot is 651-502-7480
Parking in one on-street spot	48 hours maximum , all year
Trash (2026, quarterly)	35 gallon every other week \$61.04 · 96 gallon weekly \$146.66 · plus \$43.50 per unit per year on the property tax statement

TOPIC	FIGURE
The City line	651-266-8989 , weekdays 7:30 to 4:30. No 311 ; Language Line covers more than 200 languages
Transit passes	7-day \$20 · 31-day local \$65 · \$1 a ride on the Transit Assistance Program
Homestead and renter credit dates	December 31 and January 31

PLANNING A WEEKEND: IN THIS CITY THE FREE ITEMS ARE ON YOUR SIDE

- **Three institutions that sit in this city are often assigned to the wrong one:** the **Minnesota State Capitol**, **Como Park Zoo & Conservatory** and the **Science Museum of Minnesota**. Two of the three are free, so in a long winter the backbone of a weekend plan is built without crossing the river.
- **The guided tour at the Minnesota State Capitol is free and lasts 45 minutes**, and tours leave **on the hour**: weekdays the first at 9 a.m. and the last at 3 p.m., Saturdays between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Tours start at information desk 126 on the first floor. **The walk up to the golden horses on the roof depends on the weather**, and in this climate that condition does real work; ask at the desk whether it is running that day. For someone preparing for the citizenship test, seeing the chambers is a different thing from reading about them, and it costs nothing.
- **Admission to Como Park Zoo & Conservatory is free**, with a suggested voluntary donation of \$8 for an adult and \$5 for a child, and the institution's own sentence says you are welcome whether or not you choose to donate. The zoo is open daily 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. **One detail a parent needs: there are no strollers for rent there**, single or double, so bring your own. A wheelchair is \$10 a day and a power scooter \$30, and a valid ID is held as a deposit.
- **The conservatory's winter hours are a real issue**: it closes at 4 p.m., so after school is not a plan. Selected Mondays run to 6 p.m., but **the extension does not apply on four dates**: October 5, 2026, November 9, 2026, December 21, 2026 and February 22, 2027.
- **Across the river there are two more free items**: general admission to the **Minneapolis Institute of Art** is free every day with no ticket required, and the **Minneapolis Sculpture Garden** is free every day of the year from 6 a.m. to midnight and has free wifi. **The garden is free, the galleries of the art center beside it are ticketed**, so do not mix the two; and plan that day separately, because there is a METRO Green Line leg between the two downtowns.
- **What we do not print**: the Science Museum of Minnesota ticket price, admission at the Minnesota Historical Society sites in this city, hours and fees for the City's own parks and recreation facilities, and any state park or regional park fee. We could not verify any of them from the institution's own page. Do not assume that "if the Capitol tour is free the same organization's other sites are free too".
- **The state park vehicle permit is lent out by libraries**: the natural resources department, **DNR**, lends it through public libraries and this is reported to happen at more than 200 of them; the permit is valid **seven days**, must be displayed on the dashboard, is limited in number, is collected in person, and **covers only the vehicle entry fee. We could not confirm that Saint Paul Public Library takes part in the program**, so call your branch and ask. DNR declares four free entry days a year, and the one remaining in 2026 is **November 27, 2026**.
- **On national park free entry days we pick no side**: the agency's own pages carry **three different 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 off.

IF YOU ARE NOT A CITIZEN, REMEMBER

- Do not tick the 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; around the Capitol and the university in this city those forms circulate often. If a jury questionnaire arrives, do not leave it blank; tell the court named in the letter.
- Consult an immigration attorney before applying for a public benefit, before dropping one you already have, or before moving from one program to another.
- Check your entry record: i94.cbp.dhs.gov. Your work authorization, your license expiry and some application eligibilities depend on it; a license issued to someone 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 ST. PAUL

Have a question about your immigration status?

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