

CHECKLIST · WASHINGTON STATE

Moving to Washington Checklist: The First 90 Days

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

SHORT ANSWER

If you are subject to address reporting, tell USCIS your new address within the first 10 days. In the first week, open the electricity account in your name (no SSN needed) and enroll your children in school; a school may not ask for an SSN or immigration status. Within 30 days, get your Washington license first, then register the car. Rent increases are capped statewide: 9.683 percent for 2026 and 10 percent for 2027. Washington has no state personal income tax.

First 10 days

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ Report your address to USCIS (AR-11)	As a general rule, most noncitizens (including Green Card holders) must report within 10 days of moving; A and G visa holders and Visa Waiver visitors are exempt. Moves within the state count too. USCIS online account: uscis.gov/addresschange
☐ EOIR-33 if you have an immigration court case	Within 5 days: respondentaccess.eoir.justice.gov
☐ If you have an ICE check-in requirement	Update ICE too: portal.ice.gov
☐ Post office change of address	A USPS change does not update USCIS; they are separate.

First week

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ Electricity and gas	Depends on your address: in Seattle electricity is Seattle City Light (no deposit, a passport counts as ID) and gas is PSE. Regulated electric utilities must accept at least five kinds of ID, so an SSN is not required.
☐ School enrollment for your children	Find your district. No SSN is required, and the school may not ask about immigration status.

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ If you rent, know your rights	In Seattle the deposit plus non-refundable fees cannot exceed one month's rent. In Seattle, water, sewer and garbage accounts are opened by the owner, not the tenant.
☐ SSN application (if eligible)	Start online and visit an SSA office within 45 days: ssa.gov

Within 30 days

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ Get your Washington license	Within 30 days of moving, by DOL appointment. The license comes before vehicle registration. With no SSN you sign a declaration. A Turkish license does not transfer: knowledge and drive tests. There is no Turkish test; email for an interpreter five business days ahead.
☐ Register the car	Within 30 days, walk-in at a vehicle licensing office (not the DOL license office)
☐ Insurance	Minimum \$25,000 / \$50,000 bodily injury, \$10,000 property damage
☐ Good To Go! account	MyGoodToGo.com : without an account, Pay By Mail costs \$2 more per trip
☐ Emissions test	None. The program ended on January 1, 2020.
☐ Health	Children and pregnant people are covered by Apple Health regardless of status. Hospital charity care is a statutory right: care is free up to 300 percent of the federal poverty level, with no immigration-status condition.

60 to 90 days and after

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ Health insurance	Healthplanfinder open enrollment runs November 1, 2026 to January 15, 2027, with no status check. Enroll by December 31, 2026 for a January 1, 2027 start.
☐ Taxes	No state personal income tax. The 9.9 percent tax on income above one million dollars starts January 1, 2028. Sales tax is high: 10.55 percent in Seattle in the last quarter of 2026.
☐ Property tax, if you own	Installments are due April 30 and October 31. Do not skip the yearly vehicle tabs.
☐ Rent increases	No increase in the first 12 months; then a statewide cap of 9.683 percent for 2026 and 10 percent for 2027, with at least 90 days of written notice. The deposit comes back within 30 days with an itemized statement.
☐ Consular services for Turkish citizens	There is no consulate in Seattle. The Consulate General in Los Angeles serves Washington; book at konsolosluk.gov.tr
☐ Military registration, for men	Those born in 2007 and anyone without a deferment register by December 31, 2026

IF YOU ARE NOT A U.S. CITIZEN

- DOL will also offer you voter registration. Decline it, and answer the citizenship question on forms truthfully.
- Talk to an immigration attorney before applying for any public benefit: the new public charge rule has been in effect since September 18, 2026.
- Check your I-94 record at i94.cbp.dhs.gov. Your license term and work permit may depend on it.
- If a green card application is pending, do not leave the country without advance parole.



TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN WASHINGTON

Have a question about your immigration status?

Attorney Asim Clinch serves clients across Washington State, in Turkish and English. Free evaluation: clinchlaw.com/free-evaluation · +1 866-491-7669

Office: 321 N Central Expy, Ste 206, McKinney, TX 75070

Attorney responsible for this guide: Asim Clinch, Esq., Clinch Law Firm P.C. Attorney Asim Clinch is a member of the Missouri Bar (No. 76084) and practices U.S. federal immigration law.

Attorney advertising. This guide is general information only. It is not legal advice and is not a substitute for the advice of an attorney. Information compiled from official sources as of October 1, 2026; fees and procedures change, so check the official site before you act. Reading this guide does not create an attorney-client relationship. The choice of a lawyer is an important decision and should not be based solely upon advertisements. Latest version: clinchlaw.com/city-guides/washington-state-immigration-attorney