

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE · WEST SPRINGFIELD

West Springfield Car Registration, Excise Tax and Transport Guide 2026

Registration, the garaging code, the excise bill the town sends, the Mass Pike toll, and the PVTA buses that are entirely fare-free this fiscal year.

SHORT ANSWER

Registration is state business and the motor vehicle excise tax is town business. The bill comes from the **West Springfield Collector/Treasurer**: 26 Central Street Suite 9, 413-263-3006, all_collector@tows.org, weekdays 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; excise, property tax and water bills can be paid online through UniPay. Good news: we found no Cambridge-style resident parking permit scheme on the town pages. Better news: **PVTA fixed-route buses are entirely fare-free through the 2027 fiscal year**, so you can manage the first weeks without a car.

First the registration (state business)

- 1 Insurance.** For a Massachusetts registration you first take a policy from a Massachusetts licensed insurer. The agent signs and stamps the insurance section of the registration form (RMV-1) and at the same time sets your **garaging code**: if your address is in West Springfield the code has to be West Springfield too, because the excise tax follows that code.
- 2 Registration and title.** You do it at the Springfield RMV Service Center, or your agent files it electronically. The identity rules for registration and title work are more flexible than for a license: **no SSN and no U.S. license is required**, and the RMV list includes a foreign passport and a consular ID.
- 3 Inspection.** Within seven days of getting the plate you take the car for the annual safety and emissions inspection (\$35).
- 4 Address change.** You have to update your RMV address within 10 days of moving; the excise bill and toll invoices go to the address on the registration.

A passenger plate is \$60 for two years and a title \$75; sales and use tax is 6.25 percent. Minimum insurance: \$25,000 per person and \$50,000 per accident for bodily injury, \$30,000 property damage and \$8,000 PIP.

The excise tax: the bill the town sends

- Who sends it:** the West Springfield Collector/Treasurer, Town Hall at 26 Central Street Suite 9. Phone 413-263-3006, email all_collector@tows.org, weekdays 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Treasurer/Collector Tasha Hoye.
- How to pay:** at the counter, by mail or online through UniPay. The same office also collects the property tax, the personal property tax and the water bill.

- **If you are late:** overdue accounts go to the deputy collectors, 781-944-8504. An unpaid excise can block the renewal of your registration and your license.
 - **How much:** the rate and the calculation are the same statewide, \$25 per \$1,000 of value with a valuation that declines by model year. We could not find the town's excise due dates on the pages we read, so use the date on your bill.
 - **When you sell:** remember to request an excise abatement when you return the plate; you apply to the Assessors, 413-263-3050.
 - **Municipal lien certificate:** the certificate asked for when you buy a home comes from the same office, \$25 to \$150 and three to five business days.
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Parking and winter

- **Resident parking permit:** we found neither a resident parking permit nor a street cleaning permit scheme on the town pages. Not finding one does not mean it does not exist, but a reader arriving from Cambridge does not have to chase a \$25 or \$75 permit here. To be sure, call 413-495-1891.
 - **Snow and winter rules:** we could not find snow emergency parking rules for the town's streets on official pages. Call the town before winter and be sure to sign up for the alert system: **text TOWS to 888777**. Emergency Management 413-732-2650, 44 Van Deene Avenue.
 - **Parking in a rental:** before you sign, settle in writing how many spaces you have and who clears the snow; because a car is nearly compulsory here, that clause matters more than it would in Boston.
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Tolls: the Mass Pike and the Connecticut difference

- **No toll booths:** in Massachusetts every crossing, the Mass Pike (I-90) included, is all-electronic. If you want a transponder you open an [EZDriveMA](#) account, and the tag is part of the E-ZPass network used in 15 states. **No SSN is required to open an account.**
- **Without a tag (Pay By Plate):** the plate is billed and the discounted E-ZPass rate does not apply. That is why keeping the address on your registration current matters; if you never see the invoice, a late fee is added.
- **What it costs from here:** we could not read the total for a Mass Pike trip from around West Springfield toward Boston in an official source, so we print no figure. Use the [EZDriveMA toll calculator](#) before you travel. If you are heading east for a consular or a USCIS appointment, budget for it.
- **The Connecticut side:** there are no toll roads in Connecticut on the way to Bradley airport or Hartford, so no toll arises in that direction. On the other hand, **because you have changed states, speeding and parking fines follow Connecticut rules.**
- **In a rental car:** using the company's own transponder adds a daily service fee; bringing your own tag is usually cheaper.

THE BUSES ARE FREE THIS FISCAL YEAR

The transit authority here is not the MBTA but the **Pioneer Valley Transit Authority** (PVTA): 55 Frank B. Murray Street, Springfield MA 01103, 413-781-7882, weekdays 9 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Its own fare page carries this sentence: **PVTA is fare-free in fiscal year 2027**, with no ticket or pass needed on fixed-route buses. The program does not cover the premium service (B79 Amherst to Worcester). So even someone without an SSN, a bank card or a license can reach Springfield, the shops and their appointments from day one; you need no card, no sign-up and no ID. The page does not give a date for when the free period ends, only FY27; the state fiscal year closes on June 30, 2027, so call 413-781-7882 after the spring to confirm.

The routes that serve the town

ROUTE	WHERE IT RUNS	FREQUENCY
R10	Westfield / Westfield State University / West Springfield, along Route 20. Union Station platform 12; the stops include Westfield Walmart, Westfield Center and Scanlon Hall	Weekdays roughly every 30 to 45 minutes between 5 a.m. and 9:45 p.m.; separate Saturday and Sunday timetables
R14	Pheasant Hill-Feeding Hills / Springfield. Union Station platform 14; the West Spfld Big Y stop is 6 to 11 minutes after Union Station, then Feeding Hills Center and Pheasant Hill Apartments. The timetable notes that all trips serve the Memorial Avenue stops	Weekdays the first trip is 6:10 a.m. and the last is 7 p.m. , roughly every 70 minutes
P20	Holyoke / Springfield, along Riverdale Street. Union Station platform 3, the Riverdale Shops stop, Holyoke Mall, Holyoke Transportation Center. Riverdale Street runs through the town but the timetable does not name the town, so we do not present this as settled	Check the timetable

The R14 timetable says the town connects to all of the Springfield routes, so once you get off at Union Station you can travel anywhere in the city for free. We could not verify the full list of routes that enter the town: the PVTA timetable index holds about 50 PDF files and only the R10 and the R14 name West Springfield. Ask for the stop nearest your own street through the [PVTA trip planner](#) or by phone. A seasonal detail: the Eastern States Exposition is in the town and PVTA adds a service from Union Station platform 14 to the gate during that period; the 2026 trips began on September 18, 2026 and have passed, and PVTA will announce the 2027 dates. When fares return, the page prints an adult one-way fare of \$1.50, a 90-minute transfer at \$0.25, \$0.75 for riders over 60, \$0.90 for ages 6 to 12 and a 31-day pass at \$54; children 5 and under travel free with an adult.

Trains and intercity buses: everything from Union Station

- **The station:** Springfield Union Station, 55 Frank B. Murray Street, Springfield MA 01103; open every day from 4 a.m. to 12:30 a.m., with elevators, accessible facilities and free wifi. About 1.9 miles from Town Hall, four minutes by car (a calculated distance). Parking is a 377-space garage with rates starting at \$1.50 for 30 minutes. The station's own page warns that the "1755 Main Street" address your navigation may show is not a valid street address.
- **Carriers:** Amtrak, Greyhound (800-231-2222), Peter Pan Bus Lines (800-343-9999) and PVRTA (413-781-7882).
- **The trains run south:** the Hartford Line and the Valley Flyer, both run by Connecticut, go from here down to Hartford and New Haven; the Hartford Line runs every day of the year including public holidays and Springfield is its first station. There is also one Vermonter and one Lake Shore Limited a day, plus two Northeast Regional trips that begin and end at Springfield rather than Boston. Those counts come from Amtrak's state fact sheet and change with every timetable period. Buy tickets at the station or through hartfordline.com; we print no fare because two sources gave conflicting prices.
- **To Boston: there is no commuter rail and a CharlieCard is of no use here.** The only rail route to Boston is Amtrak's Lake Shore Limited; we could not verify the frequency, duration or fare, so we leave them out. For the consulate or any Boston appointment, a car or an intercity bus is more realistic.

THE AIRPORT IS BRADLEY, NOT LOGAN

- **Which airport:** the region's airport is **Bradley International (BDL) in Windsor Locks, Connecticut**, run by the Connecticut Airport Authority, phone (860) 292-2000. The airport describes itself as only 30 minutes from Hartford. Logan in Boston is an option but it is about 90 miles away.
- **No direct bus:** the airport page lists no direct transit link between Springfield and Bradley, and we did not find one either. The car-free route has three legs: a free PVRTA bus to Springfield Union Station, then the Hartford Line or Amtrak to **Windsor Locks** (at South Main Street and Stanton Road, about three miles from the airport), then **CTtransit route 24** (every 20 minutes on weekdays between 4:10 a.m. and 12:30 a.m.).
- **A third connection:** the 30-Bradley Flyer runs between the airport (Terminal A baggage level, door 6) and Hartford Union Station and the Connecticut Convention Center in about 30 minutes, every 40 minutes on weekdays and Saturdays and roughly hourly early morning, at night and on Sundays.
- **When you book:** choose your flight time around those three legs, or ask someone to drive you. On a flight landing at night there is no transit option left for the return. We could not find the distance, the drive time or the airport parking prices in an official source, so we print no figures.

NOTE FOR IMMIGRANTS

Registration and excise business asks nothing about immigration status, but you have to get two things right. First the **garaging code**: your car has to be registered in your name at your West Springfield address, or the excise bill goes to another municipality and fixing it afterward is tedious. Second the **address**: tell the RMV within 10 days of moving; the same 10 days apply to the USCIS notice, but these are two separate filings and one does not cover the other. A third point is practical: an excise or property tax bill in your name works as proof of address for school registration and a library card, so keep it. A toll debt alone does not affect an immigration application, but do not let traffic fines pile up: a fine that turns into a court record can become something you have to explain at a visa or green card interview.



TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN WEST SPRINGFIELD

Have a question about your immigration status?

Attorney Asim Clinch serves clients in West Springfield and the surrounding area, in Turkish and English. Free evaluation: clinchlaw.com/free-evaluation · +1 866-491-7669

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