

REAL ID Checklist

Checklist · 19 items · 6 sections

Everything you need to bring to the DMV to get your REAL ID. Required documents for proof of identity, Social Security number, and two proofs of state residency.

Open the editable, AI-powered version online:

<https://genechecklist.com/checklist/real-id-checklist>

PROOF OF IDENTITY (CHOOSE ONE)

- U.S. birth certificate (original or certified copy: NOT hospital certificate)

HIGH

Most common document used. Must be the government-issued version with raised seal

- U.S. passport or passport card (unexpired)

HIGH

- Permanent Resident Card (Green Card): if not U.S. citizen

HIGH

- Employment Authorization Document (EAD): if applicable

HIGH

PROOF OF SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER

- Social Security card (original: laminated copies often rejected)

HIGH

If lost, order replacement at ssa.gov before your DMV appointment

- W-2 form or 1099 showing full Social Security number (alternative to SSC)

HIGH

- Pay stub showing full SSN (alternative to Social Security card)

PROOF OF STATE RESIDENCY (NEED 2)

- Current utility bill with your name and address (electric, gas, water)

HIGH

Must be dated within 60-90 days: check your state's requirement

- Bank or credit card statement (dated within 60 days)

HIGH

- Mortgage statement or lease agreement

HIGH

- Vehicle registration card
- Tax return with current address

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS

- Current driver's license or state ID (bring even if expired: shows prior issuance)

NAME CHANGE (IF APPLICABLE)

- Name change document if name differs from birth certificate (marriage cert, court order)

HIGH

Must document every name change: include all marriage certificates or court orders in sequence

- Divorce decree (if reverting to maiden name)

HIGH

PRE-VISIT STEPS

- Check your state DMV's specific document requirements before going

HIGH

Requirements vary slightly by state: verify at your state DMV website

- Schedule a DMV appointment online (walk-in waits can be 2-3 hours)

HIGH

- Bring payment: REAL ID typically costs \$30-50 depending on state

HIGH

- Make photocopies of all documents before going (DMV keeps originals for some states)