

Washington State Residents and REAL ID: What You Need to Know

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The REAL ID Act is a law passed by Congress in 2005 to set security standards for state-issued driver's licenses and identification cards and regulate the identification needed to enter airports and federal facilities. Washington is one of several other states with an extension from the enforcement of these federal requirements. If you are an immigrant living in Washington, here is what you need to know about REAL ID:

- Washington State currently offers two types of driver's licenses and ID cards. Enhanced IDs, which meet REAL ID requirements, are available only to U.S. citizens. Standard IDs are available to anyone residing in Washington State.
- Washington State was recently granted an extension on REAL ID enforcement until October 10, 2018. Until then, Washington residents may use their enhanced and standard IDs to travel by airplane within the country and to access federal facilities such as military bases.
 - * Note: If you are a U.S. citizen and have more questions about enhanced IDs, please visit the Washington State Department of Licensing website: <http://www.dol.wa.gov/driverslicense/edlfaq.html>
- Starting in July 2018, Washington's standard IDs will be marked to indicate they are not REAL ID compliant and thus not acceptable for certain purposes by federal authorities. If you have a standard ID with this marking, you can still use it for federal purposes under Washington State's extension until October 10, 2018.
- After October 10, 2018, Washington State could still receive another REAL ID extension. Check the news, or visit the Department of Homeland Security's website at <https://www.dhs.gov/real-id/washington> to determine the state's extension status at that time.
- Once Washington State no longer has an extension, anyone with a standard WA driver's license or ID will need OTHER documentation — such as a passport, an employment document, permanent resident card, or military ID — to board domestic commercial flights and for other federal purposes. The Transportation Security Administration has a list of valid identification for airport checkpoints here: <https://www.tsa.gov/travel/security-screening/identification>
- Beginning October 1, 2020, Washington State will no longer receive extensions, and everyone with a standard ID will need other documentation for domestic air travel and access to federal facilities.
- If you are undocumented, it is never advisable to travel by plane, due to the enhanced security measures in airports. If you have questions about your particular situation, always consult with a trusted immigration attorney.

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