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REP. KATE HOGAN'S SENIOR NEWS



REAL ID FAQ

"What is a REAL ID and how do I get one?" It is a question I have heard a lot this summer while catching up with constituents at the farmer's market or a barbecue.

With federal REAL ID law slated to become the state standard next year, residents here in Maynard – seniors in particular – are starting to think about what the shift might mean for them. Since it is important to me as your representative to be a bridge between state programming and our towns, I wanted to provide some helpful tips to get you started.

What is a REAL ID and why is Massachusetts adopting it? Like a number of changes to modern travel, it has to do with boosting security. The REAL ID was adopted back in 2005 as the federal government implemented more rigorous safety measures. It is the security standard for IDs at the national level. This means that come 2020, you will need a REAL ID or a passport to fly within the United States or enter a federal building in Massachusetts.

Do I need one? Maybe. Both a REAL and standard ID are valid as a driver's license or state-issued identification card. The key difference between them is that, starting in 2020, only the REAL ID will be a valid form of federal identification. This matters if you travel by plane or enter federal buildings to access services, like Social Security, and you do not have a current passport.

If you have a valid Massachusetts driver's license and only need to use it to drive, then you do not need to get a REAL ID. You can also continue to use your up-to-date passport for domestic air travel and entering federal buildings.

Don't have a current passport and like to hop on a plane to visit grandkids or catch some sun during the winter months? Getting a REAL ID is your best bet. The same applies if you need to enter federal buildings here in the Commonwealth.

The Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) has a helpful tool on their website you can use to navigate this decision: <https://tinyurl.com/REALDecision>

How do I get started? The application process for the REAL ID requires an in-person visit to an RMV service center but you can get started online on the MY RMV webpage: <https://tinyurl.com/StartREALIDApp>

At the end of the online application, you will be provided with a list of documents to bring with you to complete the process at your in-person visit.

What documents will I need? At your RMV appointment, you will need original documents that can prove your: 1) United States citizenship or lawful presence; 2) Social Security number; and 3) Massachusetts residency. I encourage you to visit the online help center for a full list of options that best match your situation: <https://tinyurl.com/REALIDreqs>

Where can I get help? I have hosted and will continue to sponsor local "RMV Help Desk" events in the coming months, bringing RMV officials to town to answer questions. Stay tuned for more information! The Stow Council on Aging (COA) is also a great resource for help compiling your documents. You can call the COA for more information at (978) 897-1880 or contact my Maynard office for assistance at (978) 897-1333.

Cost: Getting a REAL ID when your current license expires costs the same as a standard renewal: \$50. If you would like to replace your valid driver's license with a REAL ID, the conversion will cost \$25.

The bottom line: You have plenty of time to figure out what works best for you – and many places to find a helping hand.

Rep. Hogan's Office Hours

- Office Hours will be by appointment in August. Please contact my office at (617) 722-2199 to schedule an appointment.

Kate Hogan

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