



Pre-Trump Trans ID Document Updates Guide

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Contents:

[Understanding This Document](#)

[Documentation Guidance](#)

 [Get Your Birth Certificate](#)

 [Change Your Name \(If Desired\)](#)

 [Acquire Duplicates of Name Change Certificate](#)

 [Apply For or Update Your Passport](#)

[Passport Pricing](#)

[Updating or Renewing Passports](#)

[Applying for New Passports](#)

 [Update Social Security](#)

[Updating Your Name and Gender Marker](#)

 [Update Driver's License/State ID](#)

Understanding This Document

It's crucial that trans people make and execute decisions about name and ID documentation as quickly as possible. With Republican control of the Presidency, House, and Senate in 2025, large campaign spending from Republicans in 2024 on anti-trans political messages, and immediate post-election targeting of trans bathroom access in Congress, **all signs point to significant crackdowns on ID document processes for trans people in 2025.** For example, the Biden administration made changes to allow [self-attested gender marker changes](#) and [non-binary designations](#) on US passports, and it's likely the Trump administration will revert these as soon as they can.

This document has detailed guidance on ID document updates and needs for trans people. For a full sense of steps trans people should take to prepare for likely repression under the incoming Republican trifecta, including hormone access, see Erin Reed's [Steps For](#)



[Transgender People Preparing For Federal Crackdowns Under Trump](#). For more information about DSA, see [Get Involved with DSA](#).

Documentation Guidance

Get Your Birth Certificate

You'll need this for many other ID tasks. It's where everything starts. See [How to get a certified copy of a U.S. birth certificate | USAGov](#).

Change Your Name (If Desired)

Having your ID documents, employment records, and payment cards reflect your chosen name can be very important for day-to-day life and safety. **We highly recommend attempting this as soon as possible if you use a chosen name**, in order to begin the longer process of updating ID documents before any further changes to state or federal regulations make that harder or impossible.

See the Alliance for Trans Equality's [ID Documents Center](#) for state-by-state guidance on legal name change processes. Note you may need to perform the name change in the state you were born.

Acquire Duplicates of Name Change Certificate

Many other documentation processes require an original copy of a name change document with a physically stamped seal from the court. These are usually inexpensive, and it's worth getting more copies than you think you'll need and storing them in multiple trusted locations. You will likely need to get the copies from the court that processed your name change, but they generally allow you to request and pay by mail. Research how to attain copies of vital records in your state.

Apply For or Update Your Passport

Passports are the most important ID document for transgender people. They are necessary for international travel, are valid for 10 years, are a valid photo ID in any context, and for the remainder of the Biden administration, allow you to self-select your gender marker. They are available in booklet and card form — and having both guarantees that if you lose one, you can use the other to get an immediate replacement. If you don't have a



passport with your correct name or gender marker, or if it expires in less than eight years, you should prioritize applying or renewing immediately. See [How to Get my U.S. Passport Fast](#).

Passport Pricing

[Passport Fees](#)

Passport book: \$130

Passport card: \$30

Expedite fee: \$60

Total for all: \$220

Updating or Renewing Passports

[Full Passport Renewal Guide](#)

[Renew Your Passport Online](#) (if you're not changing any information)

You'll Need:

1. **Renewal application form**, available at the passport office or [online](#). For the remainder of the Biden administration, you can check your preferred gender marker when filling out this form, regardless of whether it differs from other documents.
2. **Previous passport**
3. **Name change documentation**, if applicable
4. [Passport photo](#) (though most offices have a photo-taking setup)
5. [Passport fee](#) (\$220 for book, card, & expedited processing)

Applying for New Passports

[Full New Passport Guide](#)

You'll Need:

1. **New application form**, available at the passport office or [online](#). For the remainder of the Biden administration, you can check your preferred gender marker when filling out this form, regardless of whether it differs from other documents.
2. **Documentation**
 - a. [Proof of citizenship](#) (e.g. birth certificate)
 - b. [Photo ID](#)
 - c. Name change documentation, if applicable
 - d. If any of the above are missing, request a \$150 [file search](#)
3. [Passport photo](#) (though most offices have a photo-taking setup)
4. [Passport fee](#) (\$220 for book, card, & expedited processing)





Update Social Security

Many people miss this important step. Social Security is the database used for identity verification for taxes, credit checks, employment, and many other important parts of social and financial life. Mismatched name and gender marker documents can lead to problems with bank accounts, health insurance, and more. Find a nearby social security office

Updating Your Name and Gender Marker

After changing your name, you'll need to update your Social Security to match. Gender marker changes currently do not require documentation, but this is likely to change under a Trump administration. [Locate your nearest Social Security office here](#).

You'll Need:

1. [Application form](#) (available in office)
2. **Identification** — passport, state ID, or other record as detailed [here](#)
3. **Name change documentation**, if applicable



Update Driver's License/State ID

State ID systems are regulated by the federal Real ID Act, and the Trump administration could use this to make gender marker changes more difficult or even illegal. Like passports, it's important to update these as quickly as possible. See the Alliance for Trans Equality's [ID Documents Center](#) for state-by-state guidance on updating state ID documents.

