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STATE

Don't have your REAL ID? TSA will charge you a \$45 fee to fly in 2026



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What is a REAL ID and do you need one to travel in the United States?

A regulation 20 years in the making will go into effect May 7 as adult travelers will need a REAL ID to travel domestically.

If you plan to fly without a REAL ID-compliant identification card, you'll need another \$45 to get through security in 2026.

Airline travelers who don't have REAL ID will have to pay the extra fee

before getting through security. The Transportation Safety Administration announced the [new security screening option](#) will begin in February.

The fee covers additional screening and will be valid for 10 days.

New \$45 fee covers additional airport screening

If you want to fly but don't have a REAL ID, TSA will begin charging \$45 to conduct additional identity checks before you can get on board.

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The alternative identity verification system known as TSA Confirm.ID will be used beginning on Feb. 1, 2026.

This process will be different at different airports, and TSA said it is working with private industry to offer online payment options before arriving at the airport.

Currently, more than 94% of passengers already use their REAL ID or other acceptable forms of identification, TSA said. During the first week of implementation in May, only 2% of travelers leaving from OKC Will Rogers International Airport arrived without a REAL ID.

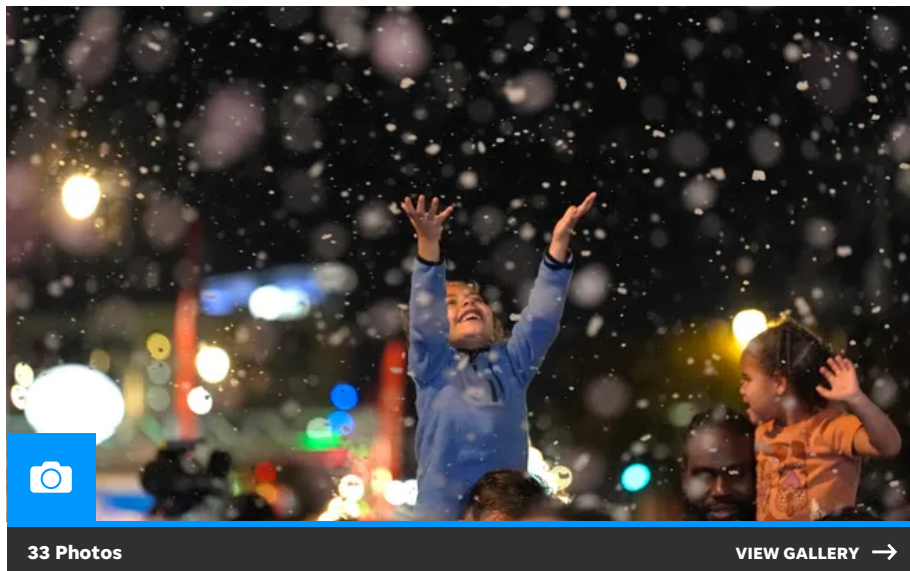
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Can I use my passport instead?

Yes, passengers without a REAL ID can use their U.S. passport instead to avoid the fee when flying.

There are several approved forms of identification:

- [REAL ID](#)-compliant driver's licenses or other state photo identity cards issued by Service Oklahoma, or equivalent Department of Motor Vehicles. *Note: a temporary driver's license is not an acceptable form of identification.*
- [U.S. passport](#)
- [U.S. passport card](#)
- DHS trusted traveler cards (Global Entry, NEXUS, SENTRI, FAST)
- U.S. Department of Defense ID, including IDs issued to dependents
- Permanent resident card
- An acceptable photo ID issued by a [federally recognized](#) Tribal Nation/Indian Tribe, including Enhanced Tribal Cards (ETCs)
- Foreign government-issued passport
- Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC)
- U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Employment Authorization Card (I-766)
- Veteran Health Identification Card (VHIC)



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What is REAL ID?

REAL ID is the federal standard for state-issued ID cards. The program was created in 2005 to increase security and authentication procedures for

driver's licenses and identity cards. To get a compliant ID, residents need to provide additional government documents to verify their identity before getting the card.

A new Oklahoma REAL ID-compliant card costs \$42.50 and lasts four years. It's cheaper than the TSA security check, which only grants 10 days of travel time.

Oklahoma lawmakers initially resisted adopting the standards for state IDs and it took 15 years for the state to begin [handing out cards that meet REAL ID security standards](#). The wait had little impact, however, because of numerous delays by the federal government in restricting access to airplanes and other federally secure areas.

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Along with commercial air travel, a REAL ID is needed to enter a federal building or visit a military base. An Oklahoma-issued REAL ID includes a gold star in the upper right corner of the card's face.

The most common REAL ID-compliant document is a person's driver's license, which is issued by their state. People can also use a passport, military or tribal ID, or one of more than a [dozen types of documents](#) accepted by TSA.

Most Oklahomans (finally) have REAL ID

While it took Oklahoma more than a decade to even start following REAL

ID guidelines when issuing licenses, uptake since then has shown solid growth.

Getting a REAL ID from the state of Oklahoma is still voluntary, so some Oklahomans don't yet have the right ID card needed to board airplanes. As of November, though, more than half of IDs issued in Oklahoma met the federal security standards.

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Service Oklahoma, the state agency that oversees licensing, said in November there were more than 1.7 million active REAL ID cards out of 3.5 million total IDs issued by the state.

If you need to get a REAL ID, visit service.ok.gov/REALID to view the checklist and see what documents you'll need, including proof of identity, two proofs of Oklahoma residency and any required name change or legal presence documents.



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