Think “enhanced” driver’s license or state ID card and think “convenience” when traveling. An enhanced license or ID is accepted as valid proof of identity and citizenship when you return to the United States from a land or sea trip to Canada, Mexico, Bermuda or the Caribbean. The enhanced license or ID card is also accepted as a REAL ID-compliant document when traveling domestically by plane. (A U.S. passport is required for international air travel.)

You are eligible for an enhanced license or ID if you:

- Are a U.S. citizen and a Michigan resident
- (For drivers licenses only) have no violations, suspensions, revocations or denials on your driving record that would prevent you from legally operating a motor vehicle.

Please note: When applying for an enhanced driver’s license or state ID card, your first and last name, and date of birth on your identity and citizenship documents should match. If your legal name is different from what is shown on your citizenship document, you must present lawful proof of the name change, such as an original marriage license, divorce decree or court order.

To apply:

1. Visit any Secretary of State office. Before you go, make sure you have the proper documentation. You will need to present proof of:
   a. A valid Social Security number (for example, a Social Security card).
   b. U.S. citizenship (for example, a certified birth certificate with a raised seal issued by a U.S. or U.S. territory government office, a certificate of citizenship or naturalization, a report of foreign birth abroad, valid U.S. passport.
   c. Identity (for example, a Michigan license or ID card)
   d. Residency (for example, a Michigan license or ID card)

   More information is available on the Secretary of State website at www.Michigan.gov/sos.

2. If you wear glasses or contacts for driving, be sure to bring them. You will need to pass a vision test if your driver’s license needs to be renewed. A clerk will take your photograph.

3. Pay the enhanced license or state ID card fee.

You may apply for an enhanced license or state ID card at any time. The card is valid for up to four years. Please allow about three weeks to process your application and issue your new license or ID card.

New rules in 2020

Beginning Oct. 1, 2020, Michigan residents must show a REAL ID-compliant document when flying domestically or when entering certain federal facilities, military bases and nuclear power plants. The federal REAL ID standards set document and security protocols for the production of driver’s licenses and ID cards, including the use of features to prevent illegal copying or altering. Your enhanced license or ID card meets these criteria and is now printed with the REAL ID star. Enhanced cards without a star will be printed with one the next time they are renewed or replaced. For a list of other REAL ID-compliant documents, visit the Transportation Security Administration website at www.tsa.gov.

At the U.S. border by land or sea

When you return to the United States from Canada, Mexico, Bermuda or the Caribbean at a land or sea port, border security agents will verify your identity by scanning either the Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology embedded in your enhanced driver’s license or ID card, or the Machine Readable Zone (MRZ) printed on the back. Similar technology is also found in U.S. passports and passport cards.

RFID equipment used at the border crossing will scan the card’s chip from several feet away. The chip contains a unique number that will be referenced against a secure database within the Department of Homeland Security to verify your identity. No personal information is kept on the chip.

The back of the card also features a 2-D bar code that contains information found on the front of the card.

Keep your card in its durable, protective sleeve when you are not using it to prevent any unauthorized access.

For more information, visit www.Michigan.gov/sos.
All Secretary of State offices offer the enhanced driver’s license and state identification card. To find the office nearest you, visit www.Michigan.gov/sos.

MI-TIME Line
When you go to a Secretary of State office to apply for your enhanced driver’s license or enhanced state ID card, use MI-TIME Line to make an appointment or hold your spot in line and avoid the wait. It’s easy: simply text or call the MI-Time Line number at a participating office. MI-TIME Line even works if you are already at the branch. Visit the red MI-TIME Line kiosk to reserve a place in line. You are free to leave the branch to run errands, visit a friend or grab a meal. The system will alert you before your appointment, giving you time to return to the office and conduct your business. No lines and no hassles.

A list of Secretary of State offices with MI-TIME Line may be found at www.michigan.gov/mitimeline.

You may renew your enhanced card at any office or by mail if eligible. Changes of address may also be completed by mail or at any branch office.

Your card will remain valid until your new card arrives in the mail.

If your enhanced card is lost or stolen, you may request a replacement at any branch office. You will need to present identification to substantiate your identity. Lost or stolen cards are immediately canceled and cannot be used for border-crossing purposes.

Veterans may have a veteran designation printed on their enhanced license or ID card by presenting proof of their veteran status, such as the DD214 form, when applying or renewing.

Contact the Department of State Information Center toll free at 888-SOS-MICH (767-6424) if you have not received your new card within three weeks of your request.

For more information about Michigan’s enhanced license and state ID card, go to www.Michigan.gov/sos.

Information on federal travel requirements is at www.DHS.gov or www.tsa.gov