

STATESVILLE RECORD & LANDMARK

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DMV CHANGES



WALT UNKS, WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL

More than a dozen people stand in line outside a state DMV office on Silas Creek Parkway in Winston-Salem in May 2025.

NCDMV makes appointment changes — fewer days out, but afternoon hours available

RICHARD CRAVER
Winston-Salem Journal

The latest in an expanding list of N.C. Division of Motor Vehicles operational changes involves a sharp reduction in how many days out — from 90 to seven — that an appointment can be scheduled.

The trade-off is that appointments are now available for all business hours, rather than just during the morning that had been a response initially to the COVID-19 pandemic, and then to high demand for Real ID driver's licenses.

The same number of appointments are available each business day, said Marty Homan, the DMV's communications manager.

"It allows us to be more agile with our scheduling," Homan said. "Walk-ins are accepted all day until capacity is met."

Homan said the elimination of

appointments more than seven days out is not expected to have a significant impact since about 87% of DMV customers already are walk-ins.

DMV ended on Feb. 2 the temporary 7 a.m. opening hours for 90 offices after having spent the \$3 million in federal funding paying for the earlier start time.

Normal business hours are now 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays.

Customers are encouraged to check the most up-to-date office hours by visiting the DMV office locations page for details on specific locations, including any adjustments during inclement weather.

The DMV launched in September a customer service check-in system that measures the time it takes to be served once the customer has signed in for assistance.

Importantly, the report does not factor

in the time customers wait in line before check-in.

Meanwhile, drivers have an extra two years to get licenses renewed, courtesy of N.C. Transportation Department omnibus bill Senate Bill 391. The two years span from the date their driver's license expires.

All drivers would have to have their licenses renewed by Dec. 31, 2027. The bill affects Class C licenses, the most common license issued to drivers.

There would be two exemptions. Any driver's license that is currently canceled, revoked or suspended is not eligible, and a Real ID driver's license that has been valid for eight years or more also is not eligible.

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ICE chief: 'We are only getting started'

Acting director Lyons defends officers' actions in testimony before Congress

REBECCA SANTANA AND LISA MASCARO
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Todd Lyons, the acting head of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, defended his agency's officers before Congress on Tuesday, standing behind their tactics and saying they would not be intimidated as they carry out the president's mass deportation plans.

Lyons was one of the three heads of agencies implementing President Donald

Trump's immigration agenda to testify in a hearing called after federal officers shot and killed two Americans.

They faced fierce questioning from Democrats, and support from most Republicans, over how they are prosecuting immigration enforcement inside American cities.

"Let me send a message to anyone who thinks they can intimidate us. You will fail," said Lyons. Lyons, who at various points declined to comment directly on the killings of the two U.S. citizens, said his officers would not be deterred.

"We are only getting started," he said in opening remarks.

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TOM BRENNER, ASSOCIATED PRESS

From left, Rodney Scott, commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Joseph Edlow, director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, and Todd Lyons, acting director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, are sworn in Tuesday during a House Committee on Homeland Security oversight hearing on Capitol Hill in Washington.