Before-You-File LLC Cost Checklist (November 2026)

Confirm every cost line before you pay the state

Work through this list next to your state's row in the fee table. It catches the costs that surprise first-time filers.

STATE FEES

[ ] Confirm the current filing fee on your Secretary of State's own fee page (fees change; Louisiana raised its fees most recently, in October 2026).

[ ] Note the online vs. paper price difference (example: Missouri is $50 online but $105 on paper).

[ ] Record the ongoing report fee AND its frequency: annual, every two years, or none.

[ ] Check for flat minimum taxes billed regardless of income: California $800, Delaware $400, Arkansas $150, Kentucky LLET $175 min, Rhode Island $400 min, Tennessee $300 min.

[ ] Nevada: budget $425 for day one (articles + Initial List + business license), not $75.

[ ] New York and Nebraska: budget the newspaper publication requirement.

[ ] Arizona (outside Maricopa/Pima counties): budget the one-time publication notice.

BEYOND STATE FEES

[ ] Decide who serves as registered agent: yourself ($0) or a service ($100-$299/yr).

[ ] Get your EIN free at irs.gov; never pay a third party for a free government filing.

[ ] Check city and county business license requirements; they are separate from state fees.

AFTER FILING

[ ] Put the report deadline on your calendar (Florida's late penalty is an automatic $400).

[ ] Calendar franchise or minimum tax due dates (California: 15th day of the 4th month; Delaware: June 1).

[ ] If the business winds down, file dissolution paperwork so state fees stop accruing.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE

Keep this checklist with your formation documents. The verified fee table, CSV dataset, and interactive calculator live at clearlegaltips.com/llc-filing-fees-by-state/