

City-ID for Berlin - Anmeldung für Alle!

We call on the Berlin House of Representatives to draft and pass a bill for a city-wide **City ID (Berlin city card)** that gives people without residence registration, that is without *Wohnsitzanmeldung*, access to basic rights and services and grants them the same rights as a regular registration certificate.

Why is this important?

In Berlin, many people are currently unable to register their place of residence even though they live here permanently. The reason: in the tight housing market, rooms and flats for subletting are often offered 'without registration' („Ohne Anmeldung“). The main tenants refuse to issue the necessary accommodation provider confirmation (*Wohnungsgeberbestätigung*) that is needed for residence registration – often for fear of rent increases or because they do not have permission to sublet.

Migrants with valid residence permits are particularly affected, but so are **newcomers with German citizenship** and **homeless people**. They find themselves in a **vicious circle**: without a registration certificate, they have no access to basic rights and services.

The consequences

Without a registration certificate or registered address, those affected cannot, or can only with considerable difficulty:

- take up employment or register as self-employed
- obtain a social security number or tax identification number (Steuer-ID)
- open a current account or register with a health insurance fund
- register their children at a nursery or school
- extend their residence permit or apply for a permanent residence permit
vote in Berlin
- apply for housing benefits, basic income support (*Grundsicherungsgeld*) or ALG I unemployment benefits
- apply for a certificate of good conduct (*Führungszeugnis*)
- register a vehicle
- apply for German citizenship
- register rallies and demonstrations

The people affected by this face many other disadvantages, such as difficulties in receiving official mail – often with serious consequences. These people live in Berlin, work here or would like to work. But they are systematically excluded from participating in society.

Why a City ID is the solution – Good reasons for people

Arriving in a new city and integrating begins with registration. **Without access to it, people are systematically excluded. This must end so that everyone who lives here can also be part of the city.** A City ID would not replace registration, but would merely supplement it, making it easier for people to bridge the gap without registering their place of residence.

A City ID would confirm that the persons concerned are residents of Berlin, even without a registered address. The Berlin authorities could accept this ID as proof for the allocation of a tax ID, a social security number, etc. This would break the vicious circle of registration for people: a City ID would give people access to the aforementioned services, documents and rights.

Good reasons for the city

Berlin urgently needs workers – many of them from abroad. It is in the city's interest to make it easier for them to enter the labour market.

In addition, the city has a **financial interest** in fully registering its population: according to the 2022 census, Berlin was deducted 129 euros per unregistered resident from the federal state financial equalisation system.

In October 2024, a legal opinion was issued on a City ID in Berlin, the Berlin City Card, commissioned by the [Senate Department for Labour, Social Affairs, Equality, Integration, Diversity and Anti-Discrimination](#). The great potential of the Berlin City Card and its feasibility were analysed and confirmed in this opinion.

The real cause

The cause of the problem is the **lack of affordable housing**. The long-term solution would be a sufficient supply of affordable rental apartments. But while the housing crisis cannot be solved in the short term, the registration problem can be solved more quickly – and it is urgent.

Sign now and send a message for an inclusive city!

This is a petition from the 'Anmeldung für Alle' (Registration for All) campaign. A Berlin alliance of migrant organisations, welfare associations, social work institutions, political collectives and organisations.

Further information: www.anmeldung-fuer-alle.org/de