

CHECKLIST · BATON ROUGE

Moving to Baton Rouge Checklist: The First 90 Days (2026)

A sequenced plan across ninety days: the first week, the first month, and what to finish before day ninety. The list opens with one question: which municipality is your address in?

SHORT ANSWER

This list opens with one question, and in this city nothing comes before it: **which municipality is your address in?** Here the city and the parish are run by a **single government** (in its own words: The City of Baton Rouge and Parish of East Baton Rouge are managed by a single, consolidated form of government), **but the parish contains five separate municipalities**, and a **home with a Baton Rouge mailing address can sit inside the City of St. George**. Write the answer down: **your tax column, policing, trash, zoning, building permits and eviction court** all follow from it. Second come the utility bills, where a surprise waits: **the sewer fee is tied not to your water use but to a winter average**, and a new arrival is billed on **an assumed level of consumption**.

Deadlines in one table

TASK	DEADLINE	WHERE
Federal address report	10 days. A move inside the state also requires a report	Through the immigration agency's own online channel. Mail forwarding does not replace it
License address	10 days	The agency's answer: You must appear in person. \$13.00 or \$17.00
Vehicle registration address	10 days	A separate transaction ; the corrected registration is free
License transfer	30 days, only for an arrival from another U.S. state	There is no transfer path from Turkey: the required course applies
Title after a purchase	Five days	Motor vehicle office or authorized public tag agent
Magnet application, priority pool	December 4, 2026	The magnet programs' own portal
Flood policy taking effect	30-day wait	Renters can buy a policy too
Matrimonial agreement window	One year after establishing domicile	Within that window it can be made without court approval

The first week

TASK	WHERE OR HOW
☐ Confirm which municipality your address sits in	Three official tools exist: a property lookup, a sales tax domicile lookup and a council district lookup. The right question is: which municipal limits and which tax column is this address in? city.brla.gov/gis/salestaxlookup.asp
☐ File the federal address report within 10 days	Through the agency's own channel; enter the receipt number for every pending case. If you have a pending court case, a separate notice to the court is required
☐ Sign up for the alert system	In this city there is a single signup door. Hurricane season runs June 1 through November 30
☐ Open the electric account, and call separately about gas	Gas changed hands in 2025: the company's own statement says it completed the sale of its natural gas distribution business, and applications now go to the new distributor. Older guides online name the wrong company
☐ Start water service by phone	The water company's sentence: Please call (225) 925-2011 to have your service connected, disconnected or transferred. The identification and deposit requirements could not be verified; ask on the call and write the answer down
☐ Start the insurance policy	Before registration and before you drive. A driver who cannot show proof has the plate seized
☐ Open your licensing file	From another U.S. state you have 30 days. From Turkey, enroll in the course the same week; it is the longest item of the first month

THE SEWER BILL: HOW THE FIRST THREE MONTHS WORK

- The fee is recalculated **every July**, using **October, November and December of the prior year plus February, March and April** of the current one. So **summer lawn watering stays out of the bill**.
- **Minimum charge: \$31.21** for the first 400 cubic feet of average use, then **\$5.36** for each additional 100 cubic feet.
- **Special rule for new arrivals:** the fee is set on an **assumed average use of 8.9 CCF**; in the government's own example that comes to **\$57.47 a month** at January 1, 2026 rates.
- **The correction comes after three full months:** once three full months of water use exist, the fee is corrected and a **credit** is applied to anyone who used less than the assumption.
- **This is not an error; it is the written rule.** Pay the bill, watch for the correction in the fourth month, and **budget the first three months accordingly**.
- Trash is separate: **\$35.23 a month**, billed to every resident of the parish **except those inside the corporate limits of Baker and Zachary**. An extra cart is **\$7** a month.

The first month

TASK	WHERE OR HOW
☐ Register the vehicle	Title \$68.50 , handling \$8.00 , two-year plate \$20.00 minimum. No day count was found; do not wait, do it early

TASK	WHERE OR HOW
☐ Do not skip emissions	This city sits inside the federal inspection area and the obligation continues. The statewide sticker ends in 2027, but here the effective date depends on a federal approval
☐ Enroll the children	The zoned school follows your address and takes mid-year enrollments. The magnet is separate and competitive; the priority pool closes December 4, 2026
☐ Apply for health coverage	This state expanded coverage. The five-year waiting period has been removed for children, not for adults
☐ Look for one clause before you sign a lease	A waiver of the notice to vacate. The statute itself says a lessee may waive the notice requirement by written waiver contained in the lease; if it is there, your five-day right drops to zero
☐ If you are married, do not miss the one-year window	During the first year after establishing domicile a matrimonial agreement can be made without court approval; afterward it takes a joint petition and a court order
☐ Close all four doors	The immigration report, the license address, the registration address and voter registration are four separate transactions; none covers another

FIVE MUNICIPALITIES, AND TWO TOOLS OF THE SAME GOVERNMENT CONFLICT

- The parish's **own mapping layer** lists five municipalities: **Baker, Central, Zachary, Baton Rouge and St. George.**
- St. George is new; the city's own sentence: St. George was incorporated in 2019 to give residents more control over their community and future.
- **The conflict:** the descriptive text on the same government's **property lookup tool** still counts **four cities:** Baker, Baton Rouge, Central, and Zachary.
- **We take no side.** The practical result: **do not settle for asking one tool;** one may be current while the other shows older text.
- **A terminology note:** in some parishes the governing body is a Police Jury, in others a Parish Council. **Neither term applies here:** the executive is the Mayor-President and the council is the Metropolitan Council, with 12 districts.

Before day ninety

TASK	WHERE OR HOW
☐ Your licensing process should be moving	Course enrolled, permit obtained, test dates set. Until the card arrives you will carry your passport
☐ Track the sewer bill correction	The correction and the credit come once three full months of use exist; check the fourth month's bill
☐ Keep dated copies of every immigration notice you filed	If a hearing notice or a letter goes astray, that copy is the only thing in your hands

TASK	WHERE OR HOW
☐ If you are buying, keep the order	Flood zone determination, insurance (30-day wait), the act of sale, the electric account, then the exemption application. This parish carries a 20 percent flood premium discount , based on its rating in the federal program and in effect since October 1, 2024
☐ If you are getting married	The license comes from the parish clerk of court and the waiting period is 24 hours . The 72-hour figure that circulates is wrong
☐ If a jury summons arrives, answer it	Do not state anywhere that you are a citizen , keep a dated copy of your response, and talk to your attorney before you send it

One last note, and an advantage particular to this city: the office that certifies documents for use in Turkey is **here**. You do not have to mail a document and wait. For statewide rules see [our Louisiana guide](#).



TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN BATON ROUGE

Have a question about your immigration status?

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