

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE · BOSTON

How to Get a Driver's License in Boston: Turkish-Language Exam and 2026 Guide

The learner's permit exam is offered in Turkish. For newcomers, applicants without an SSN and drivers arriving with a Turkish license: documents, the Haymarket and Watertown offices, REAL ID and fees.

SHORT ANSWER

Start with the good news: **the learner's permit exam is offered in Turkish**. The Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) gives the written test in 37 languages. It is 25 questions and 18 correct answers pass. The Boston office is the Haymarket Service Center at 136 Blackstone St.; license work there is by appointment only and there is no parking. The road test is not in Turkish and it is not in Boston either: it is given in Watertown (550 Arsenal St.), Monday to Friday by appointment. Fees: permit \$30, road test \$35, license \$50 for five years. Immigration status does not block a license, but a Turkish license cannot be exchanged.

What to know before you start

- **The written exam comes in Turkish.** Twenty-five multiple-choice questions, 18 correct to pass, 25 minutes. Take it at a Service Center or online; the online version needs a camera and cannot be taken on a phone or tablet. If reading is the problem, the RMV also gives an oral exam: email rtinterpreters@dot.state.ma.us or call 857-368-8105.
- **The road test is not in Turkish.** You may bring your own interpreter.
- **Status does not block a license.** Under the Work and Family Mobility Act, in force since July 1, 2023, a standard Class D license is issued regardless of immigration status and no proof of lawful presence is asked for. A valid foreign passport that needs no visa, or a consular ID, plus one second document is enough. If you have never had an SSN you sign an Affidavit of No SSN.
- **REAL ID is different.** The card with the star requires proof of lawful presence. Someone without status can hold a standard license but not a REAL ID.
- **A Turkish license is not exchanged.** The RMV waives the tests for only Canada, Mexico, U.S. territories, South Korea, Germany, France and Taiwan. Your Turkish license still helps as the second identity document, and nothing more.
- **There is no published grace period.** Neither the statute nor the RMV gives a number of days you may keep driving on a foreign license after you become a resident. The 30 and 60 day figures online have no official basis. The safe move is to book the permit appointment as soon as you move.
- **Where the rules live.** The two guide pages for the Act on [mass.gov](https://www.mass.gov) were unpublished as of October 1, 2026. Work from the RMV [identification requirements page](#).

How to apply, step by step

- 1 Apply online, then book.** You file the learner's permit application through the [RMV Online Service Center](#) and then book a Service Center appointment. License, permit and ID transactions all need an appointment. When no slot is open you register and get an email with a personal link that expires within 24 hours.
- 2 Gather the documents.** The RMV takes originals only, nothing laminated, and a non-English document needs a certified translation. Identity works two ways (table below), and you also need one proof of Boston residency dated within the last 60 days: a lease, an electricity or gas bill, a bank statement or a school letter.
- 3 Take the written exam.** Choose Turkish on the exam screen. 18 of 25 correct passes.
- 4 Book the road test separately (\$35).** The fee is not refunded if you fail, arrive late or cancel less than 72 hours ahead. Six road tests per 12 months is the limit.
- 5 Bring a sponsor and a car.** The sponsor must be 21 or older with a valid U.S. state license and at least one year of driving experience. **A person with a foreign license cannot sponsor you.** The car needs a valid registration and inspection sticker, and a parking brake the examiner can reach.
- 6 Get the license.** A Class D license is \$50 for five years. If your lawful stay is shorter, the license is issued for a shorter term and prorated at \$10 per year.

Which documents count?

WHAT IS ASKED FOR	WHAT WORKS FOR SOMEONE ARRIVING FROM TÜRKIYE
Identity, Option A (one document)	A U.S. passport, a green card, an employment authorization document (EAD), or a foreign passport together with a U.S. visa and an I-94
Identity, Option B (two documents)	A valid foreign passport that needs no visa, or a consular ID, plus one of: a U.S. state driver license, a foreign birth certificate, a foreign national ID card, a Turkish driver license , or a U.S. marriage or divorce certificate
Social Security	Your SSN; or, if you have never had one, the Affidavit of No SSN (Option B only); or an SSA denial notice issued in the last 60 days with your passport, visa and I-94
Residency	A lease, an electricity, gas or phone bill, a bank statement or a school letter, dated within the last 60 days

Fees (2026)

TRANSACTION	FEE
Learner permit application (2 years)	\$30 (duplicate \$15)
License application and road test	\$35
Class D license (5 years)	\$50 (\$10 per year if issued for less than 5 years)

TRANSACTION	FEE
Massachusetts ID card (Mass ID, 5 years)	\$25
REAL ID upgrade	\$50 at renewal, \$25 outside the renewal cycle
Duplicate license or ID	\$25

Fees come from the RMV fee schedule revised in May 2025. Check the [current schedule](#) before you go.

Which office in and around Boston?

OFFICE	ADDRESS AND HOURS · WHAT HAPPENS THERE
Boston (Haymarket) Service Center	136 Blackstone St., Boston MA 02109 · Monday to Friday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. · no on-site parking · license, permit and ID work by appointment only; vehicle registration and title accept walk-ins, with appointments prioritized
Watertown Service Center	550 Arsenal St., Watertown MA 02472 (Watertown Mall) · Monday to Friday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. · on-site parking · the same transactions, plus road tests Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. by appointment
Boston AAA	141 Congress Street, Boston MA 02110 · limited RMV services, AAA members only, by appointment
RMV contact center	857-368-8000 · senior and disability appointment line 857-368-8005

There are other RMV branches around Boston, but the status of some of them looks contradictory on the official pages, so check the list on the [RMV locations page](#) before you drive out. Never pay anyone for an RMV appointment: the RMV says payments happen only on its own site or at its own locations.

THE VOTER REGISTRATION TRAP

In a license, permit or ID transaction, anyone who answers **yes** to the citizenship question has their details sent to the Secretary of the Commonwealth and is registered to vote automatically. The VOTES Act removed the opt-out from the application on January 1, 2023, so there is no way back at the counter. If you are not a citizen, answer the citizenship question truthfully: no. The standard license issued under the Work and Family Mobility Act carries no right to vote and does not show your status. Knowingly registering or voting as a noncitizen carries a fine of up to \$10,000 or up to five years in prison.

REAL ID AND FLYING

A standard Massachusetts license grants no status and does not print your status on the card, but it is not a federal ID either. Carry your passport, green card or employment authorization document for domestic flights and federal buildings. A REAL ID needs one lawful-presence document, one document showing your full SSN and two proofs of Massachusetts residency. If you are not a citizen and your lawful stay is at least 12 months, you get a limited-term REAL ID that cannot be renewed online. The temporary paper REAL ID is not accepted at airport security.

Driving on a Turkish license

- **As a visitor:** the foreign-license permission is written for nonresidents (MGL c.90 s.10). If your license is not in English, carry an International Driving Permit or a photo English translation; you must be 16 or older and the license must not be suspended.
- **Once you live here:** you apply for a license. No official grace period has been published, so do not wait.
- **Coming from another U.S. state:** that state's license converts without a test and counts on its own as an identity document.

Common mistakes

- Preparing in English because you did not know the written exam is offered in Turkish.
- Driving to Haymarket and looking for parking. The office has none, so take the T.
- Bringing a friend with a foreign license as the road test sponsor. The sponsor needs a U.S. state license.
- Showing up for the road test with a car whose registration or inspection sticker has expired.
- Bringing photocopies or laminated documents. Only originals are accepted.
- Booking a REAL ID appointment without lawful status. A standard license is available; a REAL ID is not.



TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN BOSTON

Have a question about your immigration status?

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