

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE · BROOKLINE

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

The learner's permit exam is offered in Turkish. The Watertown and Haymarket offices, documents, REAL ID, fees, and the one question to settle before you buy a car.

SHORT ANSWER

The good news: the state learner's permit exam is offered in **Turkish**, and 18 correct answers out of 25 pass. The practical news: there is no RMV office in Brookline. You go to the **Watertown Service Center** (550 Arsenal St., with its own lot) or to **Haymarket** in Boston (136 Blackstone St., no parking); road tests are given only in Watertown. License, permit and ID transactions are by appointment. Immigration status does not block a license, but a Turkish license cannot be exchanged. The RMV contact center is 857-368-8000.

A warning first: settle the parking before you buy a car

The most expensive rule on this page is not in the license section but in the parking section. In Brookline **no vehicle may stay on any street, or in any Town-owned lot, for more than one hour between 2 a.m. and 6 a.m.**, every night of the year. A newcomer who parks on the street gets a ticket on the first night. So in Brookline the order is: work out where the car will spend the night, then decide whether to buy one, then book the license appointment. Our car and parking guide sets out the three legal ways around it.

What to know before you start

- **The written exam comes in Turkish.** Twenty-five questions, 18 correct to pass, 25 minutes, offered in 37 languages. Take it at a Service Center or online; the online version needs a camera and cannot be taken on a phone or tablet.
- **The road test is not in Turkish** and it is not given in the town: it happens in Watertown, weekdays 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. by appointment.
- **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 starred card requires proof of lawful presence.
- **A Turkish license is not exchanged.** The RMV waives the tests for only seven places: Canada, Mexico, U.S. territories, South Korea, Germany, France and Taiwan. Keep your license anyway: it counts as the

second identity document.

- **There is no published grace period.** Neither the statute nor the RMV gives a number of days, so book as soon as you move.
- **Where the rules live.** The two guide pages for the Act on mass.gov were unpublished; the current requirements are on the RMV [identification requirements page](#).

How to apply, step by step

- 1 Apply online, then book.** You file through the RMV [Online Service Center](#) and book a Service Center 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. You also need one proof of Brookline residency dated within the last 60 days.
- 3 Take the written exam.** Choose Turkish on the exam screen.
- 4 Book the road test separately (\$35).** The fee is not refunded if you fail, arrive late or cancel less than 72 hours ahead.
- 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.
- 6 Get the license.** A Class D license is \$50 for five years; if your lawful stay is shorter, it is issued for a shorter term.

Which documents count?

WHAT IS ASKED FOR	WHAT WORKS FOR SOMEONE ARRIVING FROM TÜRKİYE
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)
Brookline residency	A lease, an electricity or gas bill, a bank statement or a school letter, dated within the last 60 days. The water and trash bill arrives quarterly and is usually out of date

Fees (2026)

TRANSACTION	FEE
Learner permit application (2 years)	\$30
License application and road test	\$35

TRANSACTION	FEE
Class D license (5 years)	\$50 (prorated at \$10 per year if shorter)
Massachusetts ID card (Mass ID, 5 years)	\$25
REAL ID upgrade	\$50 at renewal, \$25 otherwise

Which office do you use?

OFFICE	ADDRESS AND HOURS · WHAT HAPPENS THERE
Watertown Service Center	550 Arsenal St., Watertown MA 02472 (Watertown Mall) · weekdays 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. · has its own lot · license, permit and ID work by appointment, and road tests weekdays 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. by appointment happen here
Boston (Haymarket) Service Center	136 Blackstone St., Boston MA 02109 · weekdays 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. · no parking, so transit is easier · the same license and ID work by appointment; registration and title transactions take walk-ins
The town's own office	Transportation Division, Town Hall, 333 Washington St., 4th Floor · 617-730-2177 · does no license or registration work ; it issues parking permits only
RMV contact center	857-368-8000 · senior and disability appointment line 857-368-8005

Both offices can be reached from Brookline by car or by transit, but we could not find a published travel time from the town's stops to either of them, so we print no figure: plan your route with the [MBTA trip planner](#) before your appointment. 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 daily 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; afterward you can ask the Town Clerk's election office (333 Washington Street, Room 104, 617-730-2100) to cancel the registration. If you are not a citizen, answer truthfully: no. The standard license 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.

Do you actually need a license in Brookline?

This is one of the places in the guide where the answer is clearest: for most newcomers, no. The Green Line C and D branches have **17 stops** inside the town and Park Street is 19 to 31 minutes away; 21 to 26 minutes from Coolidge Corner, 19 to 21 from Brookline Village and 26 to 30 from Reservoir. The subway is \$2.40, a local bus \$1.70 and a monthly LinkPass \$90, and since September 1, 2026 transfers are unlimited within two hours on the same payment method. The town runs 14 Bluebikes stations and more than 127,000 trips were taken from them in 2024; Zipcar vehicles also sit in the town lots. A household without a car faces no \$100-a-month lot permit, no \$30-a-year daytime permit, no excise tax and no risk of an overnight ticket. **One detail:** all five of the D branch stops in Brookline are marked accessible, while the C branch is not; if you will board a train every day with a stroller or a wheelchair, choose your address accordingly.

Common mistakes

- Preparing in English without knowing the exam is offered in Turkish.
- Buying a car before working out where it will spend the night.
- Bringing a friend with a foreign license as the road test sponsor.
- Taking the water bill as proof of residency; it arrives quarterly.
- Assuming the road test happens in town; it is only in Watertown.
- Showing up with photocopies or laminated documents.



TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN BROOKLINE

Have a question about your immigration status?

Attorney Asim Clinch serves clients in Brookline and the surrounding area, in Turkish and English.

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