

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE · JACKSONVILLE

How to Get a Driver's License in Jacksonville, FL: 2026 Guide (FLHSMV, Duval County)

For Jacksonville newcomers and drivers arriving with a Turkish license: documents, exams, fees and the Duval County Tax Collector branches.

SHORT ANSWER

New Florida residents must get a Florida driver's license within 30 days of establishing residency. Since February 6, 2026, every knowledge and road exam is given in English only, with no interpreters or other-language exams. Türkiye is not among the countries whose licenses skip Florida's tests, so plan on both exams. A first license costs \$48, and Duval County adds a \$6.25 county service fee to every transaction.

Florida's driver's license: the 30-day rule

- **How residency is established.** Starting a job in Florida, enrolling your child in a Florida public school, registering to vote, filing for a homestead exemption, or living in Florida more than 6 consecutive months all establish residency.
- **30 days.** Once residency is established, you have 30 days to get a Florida driver's license before driving on Florida roads.
- **Apply in person.** License and ID card applications are made in person at any office offering driver-license services; a vision test is given.

Since February 6, 2026: exams are English only

In a January 30, 2026 announcement, FLHSMV said that starting Friday, February 6, 2026, every driver's license knowledge (written) AND road (skills) exam, for every license class, is given exclusively in English, including exams administered orally. Previously, non-CDL knowledge exams were offered in several languages; now there are no interpreters and no printed exams in any language but English.

Arriving with a Turkish license

Florida lets only a few countries' licenses skip its tests, and Türkiye is not one of them. Plan on a vision test, the knowledge exam and the driving skills test; both exams are in English only.

NOTE FOR IMMIGRANTS

- Applicants without a fixed immigration status must show proof of lawful presence: an I-551 for green card holders, or a foreign passport with a valid visa and an I-94 record.
- If you provide an SSN, the name on your application must match Social Security Administration records; if you do not have one, a separate path applies depending on your eligibility.
- Original or certified documents are required, so gather them before you apply.

Fees (2026)

ITEM	FEE
Class E license (initial, includes learner's permit)	\$48
Commercial license (Class A)	\$75
License endorsement	\$7 each
ID Card	\$25
Duval County service fee (added to every license transaction)	\$6.25

Duval County Tax Collector branches

BRANCH	ADDRESS	ROAD TEST?
Yates, Main Branch	231 E. Forsyth St, Jacksonville, FL 32202	No
St. Johns Square (new)	11160 Beach Blvd, Suite 121, Jacksonville, FL 32246	Yes
Mandarin	10035 San Jose Boulevard, Jacksonville, FL 32257	Yes
Neptune Beach	1505 Atlantic Blvd, Neptune Beach, FL 32266	Yes
North Main Street	Suite 210, 12961 North Main St., Jacksonville, FL 32218	No
Roosevelt	6331 Roosevelt Blvd STE 10, Jacksonville, FL 32244	Yes
Soutel	4750 Soutel Drive, Jacksonville, FL 32208	Yes
Westside	8299-10 W Beaver Street, Jacksonville, FL 32220	Yes

The Kernan branch closed on July 24, 2026, and the Hogan branch on September 2, 2026; the St. Johns Square branch replaced both. All eight branches handle driver licenses, learner permit and CDL knowledge exams, and vehicle registration. Branches are open weekdays 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; to book an appointment or join the same-day virtual line, pick your branch at taxcollector.jacksonville.gov. Main branch: Yates, 231 E. Forsyth St, (904) 255-5700, taxcollector@coj.net.

The road (driving-skills) test

- Offered only at Soutel, Westside, Mandarin, Neptune Beach, Roosevelt and St. Johns Square.
 - Only Tuesday through Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.; not available Mondays or Fridays.
 - Walk-in only; there is no appointment option for the road test.
 - Bring your learner's permit (if applicable), proof of insurance, and vehicle registration.
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Common mistakes

- Counting the 30-day window from your move-in date rather than from when residency was actually established (job start, school enrollment, and so on).
- Assuming a Turkish license will be exchanged without testing; Türkiye is not on the exemption list.
- Showing up for the road test on a Monday or Friday; it runs Tuesday through Thursday only.
- Forgetting Duval County's extra \$6.25 service fee.
- Going to the closed Hogan or Kernan branches; St. Johns Square replaced them.



TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN JACKSONVILLE

Have a question about your immigration status?

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

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