

CHECKLIST · METAIRIE

Moving to Metairie Checklist: The First 30 Days (2026)

A sequenced plan that fits in thirty days: day one, the first week, and what to finish before day thirty. The list opens with a single verification.

SHORT ANSWER

This list opens with a single verification: **which government does your address fall under?** Because the most important sentence in this guide is this: **Metairie is not a municipality**. The parish sheriff's revenue bureau splits the parish into Incorporated Areas and Unincorporated, and **lists Metairie under the second**; the parish assessor writes that a resident of a municipality gets a **second tax bill** while here a **single bill** arrives. **The result:** there is **no** mayor, no city council, no municipal tax, no municipal court and no municipal police; you deal directly with the parish. **And the trap runs in both directions:** a home whose mailing address carries the neighboring city's name can actually sit in this parish.

Deadlines in one table

TASK	DEADLINE	WHERE
Federal address report	The deadline is short, do not delay. It applies to a move inside the parish too	Through the immigration agency's own online channel. Mail forwarding does not replace it
License and vehicle registration address	Per the state motor vehicle agency's rule	Two separate transactions; neither covers the other
Property tax billing address	As soon as you move	To the parish assessor, not the sheriff. The sheriff handles collection questions only
License transfer	30 days , only for an arrival from another U.S. state	There is no transfer from Turkey: the required course applies
Title after a purchase	Five days	State motor vehicle agency or an authorized public tag agent
Returning a plate seized for lack of insurance proof	Three business days	A motor vehicle office; past that, the plate is destroyed
Residency document grace at enrollment	15 school days	Granted by the school principal
Flood policy taking effect	30-day wait	Renters can buy one too

TASK	DEADLINE	WHERE
Marriage license waiting period	24 hours	The parish Clerk of Court. The 72-hour figure that circulates is wrong

Day one

TASK	WHERE OR HOW
☐ Confirm which government your address falls under	Go by the parcel, not the listing. Check the parcel record in the parish assessor's property search, look at whether the property tax bill carries a separate municipal line , and run the address through the official address-based sales tax lookup
☐ Sign up for the parish alert system	There is one door here , because there is no municipality to register with separately. In two neighboring communities a resident has to register with both a city system and a parish system

THE MAILING ADDRESS TRAP, IN BOTH DIRECTIONS

- The sheriff's own page states that some areas carrying **the neighboring city's name** in their mailing address (the area around a large hospital and an industrial park) actually lie in **unincorporated Jefferson Parish**.
- An address whose envelope says **Metairie** is only the name of a **postal zone**; it is not a unit of local government.
- Four of the parish's municipalities have areas **both inside and outside** their limits; the same city name can point to two different administrative results.
- **The consequences are concrete:** your sales tax rate, your policing and service door, your child's school zone, who collects your trash, where you get a building permit, and **which court hears an eviction** all follow from this distinction.
- **Do this before you sign a lease or make an offer.** Learning it afterward changes nothing.

CONFLICT: THE SHERIFF COUNTS SIX MUNICIPALITIES, THE ASSESSOR FIVE

- **The sheriff's revenue bureau page counts six municipalities**, including **Jean Lafitte**: Gretna, Harahan, Kenner, Westwego, Grand Isle and Jean Lafitte.
- **The assessor's page counts five** and does not include Jean Lafitte.
- **We did not determine which is correct today, and we take no side.**
- **The outcome for the reader does not change: Metairie is on neither list**, so the finding this guide rests on is unaffected by the discrepancy.
- **A terminology note:** in this parish the governing bodies are the Parish Council and the Parish President; in some parishes of this state the body is a Police Jury. **Do not confuse them.**

The first week

TASK	WHERE OR HOW
☐ Open water service with the parish	You complete a new service application, and after review you get instructions by email. For same-day connection all information and payment must arrive by 2 p.m.; miss that and it rolls to the next business day. Line: (504) 736-6060
☐ Open the electric account in your own name	This is the first link in the proof-of-residence chain. Complaints do not go to a city hall, they go to the state commission, because there is no municipality here
☐ If you have no cart, call the parish	One cart per dwelling unit is free; collection is not made from your own container. Household trash twice a week , bulky waste once a week . Line: (504) 731-4612
☐ Get a library card	Free to parish residents and issued the same day; bring photo identification and proof of address
☐ File the federal address report	If you are subject to the reporting rule. It applies to a move inside the parish too, and that is the most common mistake
☐ Start the insurance policy	The order should be: policy, then registration, then driving. Keep the proof in the vehicle

THE WATER NUMBER QUESTION, AND AN HONEST "WE DO NOT KNOW"

- **The deposit amount and whether identification or a number is required were not found on the parish's own pages.** We say neither that it is required nor that it is not.
- That is deliberate: **in this state three communities give three different answers to the same question.** One city explicitly asks for photo identification and a valid Social Security card; one agency's list includes the number and no alternative path appears on the page; a third never mentions the subject.
- **Do not generalize.** A line you read online saying water service in Louisiana does or does not require a number **is useless unless you know which community it was written for.**
- **The right move:** call the parish water line before you stand in line, ask about your own situation, and **write down the name of the person you spoke to and the date.**
- **The practical answer may be: number first, then water.** But do not assume.

Before day thirty

TASK	WHERE OR HOW
☐ Enroll in an approved driving course	Turkey is not on the reciprocity list: the course is required and it is the longest item of the first month. Waiting does not shorten it; enroll the week you arrive
☐ Enroll the children	Schools are assigned by address. A foreign birth certificate is explicitly accepted, and without proof of residence there is a 15 school day grace period
☐ Apply for health coverage	This state expanded coverage and removed the five-year waiting period for children; it has not removed it for adults

TASK	WHERE OR HOW
☐ Check three things before you sign a lease	The waiver of notice clause, the term and recordation. The statute 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 commute by transit, know the transfer trap	The operator's sentence: transfers are not valid between the parish buses and the neighboring city's vehicles. The only thing good on both systems is the regional day pass, \$6.00
☐ If you cross to the north shore, open a tag account	One of the two tag sales offices is here: 3939 N. Causeway Blvd., Suite 400, Metairie. Opening an account costs \$20.00 , which covers one tag and \$20.00 of prepaid crossings
☐ If you buy, apply for the exemption in person	Bring the recorded act of sale and photo identification showing that address. If you do not update the address on your identification, the application stalls
☐ Buy the flood policy at the start of the season	Renters can buy one too , and there is a 30-day waiting period ; bought late, it may not take effect in time

WHAT WE WRITE AND DO NOT WRITE ABOUT THE TOLL

- **What we write:** on the bridge connecting the two shores of the lake, the toll is collected **at a single point, at the north end of the lake.** That is the operator's own sentence.
- **What we do not write:** the operator's page says **where** the toll is collected, not **in which direction.** **We make no statement about direction; confirm on which trip you pay from the operator's own page.**
- **Rates:** for an ordinary two-axle passenger vehicle, **\$3.40** with a tag and **\$6.00** in cash or by card; paying by credit card adds a **3 percent** surcharge.
- **There is no license plate billing on this bridge.** If you cross regularly, the tag pays for itself quickly.
- **Fraud warning:** you may get text messages claiming an **unpaid toll. Do not click the link;** log into your account from your own browser or call the operator.
- **We could not verify from the agency's own words whether the twin span across the river in the metro area is free today;** we do not write that it is.

One last note: there is **no single municipal door such as a 311 line here**, because there is no municipality; your requests go directly to **parish departments.** In practice that means finding the right department for the task rather than calling one number. Which department handles what is collected in this series' official offices document. For statewide rules see [our Louisiana guide](#).



TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN METAIRIE

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