

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE · NEWTON

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

The learner's permit exam is offered in Turkish. The Watertown and Haymarket offices, documents, REAL ID, fees, what happens to a Turkish license, and the village-name trap on the address line.

SHORT ANSWER

Two things to know at once. The good news: the state learner's permit exam is offered in **Turkish**. The practical news: there is no RMV office in Newton. The closest one is **Watertown** (550 Arsenal St., weekdays 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., with its own lot) and road tests are given there too. Without a car, the Green Line D makes Haymarket in Boston (136 Blackstone St.) the easier option. License, permit and ID transactions are by appointment only. Immigration status does not block a license, but a Turkish license cannot be exchanged. The RMV contact center is 857-368-8000.

First, know this: Newton is thirteen villages

Newton is one city but it has no single center. Auburndale, Chestnut Hill, Newton Centre, Newton Corner, Newton Highlands, Newton Lower Falls, Newton Upper Falls, Newtonville, Nonantum, Oak Hill, Thompsonville, Waban and West Newton: each of the thirteen villages has its own center and most have their own station. A Newton resident will tell you an address by village name, but the postal address is always written "Newton, MA"; what separates them is the ZIP code, in the 02458 to 02468 range. Two classic confusions: the name Chestnut Hill is also used on the Brookline and Boston side (the Green Line Reservoir station is in Brookline, the Chestnut Hill station is in Newton), and the post office writes Newton Centre as "Newton Center". On official forms always write Newton as the city, never the village name: even school assignment goes by street address rather than by village.

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 given in Watertown, weekdays 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. by appointment. So that is two appointments, and you can do both at the same office.
- **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; 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 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 Newton 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 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)
Newton residency	A lease, an electricity or gas bill, a bank statement or a school letter, dated within the last 60 days. The water 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
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 is easier? It depends on your village

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 · the same transactions; registration and title work takes walk-ins
Closer by car	From the northern villages (Newtonville, West Newton, Auburndale, Newton Corner) Watertown is very close and the office has parking
Easier without a car	Haymarket: Green Line D to Park Street or Government Center, then one stop. For Watertown by transit, Newton Corner is the bus interchange (routes 553, 554, 556, 558) and routes 52 and 59 run to Watertown Yard and Watertown Square; get current stops from the MBTA bus page

DO NOT WRITE A VILLAGE NAME ON THE ADDRESS LINE

On official forms write **Newton** as the city, not Waban or Newtonville. The village name is not a postal town and it creates address mismatches in your records; your RMV file, the garaging code on your insurance policy, your USCIS record and your school file all have to show the same address. The same care applies to your name: if your passport spells it with Turkish letters and your I-94 spells it differently, try to fix that before the appointment, because the name on the card later has to match your SSA and USCIS records.

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 city Election Commission 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.

Do you actually need a license in Newton? It depends on your village

The answer changes with where in the city you live, and that is particular to Newton. The seven Green Line D stations run across the south of the city (Riverside, Woodland, Waban, Eliot, Newton Highlands, Newton Centre, Chestnut Hill) and Newton Centre to Park Street is 37 minutes on the schedule. The three northern villages have commuter rail: Newtonville, West Newton and Auburndale, 26 to 30 minutes to South Station, but the ticket is \$6.50 in Zone 1 and \$7.00 in Zone 2, so it costs more than the subway. In villages away from the rail, such as Oak Hill, Nonantum and Thompsonville, daily life largely runs on a car. If you are buying one, budget for two things from the start: the **overnight parking ban from December 1 to March 31** and the permits in six neighborhoods. Never pay anyone for an RMV appointment; the senior and disability line is 857-368-8005.

Common mistakes

- Preparing in English without knowing the exam is offered in Turkish.
- Writing a village name on the address line.
- Bringing a friend with a foreign license as the road test sponsor.
- Taking the water bill as proof of residency; it arrives quarterly.
- Buying a car without getting the parking question into the lease; overnight street parking is banned in winter.
- Showing up with photocopies or laminated documents.



TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN NEWTON

Have a question about your immigration status?

Attorney Asim Clinch serves clients in Newton and the surrounding area, in Turkish and English. Free evaluation: clinchlaw.com/free-evaluation · +1 866-491-7669

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