

CHECKLIST · NEWTON

Moving to Newton Checklist: The First 90 Days

What a newcomer has to do, in order, with the deadlines and where to do it. Print it and tick it off.

SHORT ANSWER

If you are subject to the address-reporting requirement, report your new address to USCIS within the first 10 days. In the first week open the electricity with Eversource and the gas with **National Grid** (no deposit may be required from a residential customer; National Grid asks for an SSN by default, so if you do not have one call 1-800-233-5325 and ask for the alternative), and register your children through the Aspen portal. Book the learner's permit appointment right away: the exam is offered in Turkish and the office is in Watertown. If you arrived with a car the order is insurance, registration, inspection within 7 days. And put one date in your calendar: **December 1**, when the winter overnight parking ban starts.

First 10 days

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ Report your address to USCIS (AR-11)	Generally, most noncitizens, including Green Card holders, must report within 10 days of moving; A and G visa holders and Visa Waiver visitors are exempt. A move from Newton Centre to Waban counts , because moving between villages changes your ZIP code. uscis.gov/addresschange
☐ If you have an immigration court case, Form EOIR-33	Within 5 days: respondentaccess.eoir.justice.gov
☐ If you have an ICE check-in obligation	Report the address to ICE too, within 5 business days: portal.ice.gov
☐ Update your RMV address	The excise, the tolls and the parking permit all look at this address. Write Newton as the city on forms, not the village name.
☐ Change of address with the post office	A USPS change does not update your USCIS record; they are two separate things.

First week

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ Electricity (Eversource)	eversource.com or 1-800-592-2000. No deposit may be required from a residential customer (220 CMR 27.00). At sign-up the company accepts an SSN, a driver's license, a passport number , a military ID or another government ID; without a primary ID there is an online verification or a phone route.
☐ Gas (National Grid)	1-800-233-5325. Newton's gas is different from Cambridge's: here National Grid supplies it. Watch out: the company asks for a Social Security number by default at sign-up and publishes no alternative. If you do not have one, call that number, ask how they verify identity without an SSN and which document they accept, and get it in writing if you can. If heat and hot water are included in the rent you may not need an account at all.
☐ The electricity supplier	The city's own program, Newton Power Choice , is the default: 13.990 cents per kWh, fixed from January 2026 to January 2028, with Direct Energy as the supplier. Eversource basic service is 17.323 cents over the same period, so staying on the default is cheaper for most households. You sign no contract and leaving carries no penalty. Do not sign anything for a private supplier who knocks or calls.
☐ Water and sewer	The Public Works Utilities Division distributes the water, but the city buys it from the MWRA ; the bill comes quarterly from the Newton Treasury. In the FY2027 rates the first 10 units cost \$21.20 per hundred cubic feet (water \$8.32 plus sewer \$12.88). Utilities at 60 Elliot Street, 617-796-1640; billing at City Hall, 1000 Commonwealth Avenue, 617-796-1040. We could not confirm who opens the account in a rental, so get it into the lease.
☐ Trash and recycling	The city provides a blue cart (trash, 64 gallons) and a green cart (recycling), collected weekly. Put the carts out before 7 a.m. on collection day or after 4 p.m. the day before. The city says it charges a fee for this service , but we could not find the amount or who pays it in a rental; call 617-796-1000 and get it into the lease. The Resource Recovery Center is at 115 Rumford Avenue, Auburndale, for Newton residents only.
☐ Register the children for school	The Aspen portal; help from the Family Welcome Center, 100 Walnut Street, Room 204, 617-559-6055. No SSN and no immigration document; one proof of residency, two proofs of occupancy dated within 30 days , a birth certificate or passport and an immunization record. Schools are assigned by street address.
☐ If you rent, know your rights	Up front only the first month, the last month, a one-month deposit and the lock cost; application, move-in and background check fees are illegal. The deposit sits in a separate interest-bearing account and a landlord who breaks that rule owes triple damages. Since August 1, 2025 a tenant cannot be charged a broker fee. Newton adds its own rule: before a unit can be reoccupied by a new tenant it must be certified by the city health department with a Certificate of Habitability , once every 24 months per unit. Ask whether the apartment has a current one when you sign. Complaints: Health and Human Services 617-796-1420, health@newtonma.gov; building and zoning at Inspectional Services 617-796-1060 (City Hall Room 202).
☐ City services	Newton 311 is a web portal, not a three-digit line; the phone is 617-796-1000 (Customer Service, weekdays 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.) and the city states plainly that it is not monitored around the clock . After hours, the police non-emergency line is 617-796-2123, and 911 in a life-threatening emergency.

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ Library card	Newton Free Library, 330 Homer Street, 617-796-1360. Free; a photo ID and proof of address are asked for, and for someone who cannot produce them a public official may attest to the person's identity and address . The page mentions neither a passport requirement, immigration status nor an SSN. The card is valid five years and the library has charged no late fines since January 2024.
☐ Apply for an SSN (if eligible)	There is no SSA office in Newton; the nearest is in Waltham , about 4 miles (6.5 km) from City Hall and 10 minutes without traffic. Confirm the street address and hours through ssa.gov/locator . The general line is 1-800-772-1213.

Within 30 days

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ Book the learner permit appointment	It is \$30 and the written exam comes in Turkish (25 questions, 18 correct). The nearest office is Watertown, 550 Arsenal St., with its own lot; the road test is there too, \$35. The sponsor must hold a U.S. state license. A Turkish license is not exchanged.
☐ If you arrived with a car, insurance first	No agent stamp on the RMV-1 means no registration, and you must have Newton entered as the garaging code . Minimum coverage is \$25,000 / \$50,000 bodily injury, \$30,000 property damage and \$8,000 PIP. No SSN is needed to register.
☐ Inspection within 7 days	Within seven days of registering, \$35, then annually. The Newton Treasury bills the excise: \$25 per \$1,000 of value, with 14 percent annual interest if late.
☐ Get ready for the winter ban	From December 1 to March 31 no car may park on any street for more than one hour between 2 and 6 a.m., the fine is \$25 and being a resident does not exempt you. If you have no parking, ask the Traffic Bureau for the free municipal lot sticker: 1321 Washington St., 617-796-2106, limited places.
☐ Neighborhood permit (if you need one)	Six zones: Auburndale Village, Newton Corner, Newton Highlands, Newtonville, Horace Mann and Waban Village. The sticker is \$25 and the visitor placard \$25, at most 2 and 2 per household. The car must be registered at your Newton address.
☐ E-ZPass MA account	The Mass Pike crosses northern Newton and the city has its own toll gantry. The transponder is free; without an account every plate invoice adds \$0.60.
☐ CharlieCard and the train	Subway \$2.40, local bus \$1.70, monthly LinkPass \$90. The seven Green Line D stations are all in Newton; Newton Centre to Park Street is 37 minutes. The commuter rail stops in Newtonville, West Newton and Auburndale, 26 to 30 minutes to South Station, but the ticket is \$6.50 to \$7.00. Overnight parking is allowed only at Riverside and Woodland , it is banned at the commuter rail lots, and none of those three stations is wheelchair accessible.

Health and insurance

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ Life-threatening emergency	Call 911 or go to an emergency room: a hospital with an emergency department must screen and stabilize you regardless of your ability to pay (EMTALA).

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ The hospital inside the city	Newton-Wellesley Hospital , 2014 Washington Street, Newton MA 02462 (Newton Lower Falls), 617-243-6000; the emergency department is open 24 hours. It is part of Mass General Brigham.
☐ The most useful sentence is in the financial assistance	Patients who do not qualify for public insurance in their own state and whose household income is below 301 percent of the federal poverty level get a 70 to 100 percent discount on emergency or medically necessary bills. Anyone who pays or sets up a plan within two months of the first bill also gets 25 percent off, and every bill can go on an interest-free payment plan. The policy's own words: Mass General Brigham cares for its patients "regardless of insurance or immigration status". To apply: a paper application with ID and proof of income, by phone at 617-726-3884, or with the hospital financial counselor at 617-243-6824.
☐ Help with the application	The city's Health and Human Services department (617-796-1420) names two certified application counselor sites: Newton-Wellesley Hospital (617-243-6824) and Charles River Community Health, 43 Foundry Avenue, Waltham (781-693-3800).
☐ What is actually free	The city's autumn flu vaccine clinics are free and open to "everyone over 6 months old"; insurance information is requested but not required. The remaining dates are October 13 (City Hall, War Memorial Auditorium) and October 20, 2026 (Cooper Center, 345 Walnut St). We read that wording and those dates from a search summary of the city site, so confirm at 617-796-1420. Home visits are available for homebound residents. The mobile Family Van and the MetroWest Free Medical Program (Marlborough and Sudbury, services at \$0) are also free; neither has a Newton stop or branch, and MetroWest is 20 to 25 miles away and could not confirm to us that it takes Newton residents.
☐ A correction	The city's vaccine page lists Charles River Community Health in Waltham and Brighton and the Codman Square Health Center in Dorchester under a heading reading "Free Health Clinics". That label is wrong: those centers charge on a sliding scale; they are not free clinics. Do not go expecting a zero bill.
☐ Health Safety Net	It is not insurance; it is a fund that pays hospitals and community health centers, and there is no member card . You have to ask for it at the registration desk. MassHealth 800-841-2900.
☐ Insurance is mandatory	Massachusetts has an individual mandate and you report it on Schedule HC; for tax year 2026 the penalty runs from \$26 to \$211 a month, with no penalty at or below 150 percent of the poverty level. Health Connector open enrollment is October 23, 2026 to January 23, 2027 , 1-877-623-6765. Crisis line 988, state Behavioral Health Help Line 833-773-2445.

60 to 90 days and beyond

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ Taxes	Newton has no income tax of its own. The state income tax is a flat 5 percent and short-term capital gains 8.5 percent, with an extra 4 percent above \$1,107,750. The personal exemption is \$4,400 single, \$8,800 married filing jointly, \$6,800 head of household, plus \$1,000 per dependent. The deadline is April 15. Sales tax is 6.25 percent. Half the rent you pay, up to \$4,000, is deductible on the state return. For an ITIN, file Form W-7; the nearest IRS office is the JFK building in Boston, by appointment only (844-545-5640), reachable on the Green Line D with no transfer.

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ If you bought a home: there is no exemption	The FY2026 residential rate is \$9.69 per \$1,000 (it was \$9.80 in FY2025), with commercial and industrial at \$18.06. Newton has not adopted the general residential exemption that Boston and Cambridge grant , so there is no owner-occupant discount to apply for. The Assessing Department's own explainer says only 13 of the 351 municipalities in Massachusetts grant it and Newton is not among them (the document is dated 2020, so call 617-796-1160 before a closing and ask about that year's decision). The bill comes in four installments: August 1, November 1, February 1 and May 1, and the third bill carries the real rate, so the amount can rise there. Late payments accrue 14 percent interest a year.
☐ Targeted exemptions (if any apply)	There are exemptions for seniors (Clause 41C), an elderly or surviving spouse and minor child (17D), veterans, blind residents and hardship cases. FY2027 forms have been available since July 15, 2026 and the deadline is April 1, 2027 ; the city says that date cannot be extended for any reason, and the exemptions must be reapplied for every year. Assessing 617-796-1160, assessing@newtonma.gov .
☐ Starting a company	A Certificate of Organization for an LLC is \$500 and the annual report another \$500 every year. If you trade under a name other than your own, the Newton business certificate from the City Clerk is \$35 and valid four years, the cheapest in this series (Cambridge \$50, Boston \$65). Newton's route is different: the application starts in an online portal, Inspectional Services does a zoning review (617-796-1060), a Home Business/Office Affidavit is required if you work from home, and then you sign the certificate before a notary and upload it.
☐ Marriage license	City Clerk, City Hall, 1000 Commonwealth Avenue, 1st Floor, 617-796-1200, vitals@newtonma.gov . Both partners come in together, no appointment is needed , and the intention form hours are weekdays 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. The fee is \$35 , which is \$15 less than Boston and Cambridge. After a three calendar day wait the certificate is issued, and the ceremony must take place in Massachusetts within 60 days. A certified copy is \$10.
☐ Birth certificate	The same office. A certified copy is \$10 and every copy is a long form with the city seal. Because the hospital sits inside the city line, a baby born at Newton-Wellesley is a Newton record. If the parents were not married at the time of the birth the record is restricted and a government photo ID is required, so bring your passport. Order at least two copies.
☐ Consular business for Turkish citizens	The Turkish Consulate General is at 31 Saint James Avenue, Suite 840. Newton's advantage is that the Green Line D reaches Arlington station with no transfer and Arlington is about 120 meters from the building; 32 minutes from Newton Centre.
☐ Military service registration for men	Those born in 2007 and anyone without a deferral: by December 31, 2026 .

IF YOU ARE NOT A CITIZEN, REMEMBER

- Registering and voting are for citizens only. Answering "yes" to the citizenship question at the RMV registers you automatically; if you are not a citizen, say no. MassHealth and Health Connector applications fall under the same rule.
- **A jury summons can reach a noncitizen.** Newton residents are called for Middlesex County and the nearest courthouse is the Newton District Court in West Newton; the jury line is (617) 243-7243, which you call after 3 p.m. the day before, and if you have to attend you are asked to be on the 2nd floor by 8:30 a.m. The second possibility is Middlesex Superior Court in Woburn (200 Tradecenter Drive, jury line (781) 939-2900). Do not ignore a summons: answer it, state that you are not a citizen, and send your alien card number, visa status or a copy of your passport (jurorhelp@jud.state.ma.us, 1-800-THE-JURY).
- Talk to an immigration attorney before you apply for, or drop, any public benefit: the new public charge rule has been in effect since September 18, 2026.
- The city's Welcoming City ordinance (2017) and the mayor's executive order of February 5, 2026 bind only city employees and city property; they do **not bind ICE or CBP** and they give you no private right of action. The city's own resource page says it plainly: Newton police have no authority to enforce federal civil immigration law, while federal immigration officers have full authority to enforce it anywhere including Newton, need no permission from the city to come, and Newton police cannot obstruct them. **On September 10, 2026 ICE operations took place outside the Newton District Court and outside City Hall** (reported by news outlets citing the mayor's office).
- Check your I-94 record at i94.dhs.gov.
- If you have a pending green card application, do not travel abroad without advance parole.



TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN NEWTON

Have a question about your immigration status?

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