

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE · WEST SPRINGFIELD

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

The learner's permit exam is offered in Turkish. The Springfield office across the river, documents, REAL ID, fees, and why a license here is a necessity rather than a convenience.

SHORT ANSWER

The good news: the state learner's permit exam is offered in **Turkish** and immigration status is not a bar. The practical news: there is no RMV office in town, and the nearest is the **Springfield RMV Service Center** across the river at 1250 St. James Avenue, Springfield MA 01104. License, learner permit and ID transactions require an online appointment; road tests are weekdays 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. by appointment. A Turkish license cannot be exchanged. The RMV contact center is 857-368-8000.

Here a license is not a convenience

In our Cambridge guide we wrote that most newcomers do not need a car. Here it is the opposite. The buses are **fare-free this fiscal year** but infrequent, the local trains run south into Connecticut rather than east to Boston, and the airport is in another state. A household that goes to work and raises children normally needs a car, a license, insurance and a registration. That is a conclusion we drew from the timetables rather than an official statistic, but it is the right basis for your budget and your calendar: **book the appointment the week you move**. For a family moving here, the license appointment is as urgent as the school registration.

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. Interpreter requests go to rtinterpreters@dot.state.ma.us.
- **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 card with the star in the top corner 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.

- **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 West Springfield 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)
Town residency	A lease, an electricity or gas bill, a bank statement or a school letter, dated within the last 60 days. Here the water is a town service billed on a different cycle , so keep your Eversource bill or your lease ready

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)

TRANSACTION	FEE
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
Springfield RMV Service Center	1250 St. James Avenue, Springfield MA 01104 · weekdays 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Saturday by appointment only) · license, learner permit and ID work by online appointment; road tests weekdays 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. by appointment
The town's own departments	Town Clerk, Collector/Treasurer and DPW · they do no license or registration work
RMV contact center	857-368-8000 · senior and disability appointment line 857-368-8005 · interpreter requests rtinterpreters@dot.state.ma.us

We reached these lines through a search result for the [mass.gov page](#) rather than the page itself, because mass.gov was blocked to us during the research. Confirm the hours and the appointment rule at 857-368-8000 before you go. We found no official information about parking or bus access at that office. Other locations in the area (a limited-service AAA branch in Springfield and the Easthampton Service Center) appear in the office lists, but we could not read their addresses or hours. 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 COMES UP MORE OFTEN HERE

Living without a license is hard in this town, so most newcomers reach an RMV counter in the first months. And the trap is right there: 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 to cancel it (26 Central Street, 413-263-3012). Do not rush at the counter: read the citizenship question yourself and ask before you sign if you are unsure. 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. MassHealth and Health Connector applications fall under the same automatic registration.

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.

How to get through the waiting period

Going without a license here is harder than in the Boston suburbs, but it is not impossible. **PVTA buses are fare-free this fiscal year** and every route connects to Springfield Union Station; for shopping, the Memorial Avenue leg of the R14 and the Route 20 leg of the R10 do the job. You need no card, no sign-up and no ID, so even someone without an SSN, a bank card or a license can reach Springfield and their appointments from day one. But read the timetable up front: the R14 runs roughly every 70 minutes on a weekday and the **last trip is at 7 p.m.**, so if you work an evening shift or take an evening class, the bus is not the answer.

Common mistakes

- Preparing in English without knowing the exam is offered in Turkish.
- Leaving the license until later; here a car is part of daily life.
- Bringing a friend with a foreign license as the road test sponsor.
- Not planning how to get to the appointment; the office is across the river and we could not confirm bus access.
- Signing at the counter without reading the citizenship question.
- Showing up with photocopies or laminated documents.



TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN WEST SPRINGFIELD

Have a question about your immigration status?

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

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