

CONTACT INFORMATION

Chatham County Tax Commissioner's Office

Motor Vehicle/Property Information 912-652-7100
Motor Vehicle Email tag@chathamcounty.org
Property Tax Email tax@chathamcounty.org
Website tax.chathamcountygga.gov

Board of Assessors (BOA) Office

Vehicle Valuation Appeals 912-652-7271
BOA Email boa@chathamcounty.org

Georgia Driver's License

Office 678-413-8400
Website dds.georgia.gov

SERVICE OPTIONS

IN PERSON

Visit any of our locations:
8:30am – 5:00pm (Monday – Friday)

Downtown

222 W. Oglethorpe Ave., 31401

Westside

295 Police Memorial Dr., 31405

Southside

1145 Eisenhower Dr., 31406

Eastside (Appointment Only)

125 Wilmington Island Rd., 31410

Pt. Wentworth (Appointment Only)

7224 GA Hwy 21, 31407

ONLINE

tax.chathamcountygga.gov
eservices.drives.ga.gov

KIOSKS at KROGER/PUBLIX

Pooler Marketplace Publix

467 Pooler Pkwy, 31322

Berwick Marketplace Kroger

570 Ogeechee Rd., 31405

Wilmington Island Kroger

495 Johnny Mercer Blvd., 31410

Savannah Marketwalk Kroger

318 Mall Blvd., 31406

Convenience fees apply for all credit card transactions.

Motor Vehicle Information

*A guide to registration, titling
and vehicle taxes for
Chatham County residents*



Chatham County Tax Commissioner's Office

Did You Know...

- Vehicle registrations expire on the primary registrant's date of birth. The next day late fees and penalties are assessed.
- Georgia law requires a vehicle to be registered within seven business days if purchased from a non-dealer.
- Permanent (Blue) Handicap Placard renewals require a current MV-9D Disabled Person's Parking Affidavit notarized from your physician.
- Back taxes are due upon registration in the event taxes were not paid by the previous owner.
- A regular tag is \$20. Specialty tags are now assessed an annual fee.

SONYA L. JACKSON
CHATHAM COUNTY TAX COMMISSIONER

IMPORTANT FACTS

EXPIRATION OF REGISTRATION

Your vehicle registration expires at midnight on the expiration date printed on your Certificate of Registration. This date should coincide with the primary registrant's date of birth. You may be ticketed by law enforcement and/or your vehicle towed if you drive with an expired or suspended tag or registration decal.

You may also be ticketed if you do not:

1. Register and/or tag your vehicle within thirty days of purchase or acquisition from a dealer.
2. Transfer the title within seven days when purchasing from an individual (non-dealer).
3. Register and/or tag your vehicle within seven days when purchasing from an individual (non-dealer) if you intend to operate the vehicle on Georgia roads.

The State of Georgia does not require the registration of mopeds, motorized carts, all terrain vehicles and off the road vehicles.

TRANSFERRING OWNERSHIP

When the ownership of a vehicle is transferred or sold to another party, a title must accompany the sale unless the vehicle was made in 1985 or earlier. In the event a title is not required, the seller must give the buyer a bill of sale recording the sale date, vehicle purchase price, make, model, vehicle identification number, buyer(s) and seller(s) signature prior to vehicle registration.

A vehicle tag is only issued to the owner of a vehicle. Please **remove** the tag if you sell or transfer the ownership of this vehicle. The former tag can be transferred to another vehicle provided that the registered owners are the same.

INSURANCE INFORMATION

PROOF OF INSURANCE

Insurance information cards are no longer an acceptable proof of insurance coverage for Georgia law enforcement and county tag offices.

Insurance companies must electronically transmit your insurance information to the Georgia Electronic Insurance Compliance System (GEICS) for verification of valid coverage.

The Tax Commissioner's office must use this system to verify your insurance coverage before registering a vehicle or renewing a tag. When the Georgia insurance system does not indicate valid active insurance on a vehicle, the following will be acceptable proof:

- An original 30 day insurance binder with an effective date less than 30 days old
- The Declarations Page from your existing auto insurance policy if the vehicle was purchased within the last 30 days
- A Georgia fleet information card including the word Fleet
- A self-insured insurance information card and a Certificate of Self-Insurance issued by the Insurance Commissioner's Office

USE OF AN INSURANCE CARD

Your insurance card is valid for the following:

- Traveling outside of Georgia
- Exchanging information if you are involved in an accident
- Vehicles covered on a fleet policy
- Vehicles covered on a self-insured policy

HOW TO VERIFY VALID INSURANCE



Go to: eservices.drives.ga.gov

You will need your vehicle identification number (VIN) or license plate number.

NEW RESIDENTS

You are considered a new resident in the state of Georgia if you have a permanent place to live and except for infrequent, brief absences, you have been in Georgia for thirty days. New residents must obtain a valid tag within thirty days of moving to the state if they intend to operate on Georgia's public streets and roads. Residents must have a Georgia driver's license or identification card to purchase a tag.

Any resident who owns a vehicle but does not intend to operate it must still register and pay applicable taxes on the vehicle.

New Georgia residents are now required to pay a 3% one-time title ad valorem tax upon registering the vehicle in the state.

NAME CHANGES

If a name or registration change is needed on your vehicle registration or Georgia title, the name must first be changed with the Department of Driver Services.

Once a new Georgia driver's license has been obtained, you can apply for a name change on your Georgia title. This change must be accompanied by the following documentation:

- Georgia driver's license
- A completed MV-1 Tag and Title Application
- Original Georgia title and current registration certificate
- Certified copy of the court documents authorizing the name change (i.e. divorce decree, marriage certificate or court order)

If you are applying for a new title during your normal renewal or registration period, additional fees and taxes will be due (i.e. ad valorem taxes, annual registration fee, mailing fee, etc.).

TITLE AD VALOREM TAX

Vehicles purchased on or after March 1, 2013 and titled in this state are exempt from sales and use tax and the annual ad valorem tax – also known as the birthday tax. Instead, these vehicles are subject to a new, one-time title ad valorem tax (TAVT) that is based on the value of the vehicle. The fair market value is the taxable base of the motor vehicle. The manner in which fair market value is determined depends on whether the motor vehicle is new or used.

Certain categories of taxpayers may not fall under the new title tax. Speak with your motor vehicle representative if you are a service connected disabled veteran, buying a car from an immediate family member, new to Georgia, Active Duty military stationed at HAAF or Fort Stewart, registering a salvage vehicle or a host of others, you may qualify for a reduced rated TAVT or the tax may be exempted all together.

The application for title and TAVT payment must be submitted to the county in which the purchaser registers the vehicle (i.e. county of residence). The TAVT must be paid at the time application for title and registration are made. If you purchase your vehicle at a dealership, the dealer must accept the application for title and TAVT payment on your behalf and deliver the title application and TAVT payment to the county tag agent in the county where the vehicle will be registered.

FEES AND PENALTIES

If you fail to renew your vehicle(s) registration by the expiration date indicated on your registration notice, you will be charged the following fees and penalties in addition to any taxes or tag fees that may be due:

- 10% of the amount of ad valorem tax due (\$5 minimum)
- 25% of the tag fees

A prebill is mailed as a reminder of your vehicle registration due date and amount. In the event a prebill is not received, this does not excuse any penalties.

MILITARY CUSTOMERS

As non-resident military stationed in Georgia, you are not required to register your vehicle(s) in this state as long as your vehicle visibly displays a valid tag from your home state.

If you choose to register your vehicle(s) in Georgia, you must comply with all requirements of vehicle registration.

All customers must have a valid driver's license, Military ID card and a current Leave and Earnings Statement (LES). Your insurance must be electronically filed with the Georgia Electronic Insurance Compliance System or you must have a copy of your Georgia Insurance binder page with an effective date within the last 30 days.

COMING FROM OVERSEAS

You will need the following:

- Overseas registration or title
- Customs forms (DOT Forms HS-7, EPA Form 3520-1, Form CBP-7501)
- T-22B (completed by Georgia Law Enforcement Officer). This form can be obtained from our office or dor.georgia.gov.
- T-207 (translation of foreign registration) if the title or registration is foreign
- Lien holder's name, address, zip code and the account number for the loan (if the vehicle has a lien)

PURCHASING FROM A DEALER

Non-resident service members (active duty military) have the option to pay a one-time title ad valorem tax of 6.6% or a Georgia state sales tax of 7% when purchasing a vehicle from a dealer. If the service member chooses to pay the title ad valorem tax, form PT-472NS Service Member's Affidavit for Title Ad Valorem Tax on Motor Vehicles must accompany the transaction. The form is located at www.dor.ga.gov under the Motor Vehicle tab.

COMING FROM ANOTHER STATE

You will need the following:

- Original title (if the vehicle is paid in full)
- If the vehicle(s) are in more than one name, both parties must come in or we will need a Power Of Attorney and a copy of the driver's license of the absent party.
- If the vehicle has a lien, we will need the out of state registration, the lien holder's name, address, zip code and the account number. * If your vehicle was titled in one of the following states MT, WY, MN, MI, NY, MD, KY, MO or OK you must present the title from that state. If the title has been misplaced or damaged, a replacement title must be obtained from the previous state.
- When renewing your registration, you will need your current PT-471 form. Your home of record must be any state other than Georgia to be exempt from motor vehicle ad valorem taxes. If the vehicle is in the name of a spouse or dependent, the PT-471 form must be submitted and notarized for each vehicle.

LEASED VEHICLES

Leased vehicles are not exempt from county taxes.

**For more information,
visit the websites:**

**tax.chathamcountyga.gov.org
eservices.drives.ga.gov**

or call

912-652-7100.