

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE · ALPHARETTA

Car Registration in Alpharetta: the 3 Percent Title Tax, Emissions Testing and GA 400, 2026 Guide

The Maxwell Road tag office, the new-resident title tax rate, insurance minimums, emissions testing and a GA 400 that carries no toll today.

SHORT ANSWER

Registration happens at the county tax commissioner rather than at DDS, and because Alpharetta is in Fulton County that office is the Fulton County Tax Commissioner. The nearest counter shares a building with the license center: 11575 Maxwell Road, weekdays 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., 404-613-6100. A title is \$18 and the plate \$20 a year. The one-time title tax is 7 percent of fair market value, but **new residents pay 3 percent**. Fulton is an emissions county.

Step by step

- 1 **Get the license first.** The state Department of Revenue (DOR) requires a valid Georgia license or ID to register a vehicle. In Alpharetta both errands live in the same building, though not necessarily on the same day.
- 2 **Register within 30 days.** You have 30 days after moving, or seven business days if you bought from a private seller; the late penalty runs up to \$100.
- 3 **Bring the documents:** form MV-1, the original out-of-state title (or the registration if you come from a state that does not title), form T-17 if the car is financed or leased, proof of Georgia liability insurance and the emissions result.
- 4 **Say at the counter that you are a new resident** and bring something showing your move-in date, such as a lease or an employment letter.
- 5 **Pay the title, the title tax and the plate fee.** You take the plate away the same day.

The 3 percent title tax: up to a thousand dollars

Georgia charges a one-time **Title Ad Valorem Tax (TAVT)** when the title is issued instead of sales tax on the purchase. The rate is **7 percent** of fair market value, but someone who has just moved to the state and brought the car along pays **3 percent**. On a \$25,000 car that is the difference between \$1,750 and \$750. Say nothing and it is calculated at 7 percent, so raise it yourself at the counter and have proof of your move-in date with you.

Fulton County tag offices

OFFICE	ADDRESS
Customer Service Center at Maxwell Road (Alpharetta)	11575 Maxwell Road, Alpharetta GA 30022
North Fulton Service Center	7741 Roswell Road NE, Sandy Springs GA 30350
Government Center (downtown)	141 Pryor Street SW, Suite 1113, Atlanta GA 30303
Greenbriar Mall Service Center	2841 Greenbriar Parkway, Suite 124, Atlanta GA 30331
South Fulton Service Center	5600 Stonewall Tell Road, College Park GA 30349

Fees and insurance

ITEM	AMOUNT
Title	\$18
Plate and registration	\$20 a year
TAVT (once, at titling)	7 percent of fair market value; 3 percent for new residents
Replacement or new title	\$8
Late renewal	10 percent of the ad valorem tax plus 25 percent of the plate fee
Insurance lapse	\$25 penalty plus a \$60 reinstatement fee
Emissions test	Up to \$25

Insurance minimums are \$25,000 per person and \$50,000 per accident for bodily injury plus \$25,000 for property damage. Registration expires on the birthday of the first person listed; renewal opens 30 days before your birthday, or 90 days online. The 24/7 kiosk inside the Kroger at 10945 State Bridge Road adds a 3.95 percent credit or 2.95 percent debit surcharge and handles renewals only, not a newcomer's title transaction. The county's three senior-only centers are currently closed, so for an Alpharetta resident the two useful offices are Maxwell Road and Sandy Springs; both are Fulton, so either one does the same transaction.

Emissions: Fulton is covered

- The program is run by Georgia's Clean Air Force in 13 metro counties, and Fulton is on the list, so Alpharetta addresses are covered.
- The test is annual, due before your registration renewal date (your birthday), and doing it four to six weeks early is recommended.
- **Which cars:** for a 2026 registration, gasoline cars and light trucks of model years 2002 to 2023. Exempt: the three newest model years, vehicles 25 model years and older, diesels, motorcycles and motor homes. The window shifts a year on January 1, 2027: 2003 to 2024 models for a 2027 registration.

- **Cost:** up to \$25, with the price posted at the station. The test covers OBD plus a visual check of the catalytic converter; if you fail you get one free retest at the same station within 30 days. You do not have to test in the county where you are registered. Help line 1-800-449-2471; program materials exist in Spanish, Korean, Vietnamese and Mandarin, not Turkish.
- **No general safety inspection.** Georgia has no annual vehicle inspection.

Is GA 400 tolled? Not today

GA 400 is the highway linking Alpharetta to metro Atlanta, and the exit for downtown Alpharetta is Haynes Bridge Road (exit 9). There are no toll booths, cash lanes or plate bills on it. The only tolled facilities in Georgia are the Peach Pass express lanes, and none of them is currently on GA 400. According to state Department of Transportation (GDOT) project documents, the SR 400 Express Lanes will add optional tolled lanes between North Springs MARTA Station and McFarland Parkway in Forsyth; ground was broken in April 2026 and the opening is reported as 2031. Do not read that year as a firm commitment: the GDOT site blocks automated access, so we could not read the project documents directly. The practical point for today is the same: no toll, but a construction zone along that corridor for years. Factor it into the southbound morning and northbound evening drive.

EXPRESS LANES	WHERE	FOR ALPHARETTA
I-85 Express Lanes and extension	Chamblee Tucker Rd to Hamilton Mill Rd (DeKalb and Gwinnett)	Useful if you work on the Gwinnett side
Northwest Corridor	I-75 from Akers Mill Rd to Hickory Grove Rd and I-575 to Sixes Rd	Useful if you work on the Cobb side
I-75 South Metro	McDonough Rd to Stockbridge Hwy (Henry and Clayton)	Useful for regular trips south
SR 400 Express Lanes	North Springs Station to McFarland Parkway, about 16 miles	Under construction, not open

- **If you want an account anyway:** peachpass.com, by phone on 1-855-724-7277, or in person at the Peach Pass Retail Center, 245 Peachtree Center Ave NE, Atlanta. The DDS centers in Lawrenceville, Kennesaw and Locust Grove also open accounts; the Alpharetta center does not.
- **What is asked:** name, address, phone, email and the year, color, make, model and plate of the vehicle. A personal account needs at least **\$20** of prepaid balance. The transponder is free and cannot be moved between vehicles.
- **No credit card:** BancPass Pay n Go is a licensed alternative you can load with cash. The starter kit is \$20 and it is sold at Kroger, CVS, Walgreens and Costco.
- **Who rides free:** on the I-85 express lanes, three or more people in the car with the Peach Pass Verify app. There is no carpool exemption on the I-75 lanes, and electric vehicles have not been free since September 30, 2025.
- **Other states:** E-ZPass, Florida SunPass, E-Pass and NC Quick Pass work in Georgia's express lanes, and a Peach Pass works in 19 E-ZPass states.

IF YOU PASS WITHOUT A TAG, AND THE ADDRESS QUESTION

- If the tag is not read, a camera photographs your plate and SRTA mails the violation notice to the **registered owner**. A **\$25 administrative fee per toll** is added on top of the toll. Unpaid notices go to collections and to the Office of State Administrative Hearings; civil penalties of up to \$70 per toll and **suspension of the vehicle registration** are possible. Payment and appeals: 1-855-724-7277 or 1-833-448-4398.
- Notices go to the address on the registration, so when you move, update it at the tag office and on the Peach Pass account. Ask a rental company how tolls are handled in their cars; we could not confirm a rule on an official page.
- If you are subject to the address-reporting requirement, you also have to report your new address to USCIS within 10 days (AR-11).



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