

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE · HEFLIN

Registering a Car and Getting Plates in Heflin: 2026 Guide

Three counters in one building, and that is a real convenience. We print the county millage schedule line by line, and we publish no computed amount.

SHORT ANSWER

Registration happens **at the county**, and in this town the counter sits **in the same building as the license office**: 120 Vickery St., Room 101, telephone 256-463-5655. **Three counters at one address**, and this is one of the places where the town breaks the expectation. Two things are paid: registration fees and **an annual tax on the value of the vehicle**. One multiplier in that tax is your county rate, and **this county's revenue office publishes its own rate schedule**; we print it line by line below. **But we publish no computed amount**, because the other multiplier, the **class assessment ratio**, is in **conflict between two official pages**. Emissions testing, on the other hand, is one of the rare items in this series where we can write **no** rather than **research did not find it**.

Three counters in one building

In a large city the plate office sits at a county seat, the license office on another street, and the passport acceptance clerk in a third building. **Here all three are at 120 Vickery Street.**

COUNTER	WHERE	CALENDAR
Plates and registration	Room 101 · 256-463-5655	Every weekday
Passport acceptance clerk	Room 202 · 256-463-2651	Weekdays , shown in the federal file as 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Driver license	Suite 105 · 256-540-0064	Wednesday only , 8:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.

The only exception is the license counter's calendar. Plates and the clerk are open every weekday while the license counter opens only on Wednesday, and **the two are connected**, because the counter verifies a valid license or state ID for every vehicle owner. **Plan the two errands together.**

The annual ad valorem tax: structure yes, amount no

In this state registering a vehicle is not just a fee. The state revenue department's own text says the ad valorem tax on a vehicle is **a property tax, not a use tax**, and that it **follows the property from owner to**

owner, meaning **the tax accrues even while the vehicle is not driven on the highway**. The same department writes that **all accrued ad valorem tax must be collected before registration**.

FEATURE	WHAT IT MEANS
Collected before the plate is issued	Put this line in your budget before you go to the counter
It accrues even if the vehicle is not used	A car sitting in a garage does not stop the tax; the way to stop it is to close the registration properly
The three multipliers	Market value, class ratio and county rate . The department's rule defines market value as eighty-nine percent of average retail value and ties the valuation to October 1
Sale, scrapping or removal from the state	A prorated tax credit can be claimed for the remainder of the period; the claim window is 60 days and the credit voucher is valid for 12 months

The county millage schedule: the rates are published

Most Alabama counties do not publish their own rate schedule. **This county's revenue office does**, and it separates the state share, the county share and the town share. **These are rates, not amounts**.

LINE	RATE (MILLS)
State general fund	2.5
State veterans fund	1.0
State school fund	3.0
County general fund	5.0
County road and bridge	2.5
County hospital line	4.0
County fire	2.0
Countywide schools	9.0
School district line	8.0
This town's line	12.0

THREE WARNINGS WHEN YOU READ THE SCHEDULE, AND ALL THREE ARE REQUIRED

- **The county publishes the lines but publishes no total**, and we do not add them up either.
- **It is not written which parcels the school district line applies to**. So **every line in the schedule may not apply to your address**.
- **We publish no computed amount**, because another multiplier in the calculation, the **class assessment ratio, conflicts between two official pages**. An amount produced with a conflicting multiplier gives you a wrong number.
- **Rates change from year to year**. Use the schedule as a starting point and confirm it from your own bill; for an estimate call the county revenue office: **256-463-2873**.

A CONFLICT WE PRINT: TWO OFFICIAL PAGES DISAGREE ON THE CLASS ASSESSMENT RATIO

The state revenue department's **vehicle valuation page** and the related administrative rule place private passenger cars, station wagons, sport utility vehicles and light pickups in a **fifteen percent class**. The same department's **general property tax page** lists a separate **ten percent class** in its classification, and the same vehicles can be placed in it. **Both are the agency's own pages** and both were read on October 10, 2026. **We do not pick a side**, which is why **this guide contains no ad valorem calculation and no worked example**. The pages: [vehicle valuation](#) and [general property tax](#). Ask the counter for your own amount.

The hospital line: a question, and we do not present it as a contradiction

The schedule carries a **line set aside for a hospital**, meaning **the county collects 4.0 mills for it every year** and the line appears by name in the county's own table. **Against that, research found no hospital and no emergency department in this county**. **We do not present these two as contradicting each other**: a county can also fund a facility or a health unit outside its own boundary. **But which facility this line funds today could not be determined in the research**, and we do not invent a facility name. **There is one concrete, one-sentence question to put to the revenue office at 256-463-2873**: *which facility does the tax collected for the hospital line go to*. And one more sentence, because this is a planning item: **in an emergency the number to call is not a hospital address, it is 911**. **We publish no distance figure**, because no source measured it.

What the counter asks for

- **Title**. For a vehicle that requires a title, the Alabama title application comes first.
- **Mandatory insurance**. The policy must come from an insurer **authorized to do business in Alabama**; registration is not done on another state's policy. The clerk first tries the online verification system and asks for the **insurance card** if it cannot be verified.
- **ID for every owner**. The state department's mandatory insurance brochure and the county lists that were read say the same thing: a **valid, unexpired driver license or state ID is required for every owner shown on the title**, and out-of-state documents **must be physically presented**. **So the document question from the license door meets you a second time here**, and in this town that door opens one day a week.

- **Vehicle inspection on transfer of ownership.** Where no title is required only a registration is issued, and the clerk inspects the vehicle on every transfer of ownership; **there is no inspection on renewal.**
- **Keep the document in the vehicle.** The registration and tax receipt **must be kept in the vehicle** and there is a fine for failing to present it to law enforcement.
- **This county's own registration document list could not be read in this research;** call the counter and ask for their list.

ITEM	DEADLINE OR RULE
New resident bringing a vehicle from another state	30 days
Buying a vehicle in Alabama	20 calendar days. If the twentieth day falls on a Sunday, a legal holiday or a day the office is closed, the next business day
Plate renewal month	Tied to the first letter of your surname , and the letters in the table are English alphabet letters. Letters specific to Turkish have no counterpart in the table; ask the counter for your renewal month at first registration and write the answer down
Emissions test	None. The state revenue department's own question and answer page states plainly that Alabama law does not provide for emissions testing of motor vehicles, and there is not even a county distinction in the state
Periodic safety inspection	It does not appear in the agency's list of registration prerequisites. We do not say there is none

We keep the difference between the last two rows on purpose. On the emissions row we do not say **research did not find it**, because the agency says no in its own words. **We do not say the same thing on the row right below it.**

Checklist for the counter

TASK	WHERE OR HOW
☐ Start a policy written for Alabama before you register	The counter checks the electronic verification system; if it cannot verify, it asks for the card
☐ Bring valid ID for every owner	Required for every owner shown on the title, and out-of-state documents are physically presented
☐ Bring money for the annual ad valorem tax	It is collected before the plate is issued
☐ Do not expect a computed amount; ask the counter for it	Two official pages disagree on the class assessment ratio and we do not pick a side
☐ Ask the counter for its own document list by phone	This county's published list could not be read. The number is 256-463-5655
☐ Ask for your renewal month and calendar it	Tied to the first letter of your surname; letters specific to Turkish have no counterpart

TASK	WHERE OR HOW
☐ Calendar the deadlines	30 days coming from another state, 20 calendar days buying in Alabama
☐ If you also have license business, build that week around Wednesday	Three counters share the building but the license counter opens Wednesday only
☐ Close the registration properly if you sell the car or stop using it	The tax accrues even while the vehicle is not used



TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN HEFLIN

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