

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE · HENDERSONVILLE

Vehicle Registration in Hendersonville and the January 1, 2027 Document Rule

Registration runs only through the county clerk, and your office is the Sumner County clerk. From 2027 a status document is required for a first registration, but not for a renewal.

SHORT ANSWER

Registration applications are processed **only through the county clerk**, and the state's own sentence is that clear. For Hendersonville the office is the **Sumner County Clerk**. The one date that affects your calendar is **January 1, 2027**: from that date, a **first registration application** for a vehicle issued a plate requires **a document showing citizenship, lawful permanent residence or temporary lawful presence**. That document is not required for a renewal, but the advisory text is printed on **every registration and every renewal**. There is also a local item: in this county a **county wheel tax** sits on top of the state registration fee, and **no plate is issued until it is paid**.

The order: insurance first, registration second

- 1 **Insurance.** The state checks policies **electronically** through its own verification program, and a driver can check their own status with the plate number. **We do not print the minimum coverage figure**, because it could not be confirmed from the agency's own page this round.
- 2 **Registration and plate.** The state's own sentence is plain: registration applications are processed **only through the local county clerk**. For this city that office is the Sumner County Clerk.
- 3 **County wheel tax.** The clerk collects this tax **at the same time** as the state registration fee and **will not issue a plate or decal to a county resident until it is paid**.
- 4 **Renewal.** No document is required at renewal, but the advisory text sits on the paperwork.

January 1, 2027: the document requirement for first registrations

The statute was **passed in 2026** and its effective dates are split in two: **immediately for data sharing, forms and rulemaking**, and **January 1, 2027 for all other purposes**. The state revenue department repeats this in its own registration notice and adds the same sentence: **this requirement does not apply to renewals**.

ITEM	WHAT THE RULE SAYS
Scope	The first registration of a vehicle issued a plate. The clerk may not process the application without a document showing that the applicant is a citizen, a lawful permanent resident, or a person allowed by the federal government to be present for a specific purpose and a specific period

ITEM	WHAT THE RULE SAYS
Renewal	No document required. But the advisory text is printed on every registration and every renewal
Documents accepted on their own	A state license compliant with the federal identification standard, a Tennessee license, a Tennessee temporary license , a Tennessee photo identification card and a Tennessee temporary photo identification card
If you have no state credential	The accepted document lists for citizenship, lawful permanent residence and temporary lawful presence are the same as the license lists : a foreign passport, a visa and an entry record together; for students and exchange programs, the agency's own documents. An English translation of the passport may be requested
Form of the document	It may be paper or electronic ; the agency accepts an image on your phone
If you buy from a dealer	If the dealer acts on your behalf it must attach a copy of the document to the application

What this means in practice: someone holding a valid state driver license or state photo identification card can still register without carrying extra documents after 2027, **even if the card is limited-term. A newcomer with no state credential at all has to bring a passport, a visa and an entry record to the counter.** So **the license and the vehicle registration are two ends of the same file**, and because the license side in this city opens one day a week, **start the sequence early.**

WHERE THE DATA GOES: WHAT WE SAY AND WHAT WE DO NOT

- One section of the statute creates **data sharing between the state agency and county clerks**; the document submitted is recorded, and in a dealer registration a copy goes into the file.
- **But the text contains no provision for transferring that information to an immigration unit**, and it says the details of the channel will be filled in **by rulemaking.**
- **So we make neither statement:** we do not say **the data goes to an immigration unit**, and we do not say **it does not.** Do not trust sources that make either claim.
- **And one countervailing item is on the record:** another statute from the same period requires information about immigration enforcement to be **closed to public inspection.**
- **If your immigration case is open, discuss your registration plan with your attorney.**

County wheel tax: we give the figure with a hedge, and we say why

In Tennessee, counties may levy a separate **county wheel tax** on vehicles their own residents use in the county. The mechanism matters: the tax is owed if the owner **resides in that county**, it is collected **by the county clerk at the same time as the state registration fee**, and **the clerk will not issue a plate or decal until it is paid.**

THE FIGURE AND THE CONTRADICTION

- The **2026 county profile table** published by the state university's county technical assistance unit shows an automobile rate of **51.00 dollars** for Sumner County; we read the table on **October 12, 2026**.
- **Against that, a figure of 75 dollars for the same county circulates in secondary sources**, and that figure does not appear in the agency's table.
- **We do not pick a side:** we print the table's figure, we say the second one is in circulation, and we advise you to **confirm it with the county clerk before you go to the counter**.
- **The practical result:** changing counties changes this item directly, and no registration is renewed until it is paid.

Inspection: the program ended, but we build the sentence carefully

Emissions testing in this state was **required in six counties, and Sumner was one of them**. The program ended in five counties, including this one, on **January 14, 2022**.

HERE WE STATE A LIMIT PLAINLY

- **No sentence from the agency itself saying that no such requirement exists today could be obtained:** the program's page is no longer published and the routes tried did not work.
- **So we write that the program ended and we give the date; we do not say there is none.** Ask about this item at the counter.
- **A periodic safety inspection is a separate item and should not be confused with it: research found no official item** showing that a periodic mandatory safety inspection applies to passenger vehicles. **Even so we do not say there is none.**

Going to the counter

TASK	WHERE OR HOW
☐ Start the insurance before the registration	Verification is electronic; you can check your own status with the plate number
☐ Pick the right office	Registration runs only through the county clerk ; for this city that is the Sumner County Clerk, in the county seat the next town over
☐ Bring the state credential you hold	A state driver license or state photo identification card is accepted on its own, even if it is limited-term
☐ If you have no state credential, bring three documents together	Passport, visa and entry record; an English translation of the passport may be requested
☐ Keep the document on your phone too	The agency accepts paper or electronic documents
☐ If you buy from a dealer, ask about the copy	If the dealer acts on your behalf it must attach a copy of the document to the application

TASK	WHERE OR HOW
☐ Ask about the county wheel tax	The agency's table shows 51.00 dollars and secondary sources circulate 75 dollars; confirm the amount with the clerk
☐ Ask about the emissions item	The program ended, but the agency's own sentence could not be read ; confirm at the counter
☐ If your immigration case is open, consult your attorney	That is why the January 1, 2027 document regime and the data channel the statute creates matter



TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN HENDERSONVILLE

Have a question about your immigration status?

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