

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE · JOHNS CREEK

Car Registration in Johns Creek: Which County, the 3 Percent Title Tax and Emissions Testing, 2026 Guide

Homes whose mail reads Duluth or Suwanee, Fulton County tag offices, the new-resident title tax rate, insurance, emissions testing and why no road here is tolled.

SHORT ANSWER

Registration happens at the county tax commissioner, not at DDS, and because Johns Creek is in Fulton County the office is the Fulton County Tax Commissioner. **Your ZIP code may say Duluth or Suwanee, but that does not put you in Gwinnett.** 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, the plate \$20 a year, and the title tax is 7 percent, or 3 percent for a new resident.

First settle this: which city and which county do you live in?

This one is specific to Johns Creek and it can cost you a day in your first week. The city shares five ZIP codes, 30005, 30022, 30024, 30076 and 30097, held jointly with Alpharetta, Roswell, Duluth and Suwanee. The city says plainly that the ZIP does not tell you which city you are in, and it publishes a Confirm Address tool. The consequences are practical: even if your lease says Duluth or Suwanee, if the address is inside Fulton County you register the car in **Fulton** and not in Gwinnett; property tax, jury summons, marriage licenses and the school district also come from Fulton; and policing and city services are Johns Creek's. Run the address through the city's tool before you sign anything, and keep the result.

IF YOUR MAIL READS DULUTH OR SUWANEE

Homes at the eastern and northeastern edge of the city carry mailing addresses that read Suwanee or Duluth, with Gwinnett County ZIP codes (30024, 30096), even though the city is Johns Creek and the county is Fulton. That has three practical consequences. First, on official filings report the address **as it appears on your mail and your utility bill**, and do not try to correct the city name yourself; the address you give USCIS should match your official correspondence. Second, when you put your ZIP into the SSA office locator it can send you to a different office, so use the ZIP that appears on your bill. Third, the jury exemption for no longer living in Fulton County does not fit you: a Suwanee or Duluth mailing address does not put you outside Fulton.

Step by step

- 1 Get the license first.** The state Department of Revenue (DOR) wants a valid Georgia license or ID for a car registration. Both counters are in the same building.
 - 2 Run the address through the city's Confirm Address tool** and settle which county you are in.
 - 3 Register within 30 days.** You have 30 days after moving, or 7 business days if you bought from a private seller; the late penalty runs up to \$100.
 - 4 Bring the documents:** form MV-1, the original out-of-state title (or the registration if you come from a state that issues no title), form T-17 if the car is financed or leased, proof of Georgia liability insurance and the emissions result.
 - 5 Say you are a new resident,** show something with your move date, then pay the title, the title tax and the plate fee.
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Fulton County tag offices

OFFICE	ADDRESS
Customer Service Center at Maxwell Road (nearest to Johns Creek)	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

The 3 percent title tax

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 moves into the state with their own car pays **3 percent**. On a \$25,000 car that is \$1,000. Say nothing and it is calculated at 7 percent, so tell the tag office you are a new resident and bring something showing your move date, such as a lease or a job letter.

Fees and insurance

ITEM	AMOUNT
Title	\$18
Tag and registration	\$20 a year
TAVT (once, at titling)	7 percent of fair market value; 3 percent for new residents

ITEM	AMOUNT
Lost or new title	\$8
Late renewal	10 percent of the ad valorem tax plus 25 percent of the tag fee
Insurance lapse	\$25 penalty plus a \$60 reinstatement fee
Emissions test	Up to \$25

Minimum coverage is \$25,000 per person and \$50,000 per accident for bodily injury plus \$25,000 property damage. Registration expires on the birthday of the first person on the record; the window opens 30 days before your birthday, or 90 days online. There is a 24/7 renewal kiosk at the Kroger at 10945 State Bridge Road, right by the Johns Creek line, with a 3.95 percent credit or 2.95 percent debit surcharge, and kiosks do renewals only. The two sensible offices from Johns Creek are Maxwell Road and Sandy Springs; both are Fulton, so either handles the same transaction.

Emissions testing: Fulton is covered

- The program is run by Georgia's Clean Air Force in 13 metro counties and Fulton is on the list, so Johns Creek addresses are covered.
- The test is annual, before your registration renewal date (your birthday), and 4 to 6 weeks ahead is recommended.
- **Which cars:** for a 2026 registration, gasoline cars and light trucks of model years 2002 to 2023. Exempt are 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: for a 2027 registration it becomes 2003 to 2024.
- **Fee:** no more than \$25, posted at the station. The test is an OBD check plus a visual inspection 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 register**, so a station on the Gwinnett side is fine.
- Helpline 1-800-449-2471; the program's materials are in Spanish, Korean, Vietnamese and Mandarin, with no Turkish. Georgia has no annual roadworthiness test.

Tolls: none here, but the GA 400 works reach you

No road serving Johns Creek is tolled today. Your daily driving happens on the city's own arteries: Medlock Bridge Road (SR 141), State Bridge Road, Abbotts Bridge Road (SR 120), Jones Bridge Road, Old Alabama Road, Kimball Bridge Road, and McGinnis Ferry Road along the north. None of them has a toll booth, a cash toll or a toll-by-plate bill. The only tolled thing in Georgia is the Peach Pass express lanes. Per state Department of Transportation (GDOT) documents, the SR 400 Express Lanes will add optional toll 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 date as a firm commitment: the GDOT site blocks automated access, so we could not read the project documents directly. For Johns Creek the key point is geographic: **the northern end of the project is McGinnis Ferry Road**, a through-road on the city's northern edge. If you reach GA 400 by way of McGinnis Ferry or Windward, that is exactly where you meet the works, and it will last for years. Leave early when you head west in the morning.

EXPRESS LANE	WHERE	FOR JOHNS CREEK
I-85 Express Lanes and extension	Chamblee Tucker Rd to Hamilton Mill Rd (DeKalb and Gwinnett)	Worth it if you commute southeast into Gwinnett
Northwest Corridor	I-75 Akers Mill Rd to Hickory Grove Rd and I-575 to Sixes Rd	For commuters toward Cobb
I-75 South Metro	McDonough Rd to Stockbridge Hwy (Henry and Clayton)	For regular trips south
SR 400 Express Lanes	North Springs Station to McFarland Parkway, about 16 miles	Under construction, not open

- **If you do want an account:** 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 Maxwell Road center does not.
- **What is asked:** name, address, phone, email and the vehicle's year, color, make, model and plate. 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 cash-loadable alternative; the starter kit is \$20 and it is sold at Kroger, CVS, Walgreens and Costco.
- **Who rides free:** on the I-85 express lanes, a vehicle with 3 or more people through the Peach Pass Verify app. The I-75 lanes have no carpool exemption, and electric vehicles have not been free since September 30, 2025. E-ZPass, Florida SunPass, E-Pass and NC Quick Pass work in Georgia express lanes.

IF YOU PASS WITHOUT A TAG, AND THE ADDRESS QUESTION

If the tag is not read, a camera photographs the plate and SRTA mails the violation notice to the **registered owner**. A **\$25 administrative fee per toll** is added. Unpaid notices go to collections and to the Office of State Administrative Hearings, where a civil penalty of up to \$70 per toll and **suspension of the vehicle registration** are possible. To pay or dispute, call 1-855-724-7277 or 1-833-448-4398. Notices go to the address on the registration, so have it recorded correctly the day you get the tag and update it at the tag office and on the account when you move. In a city with no bus, a suspended registration breaks your route to work and school at the same time. Ask a rental company how tolls are handled in their cars; we found no rule confirmed on an official source. If you are subject to the address-reporting requirement, you also have to report your new address to USCIS within 10 days (AR-11).



TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN JOHNS CREEK

Have a question about your immigration status?

Attorney Asim Clinch serves clients in Johns Creek and the surrounding area, in Turkish and English.

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