

CHECKLIST · JOHNS CREEK

Moving to Johns Creek Checklist: The First 90 Days

What to do in order, with the deadlines and where each errand happens. Print it and tick the boxes.

SHORT ANSWER

If you are subject to the address-reporting requirement, report your new address to USCIS within 10 days. In the first week put the electricity (Georgia Power or Sawnee EMC, depending on the address) and the **county** water account in your own name, **sign your own contract with a private trash hauler** because the city does not collect, ask whether the house is on a septic tank, enroll the children with Fulton County Schools and take the knowledge exam at Maxwell Road. Within 30 days finish the license and the registration. The city sends no property tax bill, but it does bill its own stormwater fee, due August 31.

The first 10 days

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ Report your address to USCIS (AR-11)	As a general rule required for most noncitizens including green card holders; holders of A and G visas and Visa Waiver visitors are outside it. Moving within the city, or over to Alpharetta, counts. Report the address as it appears on your mail and your utility bill : homes at the eastern edge read Suwanee or Duluth even though the city is Johns Creek. uscis.gov/addresschange
☐ Form EOIR-33 if you have an immigration court case	Within 5 days, to the court that holds your case (Atlanta has two separate courts): respondentaccess.eoir.justice.gov
☐ If you have an ICE reporting obligation	Update the address with ICE too: portal.ice.gov
☐ Run the address through the city tool	The city shares five ZIP codes (30005, 30022, 30024, 30076, 30097) with Alpharetta, Roswell, Duluth and Suwanee, and says on its own page that the ZIP does not tell you which city you are in. Keep the Confirm Address result: policing, the school zone, the trash contract and a business license all follow from it.
☐ Change of address with the post office, and emergency alerts	A USPS change does not update USCIS records. The city also tells new residents to sign up for Fulton County's FALCON emergency alert system; do it in your first week.

The first week

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ Electricity: first find out which company you have	The city's new residents page lists Georgia Power and Sawnee EMC together and does not say which street gets which. Ask the landlord when you sign, or ask for the last bill, because the SSN rules differ between the two. Georgia Power customer line 1-888-660-5890; without an SSN the route with written rules is the PrePay plan (photo ID plus proof of address, \$40 of funding plus a \$30 account fee, enrollment 1-877-506-3905). Sawnee EMC normally asks for the full SSN; a customer who chooses not to give it must come to the office in person and pay a security deposit, new service 770-887-2363 at least 24 hours ahead.
☐ Natural gas	The city's page links "Certified Gas Marketers" straight to the PSC's list. Atlanta Gas Light (AGL) owns the pipes and you pick the marketer; a residential marketer deposit cannot exceed \$150 . If there is no meter, use AGL's online form and it comes back within two business days. A few from the PSC list: Gas South 877-472-4932, Georgia Natural Gas 877-850-6200, SCANA Energy 877-467-2262, True Natural Gas 770-502-0226.
☐ Water and sewer: the city provides none, the county does	The single "Water" entry on the city's new residents page links straight to the Fulton County site. Billing is done by the county's Water and Sewer Billing and Collections division: email the form to New.Service@fultoncountyga.gov or drop it at 11575 Maxwell Road, phone (404) 612-6830. If you rent, the owner must already hold an account. Residential accounts are billed every two months. We could not confirm whether the SSN field on the form is mandatory, so call before you fill it in.
☐ Trash: the city does not collect, you pick the hauler	If you came from our Alpharetta guide, this difference runs the opposite way. The city says it does not provide garbage collection for residents and that residents must contract with private collection services themselves. What the city does is regulate the level of service and publish the maximum base rates the haulers file; it does not set the fees and does not negotiate them. The posted maximums: Republic Services of GA \$25 a month (678-963-2800), WM \$23.25 a month plus \$13 a month for recycling (404-794-6707), Legacy Disposal Services \$22.95 a week plus \$10.95 a week for recycling (770-764-2992), and Red Oak Sanitation is a registered hauler with no rate posted (678-455-7819). Read those as a ceiling: the city warns that a fuel surcharge, administrative fees, start and stop fees and cart delivery fees can be added, and tells residents to have the hauler explain every fee before signing. Get the total monthly figure in writing.
☐ Do not skip the septic question	Part of the city is not on county sewer at all; those houses have their own septic tank. The city's Stormwater Division keeps a page about it and states the rule plainly: it is the property owner's responsibility to maintain, repair or replace all components of a septic system. A failed leaching field is the owner's bill, not the county's, and those numbers are not small. Before you rent or buy, ask whether the house is on county sewer or a septic tank and get the answer in writing; if you are buying, ask for the last pump-out date and any inspection report, and if you are renting, make sure the lease says who maintains the tank. City contact 678-474-1607.
☐ Reaching the city: no 311, one number	There is no 311 line and you do not need one: in the city's own words 678-512-3200 is the number to call for all city government related services, including public works. There is an online Service Requests form for non-urgent matters and a separate code violation form. Do not use the form for a downed tree, a traffic light in flash, a downed power line, ice or flooding, call 911. City hall, police headquarters and the municipal court share one address, 11360 Lakefield Drive, weekdays 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ Alarm registration is compulsory	The city's false alarm ordinance requires every residential and business alarm owner to register the system and keep the registration current. If you move into a house with an alarm already installed, deal with this in your first week.
☐ Library card	The library is the county's, but two branches sit inside the city: the Ocee Branch, 5090 Abbotts Bridge Road, Johns Creek GA 30005, (404) 613-6840 and the Northeast/Spruill Oaks Branch, 9560 Spruill Road, Johns Creek GA 30022, (404) 613-7300. Free for Fulton residents, no SSN asked and no photo-ID requirement; a lease or a bill showing your name and address is on the list. The system gives free access to the Mango language platform.
☐ Enroll the children in school	Fulton County Schools, not Atlanta Public Schools. The SSN is voluntary. Proof of address means two documents in the parent's name, one of them a monthly electric or water statement; a gas bill is not accepted and the city's annual stormwater bill will not substitute for a monthly one. Form 3231 and Form 3300.
☐ License: the knowledge exam	There is no license office in the city. 11575 Maxwell Road, Alpharetta: walk-in and in Turkish . Two official sources disagree about whether road tests are given there, so call (678) 413-8400. An SSN or DDS-351, documents in English, no translations.
☐ Transit: no bus enters the city	Plainly: not one MARTA bus route enters Johns Creek , and no rail line reaches it. The only northern zone of the MARTA Reach on-demand vans (312 North Fulton) is a Roswell zone and not one Johns Creek street appears on its map. The city runs no bus, shuttle or circulator and does not even publish a transit page, and the Xpress regional coach network has no Johns Creek stop on its live route list. The nearest points are the Mansell Park and Ride (Mansell Road at GA 400, Roswell; routes 85 and 140 plus Reach 312), the Windward Park and Ride (Windward Parkway, Alpharetta; routes 140 and 185) and North Springs Station (Sandy Springs, the northern terminus of the Red Line, long-term parking at \$10 a day). You reach all three by car. We print no mileage or minutes, because no official source publishes a distance or drive time: for Mansell head west on State Bridge Road or Old Alabama Road into Roswell, for Windward go northwest by McGinnis Ferry and Windward Parkway, and for North Springs carry on through Roswell and down GA 400. Time it from your own address one morning. A single ride is \$2.50 with 4 free transfers within 3 hours, and you can tap a contactless bank card or a phone. The last day to transfer an old silver Breeze card balance is October 30, 2026.
☐ Apply for an SSN (if you are eligible)	We could not confirm an SSA field office inside the city, and we are not printing a street address because the third-party listings could not be verified against an official source. Put your ZIP code (30005, 30022 or 30097 on the Fulton side; 30024 or 30096 if your mailing address sits on the Gwinnett side) into ssa.gov/locator , read your assigned office and book on 1-800-772-1213. It is free. Use the ZIP that appears on your utility bill.

Within 30 days

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ Georgia license	30 days after you count as a resident. The card is printed LIMITED-TERM and expires with your approved stay.
☐ Car registration (county tag office)	License first, then registration. Even if your mail reads Duluth or Suwanee, you register in Fulton . The nearest counter is 11575 Maxwell Road (404-613-6100), weekdays 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Title \$18, plate \$20 a year.

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ The 3 percent title tax	TAVT is 7 percent of fair market value, 3 percent for new residents . On a \$25,000 car that is \$750 instead of \$1,750. Say at the counter that you are a new resident.
☐ Liability insurance and the emissions test	\$25,000 / \$50,000 / \$25,000. Fulton is an emissions county, so test before you register (up to \$25). You do not have to test in the county where you register, so a station on the Gwinnett side is fine.
☐ Peach Pass (if you need one)	No road serving the city is tolled. If you will regularly use the I-85 or I-75 express lanes, the transponder is free and a personal account needs \$20 prepaid. Passing without a tag adds \$25 per toll.

Fixed dates for the calendar

DATE	WHAT
August 31	The city's stormwater fee. The service period is July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027. If late, a 10 percent late fee plus 1 percent monthly interest from December 1, 2026. Residential tiers: Tier 1 \$2.99 a month, Tier 2 \$5.97, Tier 3 \$8.96, Tier 4 \$11.94, Tier 5 \$14.93. The bill goes to the property owner , so a tenant does not pay it directly.
October 15, 2026	The due date on the Fulton County property tax bill. The 2026 bills are temporary bills: because the tax digest was late, the county issued them at each jurisdiction's 2025 millage rates.
April 1	The homestead exemption deadline. One application covers both the county and the city share.
45 days	The window to appeal after a Notice of Assessment arrives. Write the day it arrives in your calendar.
December 31	The business license year ends here; renewal runs to March 31.

Within 90 days and after

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ The emergency room is inside the city	This is the city's biggest advantage: there is a hospital with a 24-hour emergency department inside the city limits, Emory Johns Creek Hospital , 6325 Hospital Parkway, about 1.7 miles from City Hall. Appointments 678-474-7000. Write the address and phone on the fridge today. Alternatives: Wellstar North Fulton Medical Center for the west side (3000 Hospital Boulevard, Roswell, (770) 751-2505) and Northside Hospital Forsyth to the north (1200 Northside Forsyth Drive, Cumming, 770-844-3200). The Northside / Alpharetta Medical Campus at 3400 Old Milton Parkway is an outpatient campus, so do not go there in an emergency.

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ A discount on the hospital bill	The Emory Healthcare financial assistance policy writes off the amount owed in full for uninsured and under-insured Georgia residents at or below 125 percent of the federal poverty guideline, and in full for uninsured residents from 126 to 225 percent ; above that it gives a 35 percent discount on gross charges when payment arrangements are established. The comparison is worth knowing: Northside, the other large system in north Fulton, gives a full discount after an application up to 300 percent. So Emory is more generous at the bottom and narrower at the top, and a household between 226 and 300 percent is treated very differently depending on which hospital it walks into. Emory's financial assistance line is 1-855-432-3080 and patient access is 678-474-7099. An approval lasts a maximum of 12 months and applies retroactively to earlier balances.
☐ Know this before you go	In the policy's own words, Emory automatically screens every uninsured and under-insured patient through a third-party vendor , and that vendor verifies the patient's credit records electronically to estimate family income and propensity to pay. So a preliminary assessment is made whether or not you apply. If you are not found presumptively eligible for full assistance, you can still apply at any time. The policy text says nothing at all about citizenship or immigration status; do not read that as "status does not matter", the subject is simply not addressed. The policy's own dates conflict and the poverty guideline tables are updated every January, so confirm the figures before you go.
☐ Is there a free clinic?	The federal health center locator returns no federally funded health center within five miles of Johns Creek City Hall; within ten miles there are six and within fifteen sixteen, and all of them are in Gwinnett County. The nearest usable centers are in the next county and charge on a sliding scale by income, so they are not free. "Sliding scale" does not mean free: a bill still comes and only the amount drops with your income.
☐ Grady financial assistance	The Grady Health System program is open to Fulton and DeKalb residents with household income up to 400 percent of the poverty level, and Johns Creek is in Fulton. A consular ID is accepted, proof of 30 days of residence is required and a PO Box is not accepted; B-1 and B-2 visitor visa holders are excluded. The hospital is downtown, a long drive from the county's northeast corner. Financial counselor appointment (404) 616-6920.
☐ Georgia Access	Georgia did not adopt the adult Medicaid expansion. Enrollment for 2027 opens November 1, 2026, December 15, 2026 is the last day for coverage starting January 1, and the period closes January 15, 2027. Consumer line 888-687-1503. Moving to the United States from abroad opens a special enrollment period.
☐ Income tax	Johns Creek has no city income tax. Georgia's flat state rate is 4.99 percent for tax year 2026; the state return is Form 500, due with the federal return on April 15.

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ Property tax: the city sends no bill	This is where Johns Creek parts company with Alpharetta. In the city's own words every property owner pays property taxes to Fulton County (including the Fulton County school system) and to the City of Johns Creek, but the bill continues to come from the Fulton County Tax Commissioner's office. So you are not tracking two separate bills; the city's share is a line on the county bill. The city's 2026 rate was tentatively 3.492 mills ; because that exceeds the rollback rate of 3.434 mills the city advertises it as a 1.70 percent tax increase, and its own example is about \$14.15 more a year on a homesteaded house with a fair market value of \$625,000. The rate was not final when we did this research: three public hearings were advertised, on October 15, 2026 at 6 p.m. and October 26, 2026 at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m., in the council chambers at City Hall. Follow the city's page for the adopted figure. On the school side, Fulton County Schools tentatively adopted 18.080 mills for 2026, up from 17.539. We print no total millage for a Johns Creek bill, because the county bill carries levies beyond the general fund, the city rate is tentative and we could not verify a total. Read the lines on your own bill; SB 566, effective in 2026, requires every taxing jurisdiction to be shown separately.
☐ Homestead exemption: one application, two shares	This is the line that saves you a trip. In the city's own words, where an application is required it must be filed with the Fulton County Tax Assessor's office, and because the city and the assessor have created a combined application process there is no need to file separately with the city. So you apply once, to the county, and the exemption is applied to the city's share too; and only those who have never applied, or who newly qualify, need to file at all. The city grants four exemptions and they are smaller than Alpharetta's : the basic one takes \$15,000 off assessed value (Alpharetta's is \$45,000), a senior basic adds a further \$15,000 at 65 with no income test, an additional senior exemption adds \$10,000 with an income limit, and a full-value exemption covers the whole city share at 70 or with a disability on the same income limit. All share one condition: you must have owned and occupied the home as your primary residence on January 1 of the application year. Apply on 404-612-6440 or at fultonassessor.org by April 1; Fulton asks for a valid Georgia license or state ID. The city's and the county's pages disagree about the assessor's address (3155 Royal Drive on one, 11575 Maxwell Road on the other), so call 404-612-6440 and ask which building before you drive over.
☐ Türkiye matters	Georgia is served by the Turkish Consulate General in Miami; there is no consulate in the state. Group everything that needs you in person into one appointment. The apostille comes not from the Secretary of State but from the GSCCCA in Atlanta, \$3 per document. Good news: you do not have to hunt for a notary, because City Hall provides free notary service.

Sales tax (October 1, 2026)

WHERE	RATE
Johns Creek (Fulton County outside Atlanta)	7.75 percent
Atlanta city limits	8.9 percent
DeKalb County outside Atlanta	8 percent
Cobb and Gwinnett (Duluth, Suwanee)	6 percent
Cherokee and Forsyth	7 percent

FOUR QUESTIONS BEFORE YOU SIGN

- **Water:** the account is opened with the county, and as a tenant the owner must already hold a county account. Confirm it when you sign or you will be stuck after you move in.
- **Trash:** the city does not collect. Is there a hauler contract, who pays it, and what is the monthly total? The posted rates are maximums and fuel and administrative fees can be added on top.
- **Septic:** is the house on county sewer or on its own tank, and who maintains it? The responsibility sits with the property owner and a failed leaching field is expensive.
- **Stormwater:** the city's annual fee goes to the property owner, so a tenant does not pay it directly. If you are buying, put the August 31 due date in the calendar; you are not liable for amounts due before you owned the property, and if you email the closing statement the amount can be prorated and late fees waived. Many bills went up in 2026 because the city re-ran its impervious-surface analysis using aerial photography, satellite imagery and GIS and many properties moved up a tier, so "it was this much last year" is not a reliable guide. Reassessment requests to stormwaterutility@johnscreekga.gov, billing questions to stormwaterbilling@johnscreekga.gov.
- **And the Georgia rental rules:** a deposit is capped at two months' rent (Safe at Home Act, for leases from July 1, 2024) and must come back within 30 days with a written itemization. The move-in damage list and move-out inspection duties apply only to landlords with more than ten rental units or a management agent, and in Johns Creek most of the rental stock is single owners renting out one house, so photograph every room on move-in day and email the photos with the date. Rent control is banned (O.C.G.A. 44-7-19), there is no limit on increases, no state agency can intervene, and the city's single number handles code violations and noise rather than tenancy disputes. A case goes to the Fulton County magistrate court. We found no Johns Creek ordinance extending tenant rights beyond state law, no rental registration scheme and no short-term rental ordinance; that is a finding of absence, so we looked and did not find one.

IF YOU ARE NOT A U.S. CITIZEN

- Never tick a box saying you are a U.S. citizen and do not register to vote. If voter registration is offered at DDS, tick the Opt-Out box. A jury summons comes from Fulton County Superior Court: complete the online questionnaire and send documentation of your non-citizenship to info.juryservices@fultoncountyga.gov, and do not ignore the letter.
- Talk to an immigration attorney before you or a family member applies for SNAP, Medicaid, PeachCare, Pathways, LIHEAP or any other public benefit; the new public charge rule has been in force since September 18, 2026. LIHEAP also requires lawful status and a Social Security number for every household member, with no ITIN alternative. Applications run through the county: even if your mailing address reads Suwanee or Duluth, the file lands in Fulton County records.
- **Johns Creek runs no jail of its own.** It has its own police department but no jail or lockup; the department's own procedures say that people arrested in the city are taken to the Fulton County Sheriff's jail, the Alpharetta annex or the downtown facility, and that the sheriff's office takes the fingerprints and does the medical screening. The consequence: in Georgia, when a person is confined in a county or municipal jail for any period however short, a reasonable effort must be made **within 48 hours** to determine their nationality and whether they are lawfully present (O.C.G.A. 42-4-14), and that duty sits with the **keeper of the jail**, which here means the county sheriff rather than the city. The documents the statute lists are a state driver's license or ID from the approved list, a Form I-94, a permanent resident card (I-551), a valid Nexus card, a valid Global Entry card, or a valid passport showing the person is a US citizen, has been issued a visa, or is a citizen of a visa waiver country. **Turkey is not in the Visa Waiver Program**, so a Turkish passport meets that list only together with a visa record. Keeping the document that shows your status reachable makes a difference. If you are taken into custody, ask to speak with an immigration attorney before you discuss your status, and ask that the consulate be notified.
- With a green card application pending, do not leave the country without advance parole. Check your I-94 record at i94.cbp.dhs.gov.

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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