

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE · ROSWELL

Registering a Car in Roswell: the 3 Percent Title Tax, Emissions Testing and GA 400, 2026 Guide

There is no tag office in the city: two county counters, 3 percent TAVT for new residents, insurance, emissions testing, the Holcomb Bridge bottleneck and a trap in the bus route names.

SHORT ANSWER

Registration is not done at DDS but at the county tax office, and because Roswell is in Fulton County that is the **Fulton County Tax Commissioner**. **There is no tag office inside the city:** the two nearest counters are 11575 Maxwell Road (Alpharetta) and 7741 Roswell Road NE (Sandy Springs), weekdays 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., on 404-613-6100. The title is \$18, the tag \$20 a year, and the title tax (TAVT) is 7 percent of market value, except that **a new resident to the state pays 3 percent**. Fulton is in the emissions testing area.

Order matters: license first, then registration

- 1 **Get the license first.** The state Department of Revenue (DOR) asks for a valid Georgia license or ID to register a vehicle. DDS issues the license and the Tax Commissioner does the registration, and both are outside Roswell.
- 2 **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.
- 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 test result.
- 4 **Say you are a new resident** and show a document with your move date (a lease, a job letter). If you do not say it, the tax is calculated at 7 percent.
- 5 **Have the address recorded correctly.** Toll and citation notices go to the registered address, so when you move, update both the tag office record and any Peach Pass account.

Fulton County tag offices

OFFICE	ADDRESS	FOR ROSWELL
Customer Service Center at Maxwell Road	11575 Maxwell Road, Alpharetta GA 30022	To the north; the license, assessor and county water billing counters are in the same building

OFFICE	ADDRESS	FOR ROSWELL
North Fulton Service Center	7741 Roswell Road NE, Sandy Springs GA 30350	To the south; the only counter reachable by bus, since Route 87 stops there
Government Center (downtown)	141 Pryor Street SW, Suite 1113, Atlanta GA 30303	Far
Greenbriar Mall Service Center	2841 Greenbriar Parkway, Suite 124, Atlanta GA 30331	Far
South Fulton Service Center	5600 Stonewall Tell Road, College Park GA 30349	Far

Phone **404-613-6100**, offices open weekdays 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Both are Fulton offices, so whichever you use they do the same transactions. The name of the North Fulton Service Center causes confusion: the building is on **Roswell Road** but it is in **Sandy Springs**. The county also prints the Maxwell Road ZIP as 30022 while DDS prints 30009, so navigate by the street address. **We print no distance or drive time to either counter**, because no official figure for Roswell is published. **We could not confirm a tag kiosk inside Roswell** either, so we give no kiosk address. Confirm hours on the county page before you go.

Fees and TAVT

ITEM	AMOUNT
Title	\$18
Tag and registration	\$20 a year
TAVT (one-time, at titling)	7 percent of market value; 3 percent for someone new to the state
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

TAVT replaces the sales tax a Georgia buyer would pay and is charged once, when the title is issued. The rate is 7 percent of market value, but someone new to the state bringing a car with them pays **3 percent**: on a \$25,000 car that is \$750 instead of \$1,750, a difference of \$1,000. Insurance minimums are \$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 listed; renewal opens 30 days before your birthday, or 90 days online.

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 Roswell addresses are covered. The test is annual, before your registration renewal date, and 4 to 6 weeks ahead is recommended.

- **Which vehicles:** 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 motorhomes. **The window shifts a year on January 1, 2027:** for a 2027 registration, 2003 to 2024 models.
- **Fee:** up to \$25, 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.
- **A car you bring with you:** if you move into Fulton with a covered model, show a valid test result from the last 12 months and register within 30 days. The help line is 1-800-449-2471. Program materials exist in Spanish, Korean, Vietnamese and Mandarin; not in Turkish.
- **No general safety inspection.** Georgia has no annual roadworthiness test.

Is GA 400 tolled, and why does Holcomb Bridge jam?

GA 400 has no toll today and between Roswell and Atlanta you use the free general-purpose lanes; the Peach Pass express lanes that are open run on I-85 and I-75, neither on this route. The real issue is the bottleneck. The city's own transportation page says **Holcomb Bridge Road (SR 140) is Roswell's only access point to SR 400**, that it carries **more than 70,000 vehicles a day**, and that the congestion there is **the city's largest transportation challenge**. The state transportation department (GDOT) will rebuild that interchange as part of the Georgia 400 Express Lanes project; 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. The practical effect: when you look at homes, work out how dependent your commute will be on that one interchange and count on years of construction. A MARTA bus rapid transit plan in the same corridor is not running either, and **it does not bring rail to Roswell**.

PICK A BUS BY ITS NAME AND YOU BOARD THE WRONG ONE

Three MARTA routes enter Roswell: **85 Roswell** (North Springs Station to the Mansell Road Park and Ride, via Atlanta Street, City Hall and the public library, every 40 minutes), **185 Alpharetta** (which despite its name runs through Roswell, entering at the Holcomb Bridge Road exit of GA 400 and serving **the city's hospital**, Wellstar North Fulton Medical Center, every 40 minutes) and **140 North Point Parkway** (touching the Mansell Road lot, every 20 minutes on the trunk). **The trap:** Route 87, named **Roswell Road/Dunwoody**, **never enters Roswell**; it runs entirely inside Sandy Springs. Type Roswell into the app and that route is what you are most likely to find. For a Roswell resident the 87 is useful only when you want to go south from North Springs to the county counter or to the hospital there.

Do you need a Peach Pass?

- **Not inside the city and not on GA 400.** An account makes sense if you drive north or toward the Carolinas or Florida regularly, or commute toward Cobb or Gwinnett.
- **Where:** 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.

- **If you have no credit card:** BancPass Pay n Go is a licensed alternative you can load with cash; the starter kit is \$20.
- **Who travels free:** on the I-85 express lanes, three or more people in a vehicle using the Peach Pass Verify app; the I-75 lanes have no carpool exemption. Electric vehicles have not been free since September 30, 2025.
- **If you use a lane without a tag:** a camera reads the plate and the notice is mailed to the registered owner, with a **\$25** administrative fee added per toll. Unpaid notices can reach a civil penalty of up to \$70 per toll and **suspension of the vehicle registration**. Payment and appeals: 1-855-724-7277 or 1-833-448-4398.

NOTE FOR IMMIGRANTS

- The awkward part in Roswell is that both offices are outside the city: you cannot register without a license, so put the DDS visit in week one and plan to finish both in one trip to Maxwell Road.
- Saying you are new is worth up to a thousand dollars: TAVT at 3 percent instead of 7.
- If you are subject to address reporting you must also report your new address to USCIS within 10 days (AR-11). That is a separate step from updating the tag office record.
- Registering a car does not affect your immigration status, but a suspended registration disrupts getting to work and school at once.
- When you plan immigration appointments, allow for the Holcomb Bridge construction and the 40-minute bus headway and leave early.



TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN ROSWELL

Have a question about your immigration status?

Attorney Asim Clinch serves clients in Roswell and the surrounding area, in Turkish and English. Free evaluation: clinchlaw.com/free-evaluation · +1 866-491-7669

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