

CHECKLIST · ROSWELL

Moving to Roswell Checklist: the First 90 Days

What newcomers have to do, in order, with the deadlines and where each task is done. Print it and tick it off.

SHORT ANSWER

In Roswell the first task comes before the lease: **does the city sell water at your address, or does Fulton County?** Then, if you are subject to address reporting, report your move to USCIS within 10 days, open electricity and the city trash and stormwater account in week one, enroll the children with Fulton County Schools, and go to Maxwell Road for the license. Finish the license and then the car registration within 30 days; a new resident pays 3 percent title tax. If you bought a home, the city bill arrives at the end of October and is due no later than December 31.

BEFORE YOU SIGN ANYTHING: WHO SELLS THE WATER?

This is the first question to ask in Roswell, and the common answer is wrong. Roswell does run its own water utility, but in the city's own words the plant **only services part of Roswell**: the city utility serves about **18,500 residents** and roughly **80 percent** of a city of about 91,500 is served by **Fulton County**. So four addresses in five inside the city limits are billed by the county. **Sewer is the county's for everyone**, and the county sets the sewer rate even for city water customers (Fulton County Public Works, 404-612-7400). The billing rhythms differ too: the city bills **monthly**, the county **every two months**. **We found no official address lookup tool**, so the honest answer is that you have to ask. Before you sign a lease or a purchase contract, ask the landlord or the seller, ask for a previous bill, and if you get no answer call both numbers: **City of Roswell Utility Billing (770) 641-3759** and **Fulton County (404) 612-6830**. If you rent, note that on the county side **the owner must already hold an account**, or your application does not move.

The first 10 days

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ Report your address to USCIS (AR-11)	Required for most noncitizens including green card holders; A and G visa holders and Visa Waiver visitors are exempt. A move inside the city counts too. uscis.gov/addresschange
☐ File EOIR-33 if you have a court case	Within 5 days, with the court holding your case (there are two separate courts in Atlanta): respondentaccess.eoir.justice.gov
☐ Tell ICE if you have a check-in obligation	Report the address to ICE as well: portal.ice.gov

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ Change of address with the post office	A USPS change does not update your USCIS record; they are two separate steps.
☐ A ZIP code trap	Roswell ZIP codes (30075, 30076, 30077) extend beyond the municipal boundary. Report to USCIS the address as it appears on your mail, not the name of the neighborhood.

The first week

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ Electricity: find the utility first	You cannot choose a provider, but the company varies by address : Georgia Power or the member cooperative Sawnee EMC. No street-level official map is published, so ask the landlord or ask for a previous bill. Georgia Power customer line 1-888-660-5890; without an SSN the documented route is the PrePay plan (photo ID plus proof of address, \$40 load plus a \$30 account fee, enrollment 1-877-506-3905). Sawnee asks anyone who will not give a full SSN to come in person and post a deposit ; new service 770-887-2363.
☐ Natural gas	In the Atlanta Gas Light territory gas is deregulated: AGL runs the pipes and you choose the marketer that sells the gas. A residential marketer deposit cannot exceed \$150 . If there is no meter, the AGL online form comes back within two business days. A gas bill does not count as proof of address for school enrollment.
☐ Water, trash and stormwater account	With the city: Financial Services, 38 Hill Street Suite 130, (770) 641-3759 , fsd@roswellgov.com. With the county: New.Service@fultoncountygga.gov or 11575 Maxwell Road, (404) 612-6830 . The city deposit and document list is not stated on anything we could read, so we publish neither; call and ask, and have your passport and lease ready.
☐ Put trash and stormwater in the budget	They apply to everyone inside the city limits and sit on the city's monthly bill: standard sanitation \$29.72 a month, premium \$59.44, stormwater \$3.91 / \$5.99 / \$8.99 by impervious area. Even if your water comes from the county, those two lines are the city's. The bill is processed on the last business day of the month and is due on the 20th of the next. Confirm the amounts and the date on 770-594-6235 or (770) 641-3759 ; we could not reach the city site this round.
☐ Enroll the children in school	Fulton County Schools, Learning Zone 5. The SSN is voluntary; two proofs of address in the parent's name are required and one must be an electric or water bill, with a gas bill not accepted. Form 3231 and Form 3300. District office 470-254-3600.
☐ Driver license: the knowledge exam	There is no DDS office in Roswell. The exam is walk-in and offered in Turkish at the 11575 Maxwell Road center in Alpharetta. Two official sources disagree about road tests there, so call (678) 413-8400. An SSN or DDS-351, documents in English, no translations.
☐ Library card	Fulton County Library System, free for Fulton residents, no SSN asked . Two branches inside the city and both teach English: Roswell Branch 115 Norcross Street (404-612-9700) for beginners, East Roswell Branch 2301 Holcomb Bridge Road (404-613-4050) for conversation.
☐ Reaching the city: there is no 311	City Hall is at 38 Hill Street, main number (770) 641-3727 , weekdays 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Report a problem to Community Development (770) 641-3780, code cases (770) 594-6101, business registration 770-594-6235, police non-emergency (770) 640-4160. If life is at risk, 911.

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ Apply for an SSN if you are eligible	We could not confirm an SSA field office inside Roswell , so we print no address: enter your ZIP code in the SSA office locator and book on 1-800-772-1213. There is no fee.

CHOOSING A BUS: THE ROUTE NAMED ROSWELL ROAD DOES NOT ENTER ROSWELL

No train reaches the city; the Red Line ends at North Springs Station in Sandy Springs. Three routes enter Roswell: **85 Roswell** (every 40 minutes, via City Hall and the library to the Mansell Road Park and Ride), **185 Alpharetta** (which despite its name runs through Roswell and serves **the city's hospital**, every 40 minutes) and **140 North Point Parkway** (touching the Mansell Road lot, every 20 minutes on the trunk). **Route 87 is named Roswell Road/Dunwoody but never enters Roswell**; it runs entirely inside Sandy Springs, so picking by name puts you on the wrong bus. A single ride is \$2.50 with 4 free transfers within 3 hours, and you can tap a contactless bank card or a phone directly. The last day to transfer a balance from an old silver Breeze card is **October 30, 2026**. The Mansell Road lot is inside the city limits and has 418 spaces; **we print no charge for that lot**, because MARTA's fee page lists only rail stations (Parking Command Center 404-848-4064).

Within 30 days

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ The Georgia license	30 days after you count as a resident. The card is printed LIMITED-TERM and ends with your approved period of stay, at most five years. An eight-year card is \$32.
☐ Car registration at the county tag office	License first, then registration. The two nearest counters are 11575 Maxwell Road (Alpharetta) and 7741 Roswell Road NE (Sandy Springs), on 404-613-6100, weekdays 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Title \$18, tag \$20 a year.
☐ 3 percent TAVT	TAVT is 7 percent of market value, 3 percent for someone new to the state . On a \$25,000 car that is \$750 instead of \$1,750. Tell the counter you are a new resident and bring a document showing your move date.
☐ Insurance and the emissions test	\$25,000 / \$50,000 / \$25,000. Fulton is in the testing area; test before you register (up to \$25, help line 1-800-449-2471).
☐ Update the address everywhere	The tag office record, the city utility account and any Peach Pass account. Otherwise citation, toll and shut-off notices go to the old address.

If you buy a home: the property tax calendar

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ The 2026 city rate is 5.232 mills	Careful: the advertised rate is not the adopted one . The city advertised 7.732 mills on September 3, 2026, cut the tentative rate to 5.9 mills on September 14 and adopted 5.232 mills on September 28, 2026 (4.049 mills for maintenance and operations, unchanged from 2025, plus 1.183 mills for debt service). Do not be misled by the old 4.949 example still on the city's own page.

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ The city bill: 60 days, and no later than December 31	Bills go out before the end of October and are due 60 days after the billing date and no later than December 31 . That is not the neighboring city's December 1, so do not mix the two up. We could not read the late-payment interest schedule, so we print no rate. Confirm the date and the amount on 770-594-6235 or (770) 641-3759.
☐ The county and school bills arrive separately	The city bills and collects its own tax; the Fulton County Tax Commissioner bills the county share and the Fulton County Schools share separately (404-613-6100). The 2026 county bills went out as temporary bills and were due October 15, 2026. We give no total millage , because we could not verify it; read the line items on your own bill.
☐ What is inside the bill	By the city's own arithmetic, about 56.2 percent of a Roswell bill goes to the school district, 27.6 percent to the county and only 16.3 percent to the city . On a home with a fair market value of \$575,000 the city share is about \$1,203.
☐ Appealing the assessment	The taxable assessed value is 40 percent of fair market value, and the window to appeal a Notice of Assessment is 45 days . Fulton County Board of Assessors, 11575 Maxwell Road, 404-612-6440.

TWO HOMESTEAD APPLICATIONS, TWO DIFFERENT DEADLINES

If you own a home in Roswell you file **two separate applications**, and anyone who notes just one date misses the other. **City of Roswell homestead exemptions:** the window runs **January 1 to June 1** and the application is made at City Hall, 38 Hill Street **Suite G-20**; ownership and occupancy must exist as of January 1. **Fulton County basic and senior exemptions:** the deadline is **April 1**, at the Board of Assessors, 11575 Maxwell Road, or fultonassessor.org. The city offers **four** exemptions, and apart from the Disabled Veteran exemption the amounts apply to the **General Fund millage only**, so they do not reduce the debt service portion; two are aimed at seniors (\$2,000 at 65 and over, \$20,000 at 65 and over with combined adjusted gross income under \$40,000). **We could not read the amounts of the other two, so we print no basic-exemption figure for the city**; call 770-594-6235 to confirm. Fulton asks for a valid **Georgia license or state ID** for the basic exemption, so finish the DDS visit before April 1; the good news is that the assessors and DDS share a building. Once granted, an exemption renews automatically until ownership changes.

Within 90 days and after

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ If you are uninsured: the emergency room is inside the city	Wellstar North Fulton Medical Center, 3000 Hospital Boulevard, Roswell GA 30076: a 24-hour emergency department, a Level II trauma center and an accredited comprehensive stroke center, on the Route 185 bus. In a life-threatening emergency call 911 . The hospital's financial assistance program gives free hospital care at or below 125 percent of the poverty level, a sliding discount from 126 to 200 percent and, from 201 to 300 percent, further help subject to an asset test; apply within 240 days of the first billing statement, on 470-245-9998. It is a hospital billing policy, not a free clinic .

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ Do not go looking for a free clinic, there is none	The federal health center locator open data service returns an empty list within a 5-mile radius of Roswell. The nearest genuinely free clinic is the Forsyth Community Clinic in Cumming, open only to Forsyth County residents . The remaining options charge by income: the county health center at 4700 North Point Parkway, Alpharetta (770-520-7500), and the Good Samaritan Health Center of Cobb in Marietta, which says in its own words it is not a free clinic (\$60 deposit at registration, paper copies of income proof required).
☐ Georgia Access	Georgia did not expand Medicaid for adults. The 2027 enrollment period opens November 1, 2026, and the deadline for coverage starting January 1, 2027 is December 15, 2026. Moving from abroad opens a special enrollment period. Consumer line 888-687-1503.
☐ Income tax	Roswell has no city income tax. Georgia has a single flat rate, 4.99 percent for 2026; the return is Form 500, due April 15 with the federal return. It can be filed with either an SSN or an ITIN.
☐ Türkiye-related tasks	There is no Turkish consulate in Georgia; the state is served by the Turkish Consulate General in Miami. The apostille comes not from the Secretary of State but from the GSCCCA in Atlanta, at \$3 per document.

Sales tax and renting

TOPIC	FOR ROSWELL
Sales tax (October 1, 2026)	7.75 percent in the part of Fulton County outside the City of Atlanta, which is where Roswell sits. Inside the Atlanta city limits it is 8.9 percent, in Cobb and Gwinnett 6 percent, in Cherokee and Forsyth 7 percent
Deposit cap	Two months' rent (Safe at Home Act, for leases from July 1, 2024). The deposit comes back within 30 days of the end of the tenancy, with a written statement
Move-in and move-out inspections	Required only of landlords with more than ten units or a management company. If you rent from a small landlord, photograph every room the day you move in and send it in a dated email
Rent increases	No cap: rent control is banned by O.C.G.A. 44-7-19, so Roswell cannot limit rent
Eviction	At least 3 business days of written notice before a suit for unpaid rent; 7 days to answer after service. Changing the locks or cutting power, water or heat without a court order is unlawful
Rent levels (HUD, October 1, 2026)	The two-bedroom fair market rent is \$2,020 in ZIP 30075 and \$1,850 in 30076 . Both are above the metro level; this is a federal benchmark, not a market price
Neglect in an apartment complex	The city's Code Enforcement division runs a multi-family inspection program: (770) 594-6101, 38 Hill Street Suite G-30. The first inspection after a complaint is scheduled for the next business day. We could not read the program's scope, so call and ask, and record your reference number

IF YOU ARE THINKING ABOUT A BUSINESS: ROSWELL HAS ITS OWN CALENDAR

Every business operating inside the city limits, **even one run from home, must hold a City of Roswell Occupation Tax Certificate before it opens.** The bill looks nothing like the neighboring city's: the tax is based on **gross receipts**, not headcount, combined with the NAICS code profitability ratios. The known items: a **\$100 administrative fee** on every business, a **\$50 non-refundable regulatory fee on commercial businesses only**, \$12 per employee but **only at 100 or more employees**, an exemption for businesses reporting **\$100,000 or less** in gross receipts, and a cap of **\$85,000**. The calendar is firm: **the certificate expires December 31, the tax is due March 15, and a 10 percent penalty applies after that. A discount for opening part-way through the year: the research found none**, so do not expect the proration the neighboring city offers. The application packet contains **three items** needing a notary or a certified copy: a sworn affidavit for a public benefit application (O.C.G.A. 50-36-1), a private employer affidavit (O.C.G.A. 36-60-6(d), with the E-Verify user number if more than ten employees as of January 1), and **a color photocopy of an unexpired United States issued photo identification** (O.C.G.A. 50-36-2), with a green card or an EAD asked of applicants who are not citizens. **The city notarizes the pages free of charge.** Only citizens, green card holders, people treated as qualified aliens and non-immigrants in lawful status can sign the affidavit, and the affidavit proves lawful presence, **not permission to own or run a business.** Confirm every amount and date on **770-594-6235**: the fee schedule on the city site is dated 2025 and we could not reach the site this round.

IF YOU ARE NOT A CITIZEN, REMEMBER

- Do not state on any form that you are a U.S. citizen and do not register to vote; check the Opt-Out box in the voter registration section of the DDS application. Do not ignore a jury summons either: Georgia builds the jury list from DDS license records as well, so a lawfully present foreign national who holds a license can be called. Send your exemption document to the Fulton County Superior Court jury office (404-612-4600).
- Talk to an immigration attorney before you apply for SNAP, Medicaid, PeachCare, Pathways, LIHEAP or any other income-tested benefit: the new public charge rule has applied since September 18, 2026. LIHEAP also requires lawful status and an SSN for every person in the household, and the application is made by appointment through the Fulton Atlanta Community Action Authority downtown.
- **National park fee-free days are not for everyone since 2026.** Entry to the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area next door is paid: \$5 per vehicle per day, \$5 per person aged 16 and over on foot or by bicycle, and **the park does not accept cash** (card at the Island Ford Visitor Center, or online on recreation.gov). The remaining 2026 fee-free days are October 27 and November 11, but the Park Service's own page states that **beginning in 2026, free entrance on those days is for United States citizens and residents only, and nonresidents pay the regular entrance fee plus any applicable nonresident fee.** The annual pass is **\$80** for citizens and residents and **\$250** for nonresidents. **The Park Service does not define "resident" on these pages**, so if you are here on a visa, ask about your own situation at the visitor center before you rely on a fee-free day; the \$5 daily vehicle pass is the same for everyone and is the safe route.
- Free and always open: the seven-mile Riverwalk, Azalea Park, Don White Memorial Park, Waller Park, the grounds of the four historic houses and the city history museum at 950 Forrest Street. **Riverside Park is closed for renovation** and is expected to reopen in the summer of 2027, and the **Riverside Sounds concert series is not running in 2026**; if you see an old calendar online, do not plan around it.
- If you have a pending green card application, do not leave the country without advance parole. Check your I-94 record at i94.cbp.dhs.gov.

TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN ROSWELL

Have a question about your immigration status?



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