Alabama Car Registration Fees (2026)

Fee summary from vehiclefeecalculator.com/alabama/ · Rates checked October 15, 2026 · Next monthly check: November 2026

How much does it cost to register a car in Alabama? The yearly registration fee for a passenger car is $23, plus a $1.25 issuance fee at your county office. Electric cars add $203 and plug-in hybrids $103. When you buy, add a $15 title fee plus a $1.50 processing commission, and 2% state sales tax plus your local rate: $640.75 for a $30,000 car from a dealer before local sales tax and the yearly ad valorem tax.

Fees at a glance (2026)

Registration (passenger car)	$23/yr ($13 + $10)
Issuance fee (county)	$1.25
Electric vehicle fee	$203/yr
Plug-in hybrid fee	$103/yr
Title application	$15 + $1.50 commission
Sales tax	2% state + local (trade-in deducted)
Ad valorem tax (county, yearly)	Market value × 15% × local millage

Starting example

Example for a $30,000 car. Change the inputs on the calculator page for your own figures.

Registration fee $13 + $10 additional (passenger car)	$23.00
Issuance fee County license office	$1.25
Local issuance / city fees Vary by county and city	not available
Title application	$15.00
Title processing commission Designated agent	$1.50
State sales tax 2% of price	$600.00
Local sales tax Enter your county + city rate	not available
Estimated total	**$640.75**

The total leaves out items marked "not available".

Fee history

Additional fee, battery electric vehicle: Jan 1, 2020 – Jun 30, 2023	$200
Additional fee, battery electric vehicle: From Jul 1, 2023 (now) Rises $3 every fourth year; next increase July 1, 2027	$203

Additional fee, plug-in hybrid: Jan 1, 2020 – Jun 30, 2023	$100
Additional fee, plug-in hybrid: From Jul 1, 2023 (now) Rises $3 every fourth year; next increase July 1, 2027	$103

What this estimate does and does not include

• Registration: $23 a year for a private passenger car. The Department of Revenue lists $23; the Code of Alabama builds it from two sections: $13 under § 40-12-242 plus an additional $10 under § 40-12-273. Pickup trucks pay $23 to $105 depending on weight and are not covered here.

• Issuance fee: $1.25 for each tag, paid to your county probate judge or license commissioner (§ 40-12-271). Some counties add their own local issuance fees and cities may add up to $5 a year (Act 2014-007); these vary and are shown as not available.

• Electric vehicles: battery electric cars pay an additional $203 a year and plug-in hybrids $103 (Department of Revenue memo 2023-002). The law raises both by $3 every fourth year after July 1, 2023, so the next increase is due July 1, 2027. Regular hybrids that don't plug in pay no extra fee.

• Title: the title application fee is $15. Designated agents add a $1.50 commission, included here. Your license office may add another $1.50 commission and some counties charge local title fees; those are not included (not available).

• Sales tax: the state rate on vehicles is 2%, plus local county and city taxes. A dealer collects the local tax for the dealership's location. After a private sale, you pay state and local tax at your county license office when you register, at the rate where you live. A trade-in is deducted before tax (§ 40-23-103). Local rates vary, so enter yours; if you leave it blank, the local share is shown as not available.

• Private sales: tax is on the price on a sworn purchaser report and bill of sale. Instead, you can agree to the Department of Revenue's standard value for the car's year, make and model (§ 40-23-104).

• Gifts and family transfers: we did not find an official Department of Revenue rule on whether tax is due when a car is given or moved within a family, so the tax line is shown as not available. Ask your county license office.

• New residents: register within 30 days of moving to Alabama. No sales or use tax is due on a used car that was substantially used in another state; registering or titling it in your old state counts as evidence (Department of Revenue notice, 2019).

• Ad valorem tax: every year, with the registration, your county collects a property tax on the car: market value × 15% (Class IV, private passenger vehicles) × your local millage. The county uses the Department of Revenue's market value, not the price you paid, so the estimate here is only as good as the value you enter. Whether the first year is pro-rated is not covered.

• Deadline: get your plate within 20 calendar days of buying a vehicle; the title application must be done first.

• Not included: specialty and personalized plates (most specialty plates are $50 a year), local county and city fees, mail or online processing charges, and late penalties.

Official sources

Alabama Department of Revenue – Standard passenger license plate: automobile registration fee $23 (Code sections 40-12-242 and 40-12-273)
https://www.revenue.alabama.gov/license-plates/standard-passenger/
Checked October 15, 2026

Code of Alabama § 40-12-242 – $13 private passenger automobile registration; additional $200 battery electric / $100 plug-in hybrid fee, +$3 on July 1, 2023 and every fourth year
https://alison.legislature.state.al.us/code-of-alabama?section=40-12-242
Checked October 15, 2026

Code of Alabama § 40-12-273 – additional $10 per passenger automobile, on top of the § 40-12-242 fee
https://alison.legislature.state.al.us/code-of-alabama?section=40-12-273

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Alabama Department of Revenue – MVD Memo 2023-002: battery electric $203, plug-in hybrid $103 from July 1, 2023
https://www.revenue.alabama.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/230606_MVD_MEMO_2023-002.pdf
Checked October 15, 2026

Alabama Department of Revenue – Motor vehicle registration fees (battery electric $203, plug-in hybrid $103)
https://www.revenue.alabama.gov/tax-types/motor-vehicle-registration-fees/
Checked October 15, 2026

Code of Alabama § 40-12-271 – $1.25 issuance fee for each license tag, paid to the county probate judge or license commissioner
https://alison.legislature.state.al.us/code-of-alabama?section=40-12-271
Checked October 15, 2026

Alabama Department of Revenue FAQ – Title application fee $15, plus a $1.50 designated agent commission; issuing officials may add another $1.50; some counties add local fees
https://www.revenue.alabama.gov/faqs/what-is-the-cost-to-make-application-for-alabama-certificate-of-title
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Alabama Department of Revenue FAQ – Plate transfer: $1.25 state fee; some counties add local issuance fees
https://www.revenue.alabama.gov/faqs/what-is-the-fee-to-transfer-a-license-plate
Checked October 15, 2026

Alabama Department of Revenue – Vehicle valuation: ad valorem tax = market value × 15% (Class IV) × millage, collected before registration
https://revenue.alabama.gov/property-tax/taxes-administered/vehicle-valuation/
Checked October 15, 2026

Code of Alabama § 40-23-101 – 2% state tax on vehicles bought from a non-dealer, plus local taxes where the buyer lives
https://alison.legislature.state.al.us/code-of-alabama?section=40-23-101
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Code of Alabama § 40-23-103 – tax is on the price minus the credit for a vehicle taken in trade
https://alison.legislature.state.al.us/code-of-alabama?section=40-23-103
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Alabama Department of Revenue – Guidelines for Automobile Dealers (Feb 2025): 2% state rate (§ 40-23-2(4)); dealers collect local tax for the dealership's location; trade-in deducted
https://www.revenue.alabama.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Automotive_Sales_Use_Lease_Tax_Guide.pdf
Checked October 15, 2026

Alabama Department of Revenue FAQ – Get a plate within 20 calendar days of buying a vehicle
https://www.revenue.alabama.gov/faqs/i-just-acquired-a-vehicle-how-many-days-do-i-have-to-title-and-register-this-vehicle/
Checked October 15, 2026

Alabama Department of Revenue FAQ – New residents: 30 days to register (§ 40-12-262)
https://www.revenue.alabama.gov/faqs/i-just-moved-to-alabama-how-long-do-i-have-before-i-must-register-my-vehicle
Checked October 15, 2026

Alabama Department of Revenue – Notice: no sales or use tax on a used vehicle substantially used in another state (Aug 2019)
https://www.revenue.alabama.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Notice-Taxability-of-used-vehicles-brought-into-AL_20190819.pdf
Checked October 15, 2026

Alabama Department of Revenue – Introduction to vehicle registration (training, 2014): $1.25 issuance fee; city additional fee up to $5 (Act 2014-007)
https://www.revenue.alabama.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/MVPresentations_IntroToVehicleRegistration_201403-1.pdf
Checked October 15, 2026

Before you pay

This is an estimate. Confirm the final amount with Alabama Department of Revenue, Motor Vehicle Division (through your county license office). The free calculator, with every fee worked out for your own car: https://vehiclefeecalculator.com/alabama/