Kentucky Car Registration Fees (2026)

Fee summary from vehiclefeecalculator.com/kentucky/ · Rates checked October 21, 2026 · Next monthly check: November 2026

How much does it cost to register a car in Kentucky? $21 a year for a standard plate at the county clerk ($18.50 for a motorcycle). Electric and plug-in hybrid cars also paid a $126 ownership fee in 2025 (the fee is indexed every year). Buying a car adds the $9 title and the 6% motor vehicle usage tax. Your vehicle's property tax is billed separately each year.

Fees at a glance (2026)

Registration, passenger car or pickup	$21/yr (clerk total)
Motorcycle	$18.50/yr
Truck over 10,000 lbs	$30 - $1,440/yr state fee by declared gross weight
EV ownership fee (2025 amount)	$126 electric / $126 plug-in hybrid / $63 electric motorcycle; hybrids $0
Title fee	$9 ($25 speed title); $8 transfer fee on a change of ownership
Motor vehicle usage tax	6% of the retail price
Vehicle property tax	Billed separately each year, not in our total

Starting example

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

Registration (1 yr) County clerk total, standard plate	$21.00
Vehicle property tax Billed separately each year; not in this total	not available
Title fee	$9.00
Usage tax 6% of the retail price	$1,800.00
Estimated total	**$1,830.00**

The total leaves out items marked "not available".

What this estimate does and does not include

• Vehicle property tax is not in the total: it is billed separately, every year, at the state rate of 45 cents per $100 of assessed value plus county, city, school and district rates that vary by where the car is registered.

• The EV ownership fee shown is the 2025 amount ($126 electric, $126 plug-in hybrid, $63 electric motorcycle; the hybrid fee was eliminated), the latest the state has published. It is indexed every year, so the 2026 amount may differ.

• Registration: county clerks quote $21 a year for a car or pickup and $18.50 for a motorcycle. The statutory parts we can trace add up to $20.50 / $18 ($11.50 or $9 state fee + $6 clerk fee + $3 additional fee); the clerks' totals are $0.50 higher and the calculator uses them.

• Trucks over 10,000 lbs declared gross weight (with any towed unit) are commercial and pay the state fee by weight; the clerk's extra fees for those classes aren't published, so they show as not available.

• Usage tax: 6% of the retail price. Our data pack for Kentucky was cut short, so the trade-in, new-resident and family rules aren't covered here: no trade-in is deducted, and a new resident's usage tax shows as not available. Out-of-state vehicles need a $15 sheriff's inspection.

• Not included: online renewal mailing and service fees, notary fees ($2), special plates and plate transfer ($11). No separate late title penalty was found.

Official sources

Kentucky Transportation Cabinet - Vehicle titling (title $9, speed title $25, duplicate $6; transfer the title within 15 days of a sale)
https://drive.ky.gov/Vehicles/Pages/Vehicle-Titling.aspx
Checked October 21, 2026

Kentucky Revised Statutes 186.050 (state registration fee $11.50 for motor vehicles including pickups, $9 motorcycles; trucks over 10,000 lbs declared gross weight $30 - $1,440)
https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/law/statutes/statute.aspx?id=56307
Checked October 21, 2026

Kentucky Revised Statutes 186.040 ($6 county clerk fee and $3 additional fee per registration)
https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/law/statutes/statute.aspx?id=56142
Checked October 21, 2026

LaRue County Clerk - Usage tax and fees (title $9, transfer fee $8, yearly registration $21, lien $22)
https://laruecountyclerk.ky.gov/motorvehicles/usage-tax-fees/
Checked October 21, 2026

Montgomery County Clerk - Motor vehicles (registration $21 standard plate, $18.50 motorcycle)
https://montgomerycountyclerk.ky.gov/motor-vehicles/
Checked October 21, 2026

Kentucky Department of Revenue - Motor vehicle usage tax (6% of the retail price, KRS 138.460) and motor vehicle property tax (billed separately)
https://revenue.ky.gov/Property/Motor-Vehicles/Pages/Motor-Vehicle-Usage-Tax.aspx
Checked October 21, 2026

Kentucky Finance and Administration Cabinet release, December 10, 2024 (EV ownership fee from January 1, 2025: electric $126, plug-in hybrid $126, electric motorcycle $63; hybrid fee eliminated)
https://kentucky.gov
Checked October 21, 2026

Before you pay

This is an estimate. Confirm the final amount with Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (county clerks). The free calculator, with every fee worked out for your own car: https://vehiclefeecalculator.com/kentucky/