Tennessee Car Registration Fees (2026)

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

How much does it cost to register a car in Tennessee? The state plate fee is $26.50 a year, and your county adds its own wheel tax: in Knox County a renewal is $65 ($29 plate + $36 wheel tax). Buying a car adds a $14 title and sales tax: 7% of the price, plus your local rate on the first $1,600 and 2.75% on the slice from $1,600 to $3,200. Electric cars pay $200 a year and hybrids $100, but only at renewal.

Fees at a glance (2026)

State plate fee	$26.50/yr car, $19.50 motorcycle (Knox County charges $29 / $22 with issuance)
County wheel tax	Set by each county (Knox County $36/yr)
Electric vehicle fee	$200/yr at renewal only ($274 from 2027-01-01)
Hybrid / plug-in hybrid fee	$100/yr at renewal only
Title fee	$14 (+$11 to record a lien)
Sales tax	7% state + local rate on the first $1,600 + 2.75% on $1,600 to $3,200
Truck	Not available (no separate published amount)

Starting example

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

License plate fee (1 yr) Knox County, incl. issuance	$29.00
County wheel tax (1 yr) Knox County	$36.00
Title fee	$14.00
State sales tax 7% of price	$2,100.00
Local sales tax 2.25% of the first $1,600	$36.00
State single-article tax 2.75% of the price between $1,600 and $3,200	$44.00
Local collection fee Knox County	$1.00
Estimated total	**$2,260.00**

What this estimate does and does not include

• Tennessee doesn't have one statewide registration total: the $26.50 state plate fee is the same everywhere, but each county adds its own wheel tax and clerk fees. Knox County is used here because its clerk publishes an itemised schedule ($29 plate, $36 wheel tax, $14 title). For other counties the plate shows the $26.50 state fee and the wheel tax

and clerk fees show as not available.

• Electric and hybrid fees are charged at renewal only (County Clerk Guide, since January 1, 2024), so buying an electric car costs the same as buying a gas car. All-electric: $200 a year on renewals through 2026, $274 from January 1, 2027 (then indexed from 2028). Hybrids and plug-in hybrids: $100 a year. Electric motorcycles aren't charged the fee.

• Sales tax has three parts. State 7% of the price less a trade-in; local tax at your county's rate (at most 2.75%) on the first $1,600 only; and the state single-article tax of 2.75% on the part of the price between $1,600 and $3,200 (at most $44). In Knox County a car over $3,200 pays 7% + $36 + $44. Dealer and private sales are taxed the same way; Knox County adds a $1 collection fee.

• Knox County's own sales-calculator page says titling and registering costs $77; its current fee schedule and the itemised lines on the same page add up to $79. The calculator uses the $79 schedule.

• Trucks: the Department of Revenue publishes no separate plate fee for a private pickup and the commercial weight schedule wasn't available from an official page, so truck registration shows as not available.

• Not included: plate transfer ($17.50 in Knox County), personalised plates (+$35), emissions testing (not required in Knox County) and late penalties (no flat late renewal fee is published; late tax payments owe 5% a month up to 25%).

Official sources

TN Department of Revenue VR-4 - Registration fees (standard plate fee $26.50 passenger, $19.50 motorcycle; check your county clerk for local fees)
https://revenue.support.tn.gov/hc/en-us/articles/360060097432--VR-4-Registration-Fees
Checked October 21, 2026

TN Department of Revenue VR-5 - Registration fees for hybrid or electric vehicles (all-electric $200 a year on renewals to 2026-12-31, $274 in 2027; hybrid and plug-in hybrid $100)
https://revenue.support.tn.gov/hc/en-us/articles/360060541291-VR-5-Registration-Fees-for-Hybrid-or-Electric-Vehicles
Checked October 21, 2026

Vehicle Services County Clerk Guide - Electric and hybrid vehicle renewal fee (since January 1, 2024 the fee is charged at renewal only, not at initial registration)
https://tnclerks.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/articles/360001118246-ELECTRIC-AND-HYBRID-VEHICLE-RENEWAL-FEE
Checked October 21, 2026

TN Department of Revenue VTR-34 - Sales tax on a vehicle purchase (7% state + 2.75% state single-article tax, new and used)
https://revenue.support.tn.gov/hc/en-us/articles/360060395571-VTR-34-Sales-Tax-on-a-Vehicle-Purchase
Checked October 21, 2026

TN Department of Revenue - Single article and special tax rates (local tax on the first $1,600; state single-article 2.75% on $1,600 to $3,200)
https://www.tn.gov/revenue/taxes/sales-and-use-tax/single-article-special-tax-rates.html
Checked October 21, 2026

Knox County Clerk - Motor vehicle schedule of fees (title $14; new passenger plate with title and wheel tax $79, motorcycle $72; renewal $65 / $58; lien $11; wheel tax $36)
https://www.knoxcounty.org/clerk/motorvehicle/
Checked October 21, 2026

Knox County Clerk - Sales tax and fees calculator (plate $29, local tax 2.25% of the first $1,600, never over $36; trade-in deducted; $1 local collection fee)
https://knoxcounty.org/clerk/motorvehicle/sales_calculator.php
Checked October 21, 2026

Before you pay

This is an estimate. Confirm the final amount with Tennessee Department of Revenue, Vehicle Services (county clerks). The free calculator, with every fee worked out for your own car: https://vehiclefeecalculator.com/tennessee/