West Virginia Car Registration Fees (2026)

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

How much does it cost to register a car in West Virginia? $51.50 a year for a car or a truck up to 10,000 lbs ($103 for two years) and $16 for a motorcycle. Buying a car adds the $15 title and the 6% titling sales tax on the price less a West Virginia trade-in: $1,866.50 in all on a $30,000 car. Electric cars pay $200 a year more, hybrids $100. The county personal property tax is billed separately.

Fees at a glance (2026)

Registration, car or truck up to 10,000 lbs	$51.50/yr ($103 for 2 years)
Motorcycle	$16/yr
Truck over 10,000 lbs	$28 + $5 per 1,000 lbs over 10,000 (to 16,000), higher steps above
Electric / hybrid fee	$200 / $100 a year
Title fee	$15 (+$10 lien)
Titling sales tax	6% of price less a WV-titled trade-in ($30 under $500)
Personal property tax	Yearly, county-assessed (not available)
Safety inspection	Up to $19 every 2 years, paid to the station

Starting example

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

Registration (1 yr) Class A	$51.50
County personal property tax Paid to your county first; not in this total	not available
Safety inspection Up to $19 every 2 years, paid to the station	$19.00
Title fee	$15.00
Titling sales tax 6% of price	$1,800.00
Estimated total	**$1,866.50**

The total leaves out items marked "not available".

What this estimate does and does not include

• The 5% 'privilege tax' some sites still mention was abolished on July 1, 2008. The tax at titling is the 6% consumers sales tax on motor vehicles (WV Code 11-15-3c), or $30 when the net price is under $500.

• Trade-ins lower the taxed price only when the trade-in is titled in West Virginia in your name. Manufacturer rebates are taxable. Dealers collect the tax and fees. Private sales are taxed on the declared price when it is above 50% of the NADA Clean Loan value; otherwise a notarized bill of sale is needed or the tax is on the NADA value, and a car two years old or newer bought privately is always taxed on the NADA value. The calculator uses the price you enter. Gifts

between spouses or parents and children are exempt when the tax was paid before. There is no credit for tax paid to another state.

• Personal property tax: counties assess vehicles every year (generally 60% of value), and you need the paid receipt to register or renew. The amount depends on the county's levies, so it shows as not available and isn't in the total. Some counties also require emergency ambulance fees to be paid first.

• Alternative fuel fees (WV Code 17A-10-3c) are yearly: $200 electric, $100 for electricity + gas combinations (one category for hybrids and plug-in hybrids), $200 hydrogen or natural gas.

• The safety inspection (up to $19, every 24 months) is paid to the station, so it's shown separately. Registration applied for later in the fiscal year is prorated (3/4, 1/2 or 1/4 of the fee); the calculator shows a full year.

• No late renewal or late title fee appears in the DMV fee schedule (not available). Not included: plate transfer ($10), duplicate plate or title ($10).

Official sources

WV DMV - Moving to West Virginia (title $15, lien $10, regular registration $51.50)
https://transportation.wv.gov/DMV/
Checked October 21, 2026

WV Code chapter 17A, article 10 (Class A $50 + $1 litter fee + $0.50 application fee, 2-year option; Class B by weight; motorcycle $8 + $6.50 safety fee; title $10 + $5; transfer $10; alternative fuel fees $200 electric, $100 electric + petrochemical, $200 hydrogen or natural gas)
http://code.wvlegislature.gov/17A-10/
Checked October 21, 2026

WV Code chapter 17A, article 3 (application fee $0.50; personal property tax receipt required to register or renew; 5% privilege tax abolished 2008)
http://code.wvlegislature.gov/17A-3/
Checked October 21, 2026

WV Code 11-15-3c via SB 1006 (2017) (6% consumers sales tax on motor vehicles; $30 if the net price is under $500; trade-in titled in WV deducted)
https://www.wvlegislature.gov/Bill_Text_HTML/2017_SESSIONS/1X/bills/sb1006%20eng.pdf
Checked October 21, 2026

WV State Tax Department - Property tax (motor vehicles assessed by the county; levies by county boards of education, county commissions and municipalities)
https://tax.wv.gov/Business/PropertyTax/Pages/PropertyTax.aspx
Checked October 21, 2026

Before you pay

This is an estimate. Confirm the final amount with West Virginia Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV). The free calculator, with every fee worked out for your own car: https://vehiclefeecalculator.com/west-virginia/