

WELCOME TO BEAUFORT COUNTY

As an elected representative, I have a core belief that government should work for you, not the other way around.

Along with our online Help Center, we've created this checklist to help you settle in, so you can start enjoying this beautiful place we get to call home.

Please read it carefully, and if you have any questions, my team and I are waiting to serve you.



REGISTERING A BOAT

All watercraft must be registered with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). First, visit the Beaufort County Auditor's Office to have a tax bill created with the following:

- Bill of Sale or Title
- Most recent watercraft registration

If you moved from outside of South

Carolina: You must register with DNR by mail. The applicable forms and additional information can be found on their website.

If you moved within South Carolina:

You must update your mailing address with DNR by mail. The applicable forms and additional information can be found on their website.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Beaufort County Assessor's Office

RealProperty@bcgov.net
BeaufortCountySC.gov/Assessor
843-255-2400

Beaufort County Auditor's Office

BeaufortCountyAuditor@bcgov.net
BeaufortCountyAuditor.com
843-258-5434

Beaufort County Treasurer's Office

BeaufortCountyTreasurer.com
843-341-8404

Beaufort County Board of Elections

Vote.Beaufort@Elections.SC.gov
BeaufortCountySC.gov/Vote
843-255-6900

Beaufort County Trash and Recycling

BeaufortCountySC.gov/solid-waste-and-recycle
843-255-2736

Department of Motor Vehicles

SCDMVonline.com
803-896-5000

SC Department of Natural Resources

dnr.sc.gov/boating
803-734-3857



MYBEAUFORTCOUNTY *Taxes Simplified.*

Avoid mail delays and sign up for electronic billing with myBeaufortCounty.com.



Beaufort County TREASURER



Maria Walls, CPA

New Resident Checklist

REGISTERING A VEHICLE

Upon moving, you have 45 days to register. First, visit the Beaufort County Auditor's Office to have a tax bill created with the following:

- Bill of Sale or Title
- Driver's License
- Most recent vehicle registration

Bring your newly printed tax bill to the Beaufort County Treasurer's Office to pay. Last, go to any SCDMV field office with:

- Your tax receipt from the Treasurer's office
- Driver's License
- Proof of Insurance
- Bill of Sale or Title
- Most recent vehicle registration
- If you are 64 years of age or older, ask at SCDMV about registration fee discount.

Need a trash and recycling decal?

You'll want to contact Beaufort County's Trash and Recycling Department.

GETTING A DRIVER'S LICENSE

If you are a licensed driver moving here permanently, you must apply for a South Carolina Driver's License within 90 days of moving. Here are some of the documents you may need:

- Two mail items proving your current SC address.
- This could be a utility bill in your name, school enrollment letter, or personal letter addressed to you.
- Birth certificate or current passport
- Social Security Card
- Proof of Insurance

REGISTERING TO VOTE

Once you have your South Carolina Driver's License, you may register to vote with the Beaufort County Board of Elections in-person, by mail, email or online.

You will need the following documents:

- SC Driver's License or ID card
- Social Security Number

LEGAL RESIDENCE DISCOUNT

If your Beaufort County property will be your full-time residence you may qualify for a *significant* discount on your taxes, called a Legal Residence Exemption.

The Legal Residence application and list of required documents is available online or by visiting the Assessor's Office.

If the prior owner of your property was receiving this discount, you may benefit for the first year of your ownership. *To avoid your tax bill increasing substantially, submit your application as soon as possible; you do not need to wait until you get a tax bill.*

HOMESTEAD DISCOUNT

If you have had the Legal Residence Exemption for one year and are over 65 years of age or have been certified totally and permanently disabled by a State or Federal Agency, or legally blind, or hold fee simple title or partial title to your property, you may be eligible for the Homestead Exemption. Visit the Auditor's Office or email them to apply.

RENTAL PROPERTY

If you do not receive the Legal Residence Exemption on your property it is assumed that the property may be rented. You therefore must submit a Rental Property Return form to the Beaufort County Auditor's Office every year by April 30th.

This form can be found online and requires you to confirm whether you rent your property or not. If your property is rented, you must report to the Auditor's Office the value of any furnishings or appliances so an appropriate tax amount can be determined.

If you do not submit this form, you will receive a Rental Property Tax Bill that estimates the value of furnishings or appliances to be 10% of the real property value.

YOU NEED TO KNOW...

Any time you move, even within Beaufort County, you need to follow this checklist and update your mailing address with the Treasurer's Office for each property account.

If you receive the Legal Residence Exemption, you must reapply after any change to your property deed. This includes refinancing your mortgage, moving, or putting your property into a trust.

Property tax bills are mailed each year by early November. Motor vehicle and watercraft tax bills are mailed one month prior to your renewal month.