

## Welcome to Beaufort County

As an elected representative, I have a core belief that government should work for the people, and not the other way around. We have created this convenient checklist to help you settle in, so you can start enjoying and exploring this beautiful place we get to call home. Please read it carefully and if you have any questions, our friendly staff members are here to assist you.

All the best,



Maria Walls, CPA  
Beaufort County Treasurer

## Registering a Motor Vehicle, Motorcycle or Recreational 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 (If purchased from an individual, title must be signed by both parties)
- 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 (If purchased from an individual, title must be signed by both parties)
- Most recent vehicle registration
- If you are 64 years of age or older, ask at SCDMV about registration fee discount.

## Important Contact Information

Beaufort County Assessor's Office  
Assessor@bcgov.net  
www.BeaufortCountySC.gov  
843-255-2400

Beaufort County Auditor's Office  
Auditor@bcgov.net  
www.BeaufortCountySC.gov  
843-255-2500

Beaufort County Board of Elections  
Voter@bcgov.net  
www.BeaufortCountySC.gov  
843-255-6900

Beaufort County Treasurer's Office  
www.BeaufortCountyTreasurer.com  
843-255-2600

Department of Motor Vehicles  
15 Sheridan Park, Bluffton  
28 Munch Drive, Beaufort  
www.SCDMVonline.com  
803-896-5000

SC Department of Natural Resources  
www.dnr.sc.gov/boating  
803-734-3857

## Need to Find Us?

### Beaufort County Government Locations

100 Ribaut Road, Beaufort

4819 Bluffton Parkway, 3rd Floor, Bluffton

539 William Hilton Parkway, Hilton Head



Beaufort County  
**TREASURER**



Maria Walls, CPA

*The Beaufort County Treasurer's  
Office, professionals serving with  
innovation and enthusiasm.*

843-255-2600

PO Box 487  
Beaufort, SC 29901

www.BeaufortCountyTreasurer.com



## Getting a Driver's License

If you are a licensed driver, permanently moving into South Carolina, you must apply for a South Carolina Driver's License at your nearest SCDMV field office within 90 days of your move.

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

## Registering a Boat, Motor, or Jetski

Watercraft must be registered with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

**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.

## Real Property

This is land, buildings and mobile homes.

### *Legal Residence*

If your Beaufort County property will be your legal residence you may qualify for a discount on your taxes, called a Legal Residence Exemption. The Legal Residence application is available online or by visiting the Assessor's Office. Submit the form as soon as possible; you do not need to wait until you get a tax bill.

The following documents are required for each owner:

- SC Driver's License or ID Card
- SC Vehicle Registration
- Most recently filed SC Individual Income Tax Return
- Military ID (Military personnel only)

If you do not have all of the above, contact the Assessor's Office to identify acceptable alternatives.

### *Homestead Exemption*

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 to apply.

Here are some of the documents you may need:

- SC Driver's License or ID card
- Medicare card or Birth Certificate
- If blind, documentation from a licensed Ophthalmologist.
- If disabled, documentation of disability from a State or Federal Agency.

## Rental Property or Non-Legal Residence

If your Beaufort County property will not be your legal residence it is assumed that the property may be rented. Therefore, you must submit a Rental Property Return form to the Beaufort County Auditor's Office every year by April 30th.

The Rental Property Return form can be found online and requires you to identify 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. The information submitted is used to determine whether a Rental Property Tax Bill should be generated and the appropriate tax amount.

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

## Did You Know?

- Anytime you move, even if it is within Beaufort County, you need to follow this checklist and update the mailing address of each property account with the Treasurer's Office.
- 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 tax bills are mailed one month prior to your renewal month.