

**Rhonda Skipper**



**Walton County  
Tax Collector**

**“Commitment to Service”**

**For Immediate Release**

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**Vehicle Owners to See Increase At Tax Collector’s Office On September 1  
*Increase A Result of Legislative Enacted Fee Increases*  
*Tax Collector urges citizens to “buy it now”***

**DeFuniak Springs, FL** (June 8, 2009) – Beginning on September 1, vehicle owners can expect to pay more for tag and titling a vehicle in the State of Florida. The fee increases, which will be evident when citizens step into their local Tax Collector’s Office this year to renew a license plate, were enacted by the 2009 Florida Legislature and signed off on by Governor Charlie Christ. In some instances, the fees have more than doubled, with all of the increased revenue being remitted back to the State’s general revenue fund.

“Vehicle owners are going to see significant fee increases when they come in to renew their tags after September 1. Individuals can renew up to 90 days prior to their birthday, and I would encourage anyone in that window to go ahead and renew now to avoid the additional fees,” said Walton County Tax Collector Rhonda Skipper. “There is also the option of a 2-year renewal for those who want to lock-in the current rate for next year too.”

Some of the most significant fee increases will be with title work and initial vehicle registration fees. An original certificate of title currently costs \$24.00, but as of September 1, will cost \$70.00- a 192% increase. The initial vehicle registration fee which currently costs \$100.00 will cost \$225.00, an increase of 125%.

“Families who have a vehicle that is sitting idle, but they are considering putting on the road for a teen that will soon be driving needs to consider going ahead and getting the vehicle tagged now. Otherwise, they’ll be paying approximately \$200 more come September 1,” said Skipper.

The fee increases are service fee transactions, not tax increases, however all of the increased fees will be remitted back to the State.

“Traditionally, service fees are used to help cover the cost of delivering a service to the public. However, in the case of these fee increases, none of the money will stay at the local level to help pay for the service. All of the funds will be remitted back to the State’s general revenue fund,” said Skipper.

“The goal of my office is to simply get the word out to the public about the increased fees and allow those who are within the 90-day renewal period prior to September 1 to have the chance to renew at the current rates and avoid paying the increase this year,” said Skipper.

**-continue-**

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**Florida Residents**  
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Page 2  
June 8, 2009  
DHSMV Fee Increase

“Implementing a fee increase is never something we want to do and it is especially difficult to have to do this at a time when so many people are already struggling financially,” said Skipper.

Below is a breakdown of the current fees for an initial registration of a vehicle compared to the same transaction with new fees taking effect September 1.

Florida Title Transfer		
	Current Fees	After State Fee Increase
Title Fee	\$ 29.25	\$ 75.25
*Initial Registration Fee	\$100.00	\$225.00
Plate Fee	\$ 12.00	\$ 28.00
Decal	\$ 45.60	\$ 57.60
Lien Fee	\$ 2.00	\$ 2.00
Total Fees	\$188.85	\$387.85

Original (Out of State) Title		
	Current Fees	After State Fee Increase
Title Fee	\$ 33.25	\$ 79.25
*Initial Registration Fee	\$100.00	\$225.00
Plate Fee	\$ 12.00	\$ 28.00
Decal	\$ 45.60	\$ 57.60
Lien Fee	\$ 2.00	\$ 2.00
Total Fees	\$192.85	\$391.85

License Plate Renewals		
	Current Fees	After State Fee Increase
Automobile/Private Use		
Less than 2500 lbs	\$ 27.60	\$ 33.10
2500 – 3500 lbs	\$35.60	\$44.10
More than 3500 lbs	\$ 45.60	\$57.60
Trucks less than 2000 lbs	\$ 27.60	\$33.10
Trucks 2000 – 3000 lbs	\$35.60	\$44.10
Trucks more than 3000 lbs	\$45.60	\$57.60

A complete list of the fee increases is available at [www.waltontaxcollector.com](http://www.waltontaxcollector.com).

For additional information, please contact the Walton County Tax Collector’s Office at 850.892.8121.

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