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# County Motor Vehicle Privilege Tax (Wheel Tax)

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Dear Reader:

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We hope this information will be useful to you; reference to it will assist you with many of the questions that will arise in your tenure with county government. However, the *Tennessee Code Annotated* and other relevant laws or regulations should always be consulted before any action is taken based upon the contents of this document.

Please feel free to contact us if you have questions or comments regarding this information or any other CTAS website material.

Sincerely,

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# County Motor Vehicle Privilege Tax (Wheel Tax)

Reference Number: CTAS-1634

*Authority.* T.C.A. § 5-8-102.

*Description.* Counties may levy a privilege tax on motor vehicles, commonly called a wheel tax. The tax may be levied by one of the following methods: (1) by passage of a resolution by a two-thirds vote of the county legislative body at two consecutive regular county legislative body meetings; (2) by passage of a resolution by the county legislative body by a regular majority with approval by referendum provided for in the resolution; and (3) by private act. Notwithstanding a population classification exception, the two-thirds majority resolution method is subject to a referendum if a petition signed by a number of registered voters equal to 10 percent of the number of voters in the last gubernatorial election is filed with the county election commission within 30 days of passage. T.C.A. § 5-8-102(c).

*Distribution.* Distribution of these tax revenues may be for any county purpose specified in the private act or resolution levying the tax.

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**Source URL:** <https://www.ctas.tennessee.edu/eli/county-motor-vehicle-privilege-tax-wheel-tax>