



Visit Muskegon
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610 W. Western Avenue • Muskegon, MI 49440
Phone: 231-724-3100

Muskegon County Accommodation Tax Short-Term Rental Frequently Asked Questions

What's changing in 2025?

- The County has transitioned to a new online system called **Granicus**. Granicus is live beginning December 22, 2025.

How do I sign up for Granicus?

Property owners and managers may now register their short-term rental property.

GETTING STARTED (FIRST-TIME USERS)

Register Faster: Have This Information Ready

- Property address and/or parcel number
 - Number of bedrooms in the property
 - Advised occupancy (how many guests your property can accommodate)
 - Number of on-site parking spots
 - Property manager contact information (if applicable)
 - Emergency contact information for the property
 - Payment information (ACH or debit/credit card)
1. Visit the Visit Muskegon short-term rental resource page:
<https://www.visitmuskegon.org/partner-resources/short-term-rentals/>
 2. Click on the blue "Register Here" button. You will be taken to the Granicus homepage.
 3. Click on the orange "Create An Account" button.
 4. Follow the prompts to register your properties.
 5. After you have registered your property/properties, click on the Dashboard button located at the top of the Granicus screen. Your registered properties should be listed.
 6. Click on the blue "Pay Taxes" button to file and pay your accommodation taxes.

When do I file and pay my accommodation taxes in Granicus?

- **Online filing and payment through Granicus** will begin with December 2025 accommodation tax filings, which are **due January 15, 2026**.
- **By January 30, 2026:** Accommodation taxes for periods prior to November 30, 2025 must be filed manually to avoid penalties and interest. Any past-due taxes paid online **will** include applicable fees and penalties.
- **After January 30, 2026:** Penalties and interest will resume.

What are the penalties for late payments after Granicus is live?

- 5% penalty per month (up to 25% max)
- 1% monthly interest



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What is the Muskegon County Accommodation Tax?

The accommodation tax was adopted in 1981 and applies to short-term stays (30 nights or fewer). For more details, see County Ordinance No. 2013-406 (formerly Ordinance 10).

Who must pay this tax?

All lodging types, including vacation rentals, STRs, B&Bs, hotels, motels, and resorts.

Do I need to collect and remit this tax?

Yes. If you own and rent a lodging for 30 days or fewer, you must collect and remit the 5% tax to Muskegon County.

Do I need to file accommodation taxes monthly or quarterly, and when are they due?

All short-term rental operators are required to file an accommodation tax return **monthly or quarterly, even if no reservations were made during the reporting period.**

Returns and payments are due by the 15th of the month following the reporting period.

What is the difference between monthly and quarterly accommodation tax filers?

Year-round properties (those providing lodging for 12 months) file and pay accommodation taxes **monthly**. These properties may file and pay **December 2025 accommodation taxes online through Granicus**, which are **due January 15, 2026**.

Seasonal properties (those providing lodging for less than 12 months) file accommodation taxes **quarterly** using a paper filing form available from Visit Muskegon. Seasonal property owners may **opt into monthly online filing through Granicus** if they prefer.

If you are unsure whether your property is considered year-round or seasonal, or if you would like to opt into monthly online filing, please contact Visit Muskegon for assistance.

How is the tax calculated?

The tax is 5% of your total rental revenue, including any mandatory fees. If filing online, Granicus will calculate the tax based on your reported revenue. If filing manually you will need to calculate your own tax amount.

Is the tax Airbnb lists different from this one?

Yes. Airbnb collects a statewide 6% use tax. Muskegon County also requires a 5% accommodation tax for stays of 30 nights or fewer.



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Will Airbnb or VRBO pay the tax for me?

Some platforms allow tax collection at checkout, but you are generally still responsible for filing and remitting to the County. You will have to check with your booking provider for more details.

Where does the tax go?

Tax funds support tourism marketing and local business promotion.

Do I have to be listed on Visit Muskegon's website?

No. But to be listed, your account must be current. All lodging operators must remit tax, regardless of listing status.

Need help?

Visit: www.visitmuskegon.org/partner-resources/short-term-rentals

Contact Amber Mae Petersen:

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