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League City vacation rental checklist

Galveston County, Texas | Rules checked November 8, 2026

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League City requires a short-term rental permit, renewed every year by December 1 for $300, with an inspection by December 31. Stays owe 6% state plus 7% city hotel tax; Airbnb collects the city tax.

> These rules come from a 2023 news report; we couldn't read the ordinance or the city's application. The city uses Rentalscape to find unpermitted rentals. Confirm the current fee and inspection checklist with the city before you list.

Licensing steps

STATE OF TEXAS

- [ ] **Know who pays the hotel tax**
  Airbnb collects and pays the 6% state hotel tax on its bookings. If guests pay you directly or through a site that doesn't collect, register with the Comptroller and file the state tax yourself.
  Texas hotel occupancy tax: https://comptroller.texas.gov/taxes/hotel/
- [ ] **Register for local hotel tax**
  Your city (and in some places your county) charges its own hotel tax, filed with that city or county, not the state. Airbnb pays it only in the places on its list; everywhere else you register and file it yourself, even for Airbnb bookings.
- [ ] **Check your city's rules**
  Many Texas cities require a short-term rental permit or registration, and some require an inspection, a local contact, or posted rules. Outside city limits there's usually no permit, but deed restrictions and HOA rules often limit rentals. Pick your area for the local rules.

GALVESTON COUNTY, TEXAS

- [ ] **Then pick your city**
  Texas counties can't zone, so rental permits and the local hotel tax are set by each city. Pick your city, or the unincorporated page if you're outside city limits.
- [ ] **Expect a business personal property account**
  Since May 2024 the Galveston County Appraisal District treats short-term rentals as businesses and values their furnishings and fixtures for property tax. If you disagree with the value, protest by the deadline on your notice.

CITY OF LEAGUE CITY, TEXAS

- [ ] **Get the permit and pass the inspection**
  Apply to the city for a short-term rental permit before you advertise. Renew it by December 1 each year ($300) and complete the required inspection by December 31.
- [ ] **Hotel taxes on each stay**
  Stays of 29 nights or less owe the 6% state hotel tax, which Airbnb collects on its bookings. If guests pay you directly, file it with the Texas Comptroller. League City's hotel tax is 7%; Airbnb collects it. For direct bookings, register with the city, file quarterly, and keep tax records for three years.

Fees

$300 a year

Annual renewal	**$300**

Official sources

Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts: Hotel Occupancy Tax FAQs: Airbnb. https://comptroller.texas.gov/taxes/hotel/airbnb-faq.php

Airbnb: Occupancy tax collection and remittance by Airbnb in Texas. https://www.airbnb.com/help/article/2331

Texas Legislature: County zoning authority (Local Government Code ch. 231). https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/LG/htm/LG.231.htm

Community Impact: As short-term rentals bloom, Galveston County, Bay Area cities scramble to regulate them (August 1, 2024). https://communityimpact.com/houston/pearland-friendswood/real-estate/2024/08/01/as-short-term-rentals-bloom-galveston-county-bay-area-cities-scramble-to-

Community Impact: League City short-term rentals now required to pay new tax, higher fees (October 16, 2023). https://communityimpact.com/houston/bay-area/government/2023/10/16/league-city-short-term-rentals-now-required-to-pay-new-tax-higher-fees