

Cherokee County Voluntary Opt Out Policy

Residential Solid Waste Collection and Disposal Fee FY 2026–2027 Tax Year Only

1 Purpose

This policy establishes a simple, temporary process through which an eligible residential property taxpayer may choose not to participate in Cherokee County residential curbside solid waste collection for the FY 2026–2027 tax year and may have the associated \$222 Solid Waste Collection and Disposal Fee removed from the applicable property tax bill.

The voluntary opt-out is available for the FY 2026–2027 tax year only. Cherokee County Council expects to review the residential collection program in January 2027 and determine the future structure of the service. This policy does not guarantee that an opt-out will be available in a later tax year.

2 Voluntary Choice

An eligible residential property taxpayer may either continue participating in County residential curbside collection and remain responsible for the fee, or voluntarily opt out and discontinue County curbside collection at the property.

Continue County Collection	Voluntarily Opt Out
County curbside collection continues. The property retains its County-issued roll cart, and the \$222 fee remains on the property tax bill.	County curbside collection ends. All County-issued roll carts must be surrendered, and the \$222 fee is removed from the property tax bill.

3 No Reason Review or Appeal

A taxpayer may opt out for any reason. The taxpayer is not required to establish a hardship, vacancy, uninhabitable condition, private collection arrangement, non-use of the service, or any other justification. No supporting photographs, utility records, governmental findings, or similar evidence are required.

The County will not conduct a substantive review of the taxpayer's reason, and there is no approval, denial, waiver, or appeal determination. County staff will perform only the administrative steps necessary to confirm that the form is complete, timely, associated with the correct property, and submitted by the taxpayer or an authorized representative.

4 Submission Requirements

To opt out, the property taxpayer must:

- Wait until property tax bills for the FY 2026–2027 tax year have been issued;
- Complete the Cherokee County Voluntary Opt-Out Form;
- Submit the completed form in person to the Cherokee County Auditor's Office before the due date shown on the applicable property tax bill in person; and
- Surrender all County-issued roll carts assigned to the property. This is to be done by placing cart at roadway on scheduled pick up day on the week that property owner completes the opt-out form. If the opt-out form is completed after the property owner's scheduled pick up day for the week, this procedure is to apply for the subsequent week.
- Property owner cannot pay property tax and subsequently request a refund for the service. This fee removal must be completed prior to payment of property tax.

5 Effect of Opting Out

After a timely and complete opt-out is processed:

- The full \$222 Solid Waste Collection and Disposal Fee will be removed from the applicable FY 2026–2027 property tax bill;
- County residential curbside collection will be discontinued at the property;
- The property will no longer be eligible for weekly County curbside collection during the applicable service period;
- All County-issued roll carts must be surrendered; and
- The property owner or occupant will be responsible for arranging and paying for another lawful method of household garbage collection or disposal.

A property may not retain County curbside collection while having the fee removed. Removal of the fee and discontinuation of curbside service are inseparable under this temporary process.

6 Other County Disposal and Recycling Services

Approximately half of the Solid Waste Collection and Disposal Fee supports County solid waste operations beyond curbside collection. These operations include the Construction and Demolition Landfill, required monitoring and maintenance of the closed Municipal Solid Waste landfill, limb and brush disposal, the Municipal Solid Waste convenience-center area at the landfill, transfer station operations, recyclable-goods disposal, and servicing 17 recycling convenience-center locations throughout Cherokee County.

For the FY 2026–2027 tax year, Cherokee County residents who voluntarily opt out of curbside collection may continue using available County disposal and recycling services at no general charge for ordinary residential quantities of accepted materials. Facility rules, hours, residency requirements, material restrictions, and any item-specific charges—including applicable fees for electronics or tires—remain in effect.

7 Administration

The Auditor's Office will receive the Voluntary Opt-Out Form and process removal of the fee from the applicable property tax bill. The Auditor's Office will provide opt-out information to Public Works so collection records and routes can be updated and County-issued roll carts can be retrieved or returned.

The taxpayer is responsible for providing complete and accurate property information. The County may correct clerical or administrative errors necessary to apply the taxpayer's election to the proper tax account and service location.

8 Effective Period

This policy applies only to the FY 2026–2027 tax year and remains in effect for the administration of that year's voluntary opt-out process. Any collection, fee, or opt-out provisions for later tax years will be determined by Cherokee County Council following its review of the residential collection program.

9 Contact Information

Voluntary Opt-Out Form and property tax bill questions:

Cherokee County Auditor's Office

Collection service and County-issued roll cart questions:

Cherokee County Public Works Department • 864-487-2536