



## Operating a Business in North Little Rock

The City of North Little Rock is glad you decided to be a partner in the development of this wonderful community. This summary should answer a majority of the questions you may have about processes, taxes, and regulations. Many of the forms and permits are available online at [www.northlittlerock.ar.gov](http://www.northlittlerock.ar.gov). If you have any other questions, please call (501) 975-8617 or (501) 975-8888.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Zoning:** Contact the North Little Rock Community Planning Department for zoning regulations that apply to the location for your proposed business. You must get the Zoning Certificate before applying for the Business Privilege License at the City Clerk's office.

North Little Rock Community Planning Department  
120 Main Street  
North Little Rock, AR 72114  
(501) 975-8835

**General Business Privilege License (General Business, Beer & Liquor):** The City of North Little Rock requires a privilege license (aka business license) to conduct business within the city limits. If your business is operated out of your home you are still required to get this license. Privilege License renewals are also made at the City Clerk's Office. Beer and Liquor licenses (and renewals) are required to sell alcohol in North Little Rock. The Beer and Liquor forms **must** be notarized and a copy provided of the current state license issued by the Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC). Apply for this privilege license in person at the:

City Clerk's Office  
City Hall  
300 Main Street  
North Little Rock, AR 72114  
(501) 975-8617

**Restaurant and Hotel Privilege Licenses:** The City of North Little Rock requires a privilege license (aka business license) to conduct business within the city limits. Restaurants cannot be operated out of your home. Mobile concessionaires and special events vendors are subject to approval by the City Council and required to get a privilege license. Privilege License renewals are also made at the City Clerk's Office. You must apply for this permit in person at the:

City Clerk's Office  
City Hall  
300 Main Street  
North Little Rock, AR 72114  
(501) 975-8617

To open a food service establishment in Arkansas, the owner has to go through a Plan Review (501) 661-2623) with the Arkansas Department of Health most of the time. The only exception is when an establishment hasn't been closed before another establishment is opened at same location. (When this happens, the owner will only have to call the Environmental Health Specialist to change ownership, name, etc.) The Plan Review guidelines and the Rules & Regulations Pertaining to Retail Food Establishments book are available at any local health unit.

After the Plan Review dept. approves your plans, they send a letter to the local health unit. The food service establishment owner calls the local health department (501) 791-8551 to make an appointment to open the establishment. The Environmental Health Specialist conducts a walk-through inspection to confirm design specifications and compliance with the regulations. You will receive your bill for your permit in the mail within a few months. Presently, the cost is \$35.00. This fee does not include business licenses, which can be obtained from the North Little Rock's City Clerk office. A copy of the approved to open Health inspection papers are required to be submitted In person to the City Clerk's office before applying for your Privilege license.

**General Sales & Use Tax Collection:** The Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration is responsible for the collection of all sales and use taxes. Sales and Use Tax phone number is (501) 682-7104. If you have vending machines or video game machines, you must also speak with the miscellaneous tax section about tax decals for your machines.

**State Sales Tax Number:** To obtain your Arkansas Sales Tax Number, contact the State of Arkansas at (501) 682-7104 or visit their office at 7th and Wolfe streets, Room 211.

Department of Finance and Administration  
1509 West 7<sup>th</sup> Street  
Little Rock, AR 72201  
(501) 682-7104

**Property Taxes:** Personal property and businessperson's property taxes are handled by the Pulaski County Assessor and/or Collector. They are located at 201 S. Broadway, Suite 310 and can be reached by phone at (501) 340-6170 and (501) 340-8040.

**Remodeling Permit:** Before a business opens, a remodeling permit is usually required. Contact the North Little Rock Community Planning Department for regulations that apply to the location for your proposed business. All changes to the exterior buildings in the downtown area between Poplar, 9th Street, South Broadway and North Broadway must be approved by the North Little Rock Historic District Commission. This includes signage, awnings, and any kind of construction.

North Little Rock Community Planning Department  
120 Main Street  
North Little Rock, AR 72114  
(501) 975-8835

North Little Rock Historic District Commission  
506 Main Street  
North Little Rock, AR 72114  
(501) 371-0755

**Fire Code:** The Fire Department must inspect all new businesses for compliance to Fire Code.

Contact the North Little Rock Fire Department for specific information. The city has a class 2 fire insurance rating. This is the lowest rating in the state and assists the business owner with lower insurance premiums. The North Little Rock Fire Department does have to do an inspection of the fire suppression system for restaurants and fire extinguishers/systems for daycares, convenience stores, etc.

North Little Rock Fire Department  
8th & Maple  
North Little Rock, AR 72114  
(501) 340-5377

**Signage:** Businesses must have prior approval for signage and receive a sign permit from the North Little Rock Community Planning Department.

North Little Rock Community Planning Department  
120 Main Street  
North Little Rock, AR 72114  
(501) 975-8835

**Federal Tax Identification Number:** To obtain your Federal Tax ID Number, contact the Internal Revenue Service's local office at 700 W. Capitol Avenue in the Federal Building or call 1-800-829-1040.

Internal Revenue Service  
700 West Capitol Avenue  
Suite 1040  
Little Rock, AR 72201  
800-829-1040

**Corporations and Limited Partnerships:** Corporations and Limited partnerships must be registered with the Arkansas Secretary of State. Secretary of State's staff will assist you in registering if you visit them at State Capitol, room 256 or call (501) 682-1010 for more information.

Secretary of State's Office  
State Capitol, room 256  
Little Rock, AR 72201  
(501) 682-1010

**Individuals Operating Under Trade Name or Registering DBAs (Doing Business As):** If you operate your business under a name other than the owner's name it must be registered with the Pulaski County Clerk's Office (401 W. Markham Street).

Pulaski County Clerk  
401 W. Markham Street  
Little Rock, AR 72201  
(501) 340-8500

**State Unemployment Insurance:** Any business hiring one or more employees on a full or part-time basis must notify:

Employment Security Department  
125 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Little Rock, AR 72201  
(501) 682-3200

**State Quarterly Withholding Report:** Any business hiring employees on a full or part-time basis must notify:

State of Arkansas Withholding Office  
P.O. Box 9941  
Little Rock, AR 72203  
(501) 682-7290

**State Wages, Rates, and Information:** Information about wages in Arkansas, rates and other information can be obtained from the Department of Labor.

Department of Labor  
10421 West Markham Street  
Little Rock, AR 72205  
(501) 682-4500

**SCORE:** The Service Corporation of Retired Executives under the auspices of the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Service Corporation of Retired Executives  
2120 Riverfront Drive, Suite 250  
Little Rock, AR 72202  
(501) 324-7379, Ext.: 302

**Businesses Operating in Certain Fields:** Businesses operating in certain fields that require licensing must register with the appropriate agency and provide a copy of license with business license application. Examples of agencies that license specialized business are:

Health Department  
2800 Willow Street  
North Little Rock, AR 72115  
(501) 791-8551

Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control  
1515 West 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 503  
Little Rock, AR 72201  
(501) 682-1105

North Little Rock Fire Department  
Fire Marshall  
8th & Maple  
North Little Rock, AR 72114  
(501) 340-5377

**Utilities:** Questions about utilities should be directed to one of the following departments:

Electricity  
Utilities Accounting  
120 Main Street  
North Little Rock, 72114  
(501) 975-8888

Water  
Central Arkansas Water

221 East Capitol  
Little Rock, 72202  
(501) 372-5161  
Waste Water

North Little Rock Waste Water  
7400 Baucum Pike  
North Little Rock, 72117  
(501) 945-7186

**Sanitation Services:**

If you have questions regarding guidelines for City Sanitation Collection services or availability of privately owned collection services, contact:

North Little Rock Sanitation  
500 W. 13th  
North Little Rock, AR 72114  
(501) 371-8345  
[nlsanitation@northlittlerock.ar.gov](mailto:nlsanitation@northlittlerock.ar.gov)

## City Taxes

**A & P Tax permits:** All foodservice businesses (hotels, restaurants, convenience stores, movie theatres, food vendors, mobile concessionaires, etc.) are required to have an Advertising & Promotion (A & P) tax permit (*there is no charge for this permit*) to operate in North Little Rock. The applicant's driver's license will be copied to attach to the application. You must apply for this permit in person. Permits are issued through the City Clerk's Office, City Hall, 300 Main Street, North Little Rock, AR 72114. The permit does not have to be renewed each year – it expires only when the business closes.

All foodservice businesses are required to collect a three percent (3%) A & P tax on prepared food and beverages for on or off-premises consumption. Food and beverage vendors setting up for special events such as concerts and sports tournaments are required to have an A & P Tax Permit along with their privilege license. The A & P permit must be posted on site in the vending trailer. Food and beverage vendors are required to submit the 3% (three percent) restaurant tax on gross receipts following the event. Vendors may obtain an A & P Tax Permit, tax reporting form and privilege license by calling the City Clerk's Office at 501-975-8617. Nonprofit vendors must also receive a privilege license and A & P Tax permit. Non-profit food and beverage vendors will be exempt from collecting and remitting the A & P tax. However, nonprofit food and beverage vendors will need to provide a copy of the non-profit status letter as assigned by the IRS to the City Clerk's Office upon applying for the A & P Tax Permit.

Businesses are provided a two percent (2%) discount on the early payment of the A & P tax collection if the City Clerk receives the money by the 20th of the month. Full remittance of collected taxes is due in the City Clerk's office by the end of the month. (Example: Taxes are collected in January; the taxes remitted by Feb. 20 receive the 2% discount or are remitted in full by the last day of the month.) Taxes remitted later than the end of the month are charged a late penalty.

**“Prepared Food” Definition:** The City of North Little Rock's Ordinance 7992 details the specific definition of “prepared food” as directed by the State of Arkansas (Emergency Rule 2007-3). A copy of the definition is available from the City Clerk's office 501-975-8617.

**A & P Lodging Tax:** All lodging businesses (hotels, motels, bed n' breakfasts, inns, etc.) are required to have an Advertising & Promotion (A & P) tax permit (there is no charge for this permit) to operate in North Little Rock. You must apply for this permit in person. The applicant's driver's license will be copied to attach to the application. Permits are issued through the City Clerk's Office, City Hall, 300 Main Street, North Little Rock, AR 72114. The permit does not have to be renewed each year – it expires only when the business closes. Lodging properties with 40 or more rooms are required to collect and remit a three percent (3%) A & P tax. Lodging properties with less than 40 rooms are required to collect and remit a one percent (1%) A & P tax.

Remittance forms to file your hotel/motel, restaurant or mixed drink taxes can be obtained from the City Clerk's Office. If you have any questions about the A & P taxes or permit, call:

City Clerk's Office  
City Hall  
300 Main Street  
North Little Rock, AR 72114  
501) 975-8617

**Mixed Drink Tax:** All businesses selling mixed alcohol beverages are required to collect Mixed drink tax. Section 3. Ordinance No. 3743: A supplemental tax upon the gross receipts of the sale of alcoholic beverages pursuant to Act 132 of 1969 is hereby levied. Full remittance of collected taxes is due in the City Clerk's office by the first of the month, reported on a Mixed Drink and/or Private Club Monthly Declaration of Sales Report Form.

Hotels and Restaurants - 10%,  
Private Clubs - 5%

**Liquor Sales Permits:** All businesses (hotels, restaurants, liquor stores, bars, and private clubs must obtain a City Beer/Liquor/Mixed Drink license from the City Clerk's Office to be able to sell alcohol in the City. You are first required to get an Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) license from the State before you may apply for your City license. A copy of the ABC license must be filed with us before you are issued a City license. Statements are mailed out the end of each June and will be due by July 31 of that year. Following is a fee schedule:

**Beer and/or Wine Permits:** Restaurants, Liquor Store and Private Clubs are based on sales from the previous year July 1 through June 30.

\$15.00 for the first \$1,000.00 of sales.  
\$5.00 for each additional \$1,000.00 of sales.

**Restaurant (Mixed Drink) Permit:**  
99 seats or less (Minimum) \$500.00  
100 seats or more (Maximum) \$1000.00

**Private Clubs (Mixed Drink) and/or Distributing Company Permit:** \$250.00

**Liquor Stores (Liquor Sales) Permit:** \$200.00  
NOTE: Beer and Liquor business licenses (and renewals) are required to sell alcohol in North Little Rock. (See General Business Privilege License section on page 1.)

The Annual renewals or New application forms for all Beer and Liquor permits must to be notarized and you must provide a copy of your current State License issued by the Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC). New businesses will be assessed a fee based on previous sales at the location. New construction businesses will be charged \$15.00.

Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control  
 1515 West 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 503  
 Little Rock, AR 72201  
 (501) 682-1105

Current Tax Rates for North Little Rock updated July 2013

NORTH LITTLE ROCK TAXES FOR BUSINESS				
	<u>SALES TAX</u>	<u>HOTEL</u>	<u>RESTAURANT</u>	<u>MIXED DRINKS</u>
STATE	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5
COUNTY	1	1	1	1
CITY	1	1	1	1
STATE TOURISM		2		
CITY HOTEL		3		
CITY RESTAURANT			3	
STATE SUPPLEMENTAL				10
STATE ADDL SUPP				4
CITY SUPPLEMENTAL				10
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>8.50%</u>	<u>13.50%</u>	<u>11.50%</u>	<u>32.50%</u>
AS OF 7-2013				

**For more information not covered in this summary, contact:**

City Clerk's Office  
 City Hall  
 300 Main Street  
 North Little Rock, AR 72114  
 (501) 975-8617

General Information  
 City Services  
 120 Main Street  
 North Little Rock, AR 72114  
 (501) 975-8888

**Or visit our website: [www.NLR.ar.gov](http://www.NLR.ar.gov)**