

NATIONWIDE BUSINESS GUIDE

DO YOU ACTUALLY WANT AN 800 NUMBER?

2026
PREMIUM
EDITION

PREMIUM 2026 EDITION

LOCAL • TOLL-FREE • COST • CONTROL

LOCAL
BUILDS TRUST

TEXT
WINS JOBS

VOICE
REACHES YOU

PORTABLE
KEEP CONTROL



VETERAN'S STRATEGIC SOLUTIONS
LLC

VSG
BUSINESS GUIDES

VETERAN'S STRATEGIC SOLUTIONS LLC
ANSWER SMART. KEEP THE CUSTOMER.

The sheet this came from

Popular Companies That Offer 1-800 Numbers

GET A PROFESSIONAL BUSINESS NUMBER TODAY!

LOOK PROFESSIONAL. BUILD TRUST. GROW YOUR BUSINESS!

A toll-free number builds **credibility** and keeps your personal number **private!**

800.com
Easy setup, toll-free and vanity numbers, SMS, call forwarding, voicemail, analytics.

RingCentral
Full business phone system with toll-free numbers.

Grasshopper
Designed for small businesses and entrepreneurs.

nextiva
Business phone, VoIP, texting, and customer communication tools.

Ooma Office
Affordable option for small businesses.

eVoice
Virtual business phone numbers and toll-free service.

Talkroute
Business calling and texting without needing new hardware.

Phone.com
Business phone system with toll-free numbers and extensions.

ONE NUMBER. MANY BENEFITS.

- ✓ Call Forwarding
- ✓ Voicemail
- ✓ Business Texting
- ✓ Auto-Attendant
- ✓ Call Recording
- ✓ And More!

Easy Setup. Professional Image. Better Business.

Reference graphic by @alwayslovekristina. All eight companies are real and all of them do offer toll-free numbers. What follows is what the sheet does not say.

Start with the question the sheet skips

Do you want a toll-free number at all?

Toll-free existed because long distance cost money. The 800 number meant the business paid instead of the customer, and that was a real favour in 1985. **Nobody pays for long distance now.** Every mobile plan in the country has unlimited minutes.

So the number no longer buys you goodwill. What it buys is a signal — and the signal is not always the one you want.

A 1-800 number says: national company, call centre, somebody else will answer.

A local number says: I am here, I am ten minutes away, and you will get me.

For a local service business, the local number wins. Somebody in Junction City looking for a notary, a hauler or a pressure washer wants the person down the road, not a call centre. A 785 number tells them that before they dial.

Toll-free earns its place when you sell across state lines, run a product or information business, take orders by phone from strangers, or want a vanity number people remember from a truck or a billboard.



What the graphic does not tell you about the price

Most of the companies on that sheet are not toll-free number services. They are full business phone systems, and the toll-free number is an add-on or a higher tier.

That distinction is the whole cost difference.

Provider	What it really is	Realistic cost
800.com	Actually a toll-free specialist	\$4.99/month per number plus a one-time \$30 setup. Plans bundle minutes — 1,000, 5,000, or unlimited. Overage around \$0.06/min. No call recording, no auto-attendant
Grasshopper	Virtual phone for solo operators	From about \$14–\$18/month; the entry plan includes ONE number, local or toll-free, and one extension. Unlimited business texting. No routing, no integrations
Talkroute	Virtual phone system, no hardware	From about \$19/month
Ooma Office	Small business VoIP	Low-cost tier, no contract
Phone.com · eVoice	Virtual numbers with extensions	Entry tiers in the same range
RingCentral	Full unified communications	About \$20–\$30 per user per month
Nextiva	Full platform, CRM-oriented	Core is around \$30/user. Toll-free is not included at that tier — it needs the Engage plan around \$40/user, or a paid add-on

Read that last row twice. It is the pattern across the whole category: the toll-free number is the thing being advertised and the thing you pay extra for.

The part that surprises people

With a toll-free number, YOU pay for the incoming minutes. That is the definition of toll-free — the call is free to the caller because it is billed to you.



Every plan bundles a block of minutes and charges for overage. Around six cents a minute at 800.com, around two and a half at Nextiva. That is small until you put the number on a truck and start getting wrong numbers, sales calls and robodialers — all of which you are paying to receive.

A local number has no such bill.

WHAT “TOLL-FREE” MEANS



The free option that is not on the sheet

Google Voice. A second number, free, on the phone you already carry.

You get a real number, voicemail transcribed to email, texting, and the ability to send calls straight to voicemail during working hours. For a one-person service business that is most of what any of the paid systems do.

What it will not do: multiple extensions, an auto-attendant, or a toll-free number. If you need those, pay. If you do not, do not.

Note it is a local number, not toll-free — which, for a local business, is the right answer anyway.

What a one-person service business actually needs

Four things, in this order.



A number that is not your personal cell. Once your own mobile is printed on a truck or a card, it is on it forever. Separate it while it is still easy.

Voicemail that reaches you as text or email. You cannot answer while you are working. Missing the call is survivable; never hearing about it is not.

Texting on the same number. Under-forty customers will text and not call. A number that cannot receive a text loses those jobs silently.

A greeting that sets the expectation. “You have reached [business]. Leave your name, number and the job and I will call you back today.” That single sentence converts better than any hold music.

What you do not need yet: an auto-attendant, extensions, call recording, or an answering service. Those solve problems you get when the phone rings more than you can handle. **Test that you have that problem before you pay to fix it.**

What I would actually do

Start free and count for sixty days. A second number with transcribed voicemail and texting costs nothing. Log every missed call and every callback that turned into work.



If it turns out to be three calls a week, you do not have a phone problem. An answering service would be solving something that is not happening.

If it turns out to be fifteen a week and you are losing them, then pay — and at that point pick the plan for what you actually missed, not for the toll-free number.

Get toll-free only if you are selling beyond the region, or if you find a vanity number worth having on a vehicle.

One thing worth doing regardless: whatever number you settle on, make sure it is one you can take with you. Numbers are portable between providers, including toll-free ones, but it is a process. Never build a brand around a number tied to a service you cannot leave.

Honest assessment

The graphic is accurate and answers the wrong question.

It lists eight companies that sell toll-free numbers. It never asks whether a toll-free number is the right thing for the reader to buy — and for most small local businesses, it is not.

The credibility argument is real but backwards. A professional number does build trust. For a local trade, the professional number is a local one that gets answered, not an 800 number that goes to voicemail.

And the private-number argument is the strongest thing on that sheet. Keeping your personal mobile off your business cards is genuinely worth doing. You just do not need to spend anything to do it.

Provider pricing verified 16 August 2026 against published pricing pages and current comparisons. Plans and tiers change often — confirm on the provider's own site before buying.

© 2026 Veteran's Strategic Solutions LLC. All rights reserved. General information, not professional advice.