

2026's Best Cities For College Basketball Fans

College basketball fans across the U.S. are gearing up for the most exciting time of year – March Madness. College basketball is a big deal in the U.S., and depending on where you live, it may have even more appeal than the professional level. Each city has its own unique basketball history and charm. Graduates also tend to favor their alma mater, while others may have an understandable loyalty to their hometown.

To find 2026's top spots for NCAA hoops, WalletHub crunched the numbers on more than 290 U.S. cities using nine key metrics. They range from the number of teams per city and the winning percentage of each to stadium capacity and social-media engagement.

March Madness is one of the most exciting times of the year for sports fans, with 67 games packed into 21 days. You can enjoy the action from anywhere with a TV or an internet connection, but a good environment enhances the experience. The best cities for college basketball have high-performing teams, affordable and accessible games, and strong fan engagement.

Chip Lupo, Wallethub Analyst

Best Cities For College Basketball

City	Score
1. Los Angeles, CA	59.35
2. Durham, NC	54.91
3. Lexington, KY	52.99
4. Philadelphia, PA	52.82
5. Lawrence, KS	50.98
6. East Lansing, MI	50.12
7. Storrs, CT	48.73
8. Chapel Hill, NC	48.08
9. New York, NY	46.39
10. Boston, MA	45.61
11. Washington, DC	45.5
12. Loretto, PA	45.05
13. Fayette, MS	45.04
14. Grambling, LA	42.00
15. West Point, NY	41.97
16. College Park, MD	41.78
17. Fayetteville, AR	40.89
18. Lewiston, NY	40.41
19. Iowa City, IA	39.36
20. Itta Bena, MS	38.92
21. West Lafayette, IN	38.91
22. Kingston, RI	37.89
23. Hamilton, NY	37.12
24. Princeton, NJ	36.83
25. Bloomington, IN	36.59

Illinois Cities

60. Carbondale, IL	30.31
70. Peoria, IL	29.53
112. Edwardsville, IL	27.29
114. Champaign, IL	27.12
144. Normal, IL	25.84
185. Macomb, IL	24.49
208. Charleston, IL	23.63
242. DeKalb, IL	22.1
246. Evanston, IL	21.92

Worst Cities For College Basketball

273. Kalamazoo, MI	20.31
274. Vermillion, SD	20.29
275. Hampton, VA	20.27
276. Tampa, FL	20.25
277. Colorado Springs, CO	20.02
278. Conway, AR	20
279. Jersey City, NJ	19.82
280. Kansas City, MO	19.77
281. Las Cruces, NM	19.76
282. St. Paul, MN	19.68
283. Arlington, TX	19.25
284. Edinburg, TX	18.99
285. Boca Raton, FL	18.97
286. Fresno, CA	18.79
287. Minneapolis, MN	18.36

2025-26 Tri-County Girls Basketball Names All-Conference Teams

Conference Player of the Year
Brianna Harms (Sr.)
Roanoke-Benson/LW

Conference Defensive Player of the Year
Brianna Harms (Sr.)
Roanoke-Benson/LW

ALL-CONFERENCE TEAMS First Team

Mikayla Chambers* (Jr.) ..Dwight
Brianna Harms* (Sr.)RB/LW
Anna McGlasson* (Jr.) . Midland
Graysen Provance* (Jr.).... Seneca
Kaitlyn Davis (Jr.) Marquette
* Denotes Unanimous Selection

Second Team

Lili McClain (Sr.)..... St. Bede
Ryan Bean(Sr.)Dwight
Jordyn Pyles (Sr.)..... Midland
Savannah Bray (Sr.)..... St. Bede
Emma Franks (Sr.) Midland
Hunter Hopkins (Jr.)... Marquette

Honorable Mention

Ella Foster (Sr.) Midland
Tessa Krull (SR.)..... Seneca
Emma Mino (JR.)..... Seneca
Harper Schrock SR.Henry-Sen.
Jordyn Tomlinson (Jr.) RB/LW

288. Dover, DE	17.52
289. Athens, GA	16.08
290. Wichita, KS	15.06
291. Green Bay, WI	15
292. Daytona Beach, FL	14.16
293. Huntsville, AL	14.12
294. Austin, TX	13.22
295. Berkeley, CA	12.95
296. Sacramento, CA	10.78
297. West Haven, CT	9.29

Best vs. Worst

♦ The Saint Mary's Gaels have the highest current winning percentage among college basketball teams, which is 10.2 times higher than the winning percentage of the Mississippi Valley State Delta Devils, the team with the lowest.

♦ Montgomery, Alabama has the least expensive season tickets, which is 30 times less than a season of hoops in Spokane, Washington.

♦ Thanks to John Wooden and UCLA, Los Angeles is home to the country's most national championship banners, while Philadelphia has the most regular season titles.

Court News

(From Toluca Front Page)
tion 30, 12N, 8E, --NE, Notes S 1/2, 79.4A. Section 7, 12N, 8E, --NE, Notes Pt. 65.86A, Subj to Ease. Trust Deed.

Grantor: Jeffrey D. Hack. Grantee: Brandon D. Hack, Brittany A. Hack. Cottons 4th add. Block 1, Lot 1; Lot 2; Lot 3; Lot 4. Quit claim Deed.

Grantor: Amy Cornelius, Jon Cornelius. Grantee: Mary Cooley. Lake Wildwood Development Lot 3. Lot 4. Warranty Deed.

Grantor: Scott Taylor Helms, Brenda Porter Helms, Christopher Porter Helms. Grantee: Brenda Porter Helms Tr. Lake Wildwood Development Lot 245. Quit Claim Deed.

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March Events

Lacon Area Community Center

March 10-Tues.	3:45pm 6:00 pm	LACC Org. Meeting Youth Art Class
March 11-Wed.	11:00 am 6:00 pm	Lutheran Church Service Card Players (call for more info.)
March 16-Mon.	9:00 am	Luminous Unveiled Homeschool Co-op
March 17-Tues.		St. Patrick's Day
March 18-Wed.	11:00 am 1:00 pm 6:00 pm	Lutheran Church Service Sparland Baptist Bible Study Card Players (call for more info.)
March 21-Sat.	10:00 am	Creative Memories
March 23-Mon.	9:00 am	Luminous Unveiled Homeschool Co-op
March 25-Wed.	11:00 am 6:00 pm	Lutheran Church Service Card Players (call for more info.)
March 30-Mon.	9:00 am	Luminous Unveiled Homeschool Co-op

For more information about any of these programs, other activities and building rental use, please contact us: (309)246-4050 Laconcommunitycenter@gmail.com or find us on Facebook.

VOTE FOR WILLIAM G. MAUPIN

REPUBLICAN PRIMARY CANDIDATE

MARSHALL COUNTY BOARD - DISTRICT 1

The primary election is March 17, 2026. I respectfully ask for your consideration and vote.

During the past few years, there have been issues that came before the Marshall County Board. I attended several meetings on these issues.

The following Statements are my position on these topics in Marshall County.

1. The issues of illegal immigration. My position at that time was and still is: Marshall County should take a position of **NON-SANCTUARY** status. A non-sanctuary jurisdiction is a state or local government that actively cooperates with federal immigration authorities to identify, detain and deport undocumented immigrants. The Marshall County Board should make it clear that we are in full support of the current federal immigration laws and policies.

2. I respect immigrants that have followed the lawful immigration policies and swore their allegiance to the United States of America constitution and have acquired legal United States of America Citizenship.

3: I strongly support the Second Amendment right to bear arms as written in the constitution of the United States of America. I stated this at a Marshall County Board meeting when a presentation was made requesting the county board to repeal a previously passed resolution in support of the Second Amendment. The County Board took no official action on that request.

4. I support our current businesses providing employment opportunities. I also support the efforts to draw additional businesses to Marshall County.

5. Your county board is one of the first levels of local representation. County Board members can pass resolutions that represent the majority of their constituents. Those resolutions can be forwarded to our state representatives and the state general assembly in Springfield. This is what I support.

6. I always have and always will maintain a conservative view on the expenditures of our tax dollars.

7. In my opinion, once board members are elected and sworn into office, they represent their district and all of Marshall County. I will welcome your concerns, questions, and your participation to address the county board from District 1 - 2 - 3. We must work together for Marshall County.

For those of you that do not know me, I have, basically, lived in Marshall County all of my life. I farmed in Marshall Co. all of my adult life. Recently, I made the decision to "semi-retire". I will have adequate time to fulfill this position as a Marshall Co. Board Member. Previously, I was a City of Henry 3rd ward alderman, first elected in April 1987. I was involved in river front development pertaining to state grant application funding, which was awarded to the City of Henry. **My cell phone number is 309-238-9378.** Feel free to contact me if you have questions, comments, or want clarification on any of these points. I will be happy to talk with you.

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