

Best-Run and Worst-Run Cities (WalletHub, 2025)

Cleveland Ranks 133rd of 148 Cities in Quality of Governance

In 2025, WalletHub evaluated the quality of governance in US cities based on seven standard criteria. Cleveland ranked 133rd overall, ranking 118th in budget per capita and 132nd in the quality of city services. Cleveland ranked last among the six Ohio cities in the research, and ranked 14th of 18 Midwestern cities in the ranking.

Best-Run and Worst-Run Cities - OHIO (2025)

Overall Rank	City (n=148)	State	Total Budget per Capita Rank	Total Quality of City Services Rank	Quality of City Services Criteria					
					Financial Stability	Education	Health	Safety	Economy	Infrastruc & Pollution
86	Columbus	OH	91	79	74	106	110	39	105	88
88	Akron	OH	78	110	90	95	108	83	134	67
103	Cincinnati	OH	110	70	73	81	78	91	119	33
114	Dayton	OH	97	122	47	97	125	126	142	35
116	Toledo	OH	59	141	128	143	146	98	144	126
133	Cleveland	OH	118	132	104	135	114	136	121	84

Source: WalletHub, Best-Worst Run Cities (2025)

Best-Run and Worst Run Cities - MIDWEST (2025)

Overall Rank*	City (n=148)	State	Total Budget per Capita Rank	Total Quality of City Services Rank	Quality of City Services Criteria					
					Financial Stability	Education	Health	Safety	Economy	Infrastruc & Pollution
10	Fort Wayne	IN	12	47	20	63	113	17	45	127
22	Grand Rapids	MI	37	35	58	53	37	67	66	7
26	Warren	MI	25	81	60	79	97	23	128	42
31	Madison	WI	63	14	12	73	30	16	85	70
56	Indianapolis	IN	46	108	16	127	135	108	69	92
62	Aurora	IL	83	31	105	23	36	7	74	114
86	Columbus	OH	91	79	74	106	110	39	105	88
88	Akron	OH	78	110	90	95	108	83	134	67
103	Cincinnati	OH	110	70	73	81	78	91	119	33
109	Milwaukee	WI	75	133	139	118	90	119	139	76
114	Dayton	OH	97	122	47	97	125	126	142	35
116	Toledo	OH	59	141	128	143	146	98	144	126
118	Pittsburgh	PA	131	42	126	16	52	40	52	25
120	Gary	IN	31	147	66	125	127	135	148	143
133	Cleveland	OH	118	132	104	135	114	136	121	84
136	Chicago	IL	140	102	148	2	60	53	120	26
137	Flint	MI	95	145	32	144	138	132	147	51
147	Detroit	MI	126	148	145	133	136	143	146	120

Source: WalletHub, Best-Worst Run Cities (2025)

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Overall Rank*	City (n=148)	State	Total Budget per Capita Rank	Total Quality of City Services Rank	Quality of City Services Criteria					
					Financial Stability	Education	Health	Safety	Economy	Infrastruc & Pollution
1	Provo	UT	2	5	31	29	35	3	84	23
2	Nampa	ID	1	41	83	140	84	5	1	93
3	Manchester	NH	3	32	95	116	43	15	8	37
4	Boise	ID	5	11	45	56	32	6	16	68
5	Nashua	NH	15	4	22	37	47	2	4	50
6	Dover	DE	4	73	88	58	103	99	14	56
7	Sioux Falls	SD	17	16	23	75	46	29	7	63
8	Lincoln	NE	19	18	3	105	20	21	58	123
9	Virginia Beach	VA	40	2	9	4	59	8	12	105
10	Fort Wayne	IN	12	47	20	63	113	17	45	127
11	Mesa	AZ	10	55	67	82	74	33	19	137
12	Oklahoma City	OK	9	62	7	108	107	72	38	128
13	Las Cruces	NM	6	76	54	86	83	118	30	90
14	Warwick	RI	30	33	110	74	67	1	31	116
15	Durham	NC	33	19	2	14	22	77	11	140
16	Missoula	MT	26	44	122	25	53	58	3	62
17	Chesapeake	VA	35	21	8	9	111	22	56	133
18	Tallahassee	FL	18	54	69	42	112	66	78	21
19	Jacksonville	FL	8	93	68	72	128	90	57	45
20	Columbus	GA	7	106	48	54	148	60	77	65
21	Raleigh	NC	51	13	10	51	21	35	21	98
22	Grand Rapids	MI	37	35	58	53	37	67	66	7
23	Lexington-Fayette	KY	28	64	57	39	104	43	97	130
24	Mobile	AL	14	94	56	35	124	107	111	29
25	Topeka	KS	16	95	99	94	102	89	68	5
26	Warren	MI	25	81	60	79	97	23	128	42
27	Rapid City	SD	23	89	46	134	120	63	15	100
28	Bismarck	ND	53	22	25	93	26	20	93	61
29	Lewiston	ME	24	90	92	132	140	9	50	59
30	Wichita	KS	13	111	62	101	99	122	71	109
31	Madison	WI	63	14	12	73	30	16	85	70
32	Eugene	OR	52	34	33	43	66	46	115	48
33	Cedar Rapids	IA	45	49	35	89	69	45	96	83
34	Huntington Beach	CA	89	1	80	1	10	12	35	46
35	Billings	MT	22	107	52	69	142	96	24	108
36	Portland	ME	70	10	15	90	75	10	5	9
37	Greensboro	NC	39	63	6	30	129	88	61	129
38	Lubbock	TX	29	104	79	17	115	93	110	136
39	Phoenix	AZ	50	52	39	99	72	92	17	52
40	Knoxville	TN	49	59	37	41	76	133	34	47
41	Albuquerque	NM	27	121	93	104	95	139	32	79
42	St. Petersburg	FL	73	25	64	22	48	50	37	40
43	Huntington	WV	38	97	13	78	131	82	13	30
44	Arlington	TX	47	71	55	55	96	48	112	142
45	Austin	TX	84	6	28	10	11	59	63	36
46	Worcester	MA	72	27	98	80	19	18	20	80
47	Corpus Christi	TX	36	109	81	31	122	86	117	134
48	Omaha	NE	55	66	82	71	100	49	59	104
49	Salem	OR	65	43	61	64	41	47	70	99
50	Louisville	KY	41	105	44	98	105	109	118	82

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					Financial Stability	Education	Health	Safety	Economy	Infrastruc & Pollution
51	Charlotte	NC	74	36	14	48	54	75	18	119
52	Tulsa	OK	44	100	26	96	101	125	82	110
53	El Paso	TX	60	56	116	18	88	27	49	115
54	Bridgeport	CT	57	68	140	102	9	13	104	73
55	Fort Worth	TX	54	86	106	65	65	54	42	144
56	Indianapolis	IN	46	108	16	127	135	108	69	92
57	Tucson	AZ	43	113	91	110	49	134	87	103
58	Montgomery	AL	21	131	118	124	144	100	133	22
59	Colorado Springs	CO	62	65	78	59	70	71	54	117
60	Garland	TX	64	61	117	34	80	26	33	147
61	Gulfport	MS	32	123	133	70	137	74	25	113
62	Aurora	IL	83	31	105	23	36	7	74	114
63	Fargo	ND	76	48	84	92	34	36	91	43
64	San Antonio	TX	66	67	27	49	94	110	99	75
65	Reno	NV	79	50	100	19	73	34	26	121
66	Casper	WY	67	75	1	130	116	25	43	78
67	Baton Rouge	LA	20	138	63	112	123	138	145	135
68	Providence	RI	69	78	138	138	42	11	27	49
69	Anchorage	AK	61	103	51	44	109	70	73	81
70	Miami	FL	101	15	86	7	17	65	23	20
71	Hialeah	FL	94	38	127	13	33	14	29	141
72	Minneapolis	MN	96	39	11	128	27	120	80	2
73	Fairbanks	AK	58	115	19	141	57	84	48	86
74	Rutland	VT	71	101	5	142	62	81	36	19
75	Cheyenne	WY	82	80	17	107	89	44	46	72
76	Orlando	FL	104	29	38	28	29	103	39	28
77	St. Paul	MN	106	26	34	126	58	41	81	1
78	Frederick	MD	120	3	36	8	15	24	9	10
79	Fort Smith	AR	48	130	71	68	130	129	92	66
80	Little Rock	AR	42	134	29	117	132	147	95	91
81	Richmond	VA	90	69	41	145	92	62	51	77
82	Syracuse	NY	85	88	115	115	40	85	113	4
83	Des Moines	IA	98	53	65	114	39	61	108	60
84	Charleston	SC	114	12	21	15	63	51	2	71
85	Columbia	SC	86	85	42	131	87	97	75	58
86	Columbus	OH	91	79	74	106	110	39	105	88
87	Spokane	WA	92	82	72	52	71	105	79	106
88	Akron	OH	78	110	90	95	108	83	134	67
89	Las Vegas	NV	113	37	75	61	77	32	62	15
90	Fort Lauderdale	FL	111	46	43	32	31	111	40	57
91	Burlington	VT	99	72	96	122	4	117	98	14
92	Norfolk	VA	80	119	87	123	143	56	103	111
93	Fremont	CA	125	7	129	3	6	30	53	96
94	Memphis	TN	34	142	59	121	139	148	124	132
95	Dallas	TX	87	112	134	36	56	101	106	107
96	Aurora	CO	102	84	40	100	23	114	76	145
97	Tampa	FL	122	24	30	40	85	38	22	39
98	Kansas City	KS	56	139	123	148	119	123	88	64
99	Salt Lake City	UT	115	40	49	24	25	121	41	16
100	Boston	MA	130	9	4	129	12	19	114	12

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101	New Haven	CT	81	126	143	120	38	73	141	27
102	Modesto	CA	103	98	125	66	98	55	86	89
103	Cincinnati	OH	110	70	73	81	78	91	119	33
104	Jackson	MS	11	146	146	119	126	140	131	131
105	Buffalo	NY	107	87	112	103	55	78	122	31
106	Nashville	TN	93	120	101	113	106	130	44	95
107	San Diego	CA	135	8	94	6	14	28	47	34
108	Yonkers	NY	127	30	135	67	3	4	101	44
109	Milwaukee	WI	75	133	139	118	90	119	139	76
110	Charleston	WV	100	116	137	33	134	69	10	38
111	Santa Ana	CA	123	45	107	27	8	37	67	118
112	Kansas City	MO	88	127	111	62	91	142	89	102
113	Houston	TX	105	114	108	46	64	128	116	101
114	Dayton	OH	97	122	47	97	125	126	142	35
115	Atlanta	GA	117	60	85	85	68	106	6	32
116	Toledo	OH	59	141	128	143	146	98	144	126
117	Portland	OR	134	28	18	5	28	124	125	8
118	Pittsburgh	PA	131	42	126	16	52	40	52	25
119	Springfield	MA	108	118	130	109	79	79	130	54
120	Gary	IN	31	147	66	125	127	135	148	143
121	Anaheim	CA	124	74	142	20	7	52	100	125
122	St. Louis	MO	68	143	136	147	145	144	126	17
123	Wilmington	DE	129	77	70	50	61	113	132	11
124	Rochester	NY	128	91	109	83	82	95	72	3
125	Hartford	CT	109	129	147	111	45	57	109	6
126	Sacramento	CA	133	92	120	76	44	87	65	97
127	San Jose	CA	142	20	53	26	1	42	83	124
128	Bakersfield	CA	119	124	113	77	117	104	64	146
129	Shreveport	LA	77	144	144	88	141	112	140	122
130	Riverside	CA	137	96	131	47	51	68	28	139
131	Seattle	WA	145	17	24	11	13	94	60	41
132	Birmingham	AL	116	135	114	45	121	146	138	53
133	Cleveland	OH	118	132	104	135	114	136	121	84
134	Denver	CO	141	83	49	91	50	131	90	69
135	New Orleans	LA	112	140	132	136	133	137	143	18
136	Chicago	IL	140	102	148	2	60	53	120	26
137	Flint	MI	95	145	32	144	138	132	147	51
138	Stockton	CA	121	137	141	84	81	115	107	148
139	Los Angeles	CA	143	58	102	38	24	76	129	74
140	Long Beach	CA	144	51	119	12	18	64	94	112
141	Fresno	CA	139	117	121	57	93	80	102	138
142	Tacoma	WA	136	125	103	87	86	145	55	85
143	Baltimore	MD	132	136	76	146	147	127	137	87
144	Philadelphia	PA	138	128	124	139	118	116	127	55
145	New York	NY	147	23	77	21	16	31	136	24
146	Oakland	CA	146	99	97	60	5	141	123	94
147	Detroit	MI	126	148	145	133	136	143	146	120
148	San Francisco	CA	148	57	89	137	2	102	135	13

: *No. 1 = Best-Run

Methodology

Financial Stability – Total Points: 16.67

Moody's City Credit Rating: Quadruple Weight (~13.33 Points)
Outstanding Long-Term Debt per Capita: Full Weight (~3.33 Points)

Education – Total Points: 16.67

K–12 School-System Quality: Double Weight (~11.11 Points)
Note: This metric measures the share of public schools rated by GreatSchools.org with above average score.
High School Graduation Rate: Full Weight (~5.56 Points)

Health – Total Points: 16.67

Infant Mortality Rate: Quadruple Weight (~6.67 Points)
Average Life Expectancy (in Years): Quadruple Weight (~6.67 Points)
Hospital Beds per Capita: Full Weight (~1.67 Points)
Quality of Public Hospital System: Full Weight (~1.67 Points)
Note: This metric is based on the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' ranking of public hospital systems.

Safety – Total Points: 16.67

Violent Crime Rate: Quadruple Weight (~4.76 Points)
Property Crime Rate: Quadruple Weight (~4.76 Points)
Motor Vehicle Fatalities per Capita: Quadruple Weight (~4.76 Points)
Share of Sheltered Homeless Persons: Full Weight (~1.19 Points)
Perception of Safety (Safety walking alone during daylight/night): Full Weight (~1.19 Points)
Note: These data are based on perceptions of visitors of numbeo.com website in the past 3 years.
If the value is 0, it means it is perceived as very low, and if the value is 100, it means it is perceived as very high.

Economy – Total Points: 16.67

Unemployment Rate: Triple Weight (~3.13 Points)
Underemployment Rate: Full Weight (~1.04 Points)
Median Annual Household Income (Adjusted for Cost of Living): Double Weight (~2.08 Points)
Median Annual Income Growth Rate: Double Weight (~2.08 Points)
Note: Growth compares the income level in 2023 versus in 2022.
Annual Job Growth Rate (Adjusted for Population Growth): Double Weight (~2.08 Points)
Note: Growth compares the number of employed civilian population in 2025 versus in 2024.
Share of Population Living in Poverty: Double Weight (~2.08 Points)
Growth in Number of Businesses: Full Weight (~1.04 Points)
Note: Growth compares the number of businesses in 2022 versus in 2021.
Change in Housing Prices: Full Weight (~1.04 Points)
Note: Change compares the price in 2024 versus in 2020.
Zillow Home Value 1-year Forecast: Full Weight (~1.04 Points)
Note: The Zillow Home Value Forecast is Zillow's prediction of what the Zillow Home Value Index will be one year from now.
Building-Permit Growth: Full Weight (~1.04 Points)
Note: Growth spans 2021 to 2023.

Infrastructure & Pollution – Total Points: 16.67

Quality of Roads: Quadruple Weight (~3.03 Points)
Note: This metric measures the share of major roads in poor and mediocre condition.
Average Commute Time (in Minutes): Full Weight (~0.76 Points)
Transit Access Shed: Full Weight (~0.76 Points)
Note: "Transit Access Shed" is the total area of land that is easily accessible from any point via public transportation.
Traffic Congestion: Full Weight (~0.76 Points)
Walk Score: Triple Weight (~2.27 Points)
Note: "Walk Score" measures pedestrian friendliness by analyzing population density and road metrics such as block length and intersection density.
Bike Score: Full Weight (~0.76 Points)
Note: "Bike Score" measures whether an area is good for biking.
Transit Score: Half Weight (~0.38 Points)
Note: "Transit Score" is a patented measure of how well a location is served by public transit.
Recreation-Friendliness: Quadruple Weight (~3.03 Points)
Note: This metric is based on WalletHub's "Best & Worst Cities for Recreation" ranking.
Share of Residents with Access to Internet: Half Weight (~0.38 Points)
Water Quality: Full Weight (~0.76 Points)
Air Pollution: Full Weight (~0.76 Points)
Greenhouse-Gas Emissions per Capita: Full Weight (~0.76 Points)
Share of Parkland: Triple Weight (~2.27 Points)

Sources: Data used to create this ranking were collected as of April 28, 2025 from the U.S. Census Bureau, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Council for Community and Economic Research, Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, Moody's Investors Service, GreatSchools.org, County Health Rankings, Health Resources and Services Administration, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Federal Bureau of Investigation, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Chmura Economics & Analytics, Zillow, The Road Information Program, Center for Neighborhood Technology, United States Environmental Protection Agency, Walk Score, The Trust for Public Land, INRIX, U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development, Numbeo and WalletHub research.