

= Ann Arbor , Michigan =

Ann Arbor is a city in the U.S. state of Michigan and the county seat of Washtenaw County . The 2010 census recorded its population to be 113 @, @ 934 , making it the sixth largest city in Michigan . The Ann Arbor Metropolitan Statistical Area ( MSA ) includes all of Washtenaw County , which had a population of 344 @, @ 791 as of 2010 . The city is also part of the larger Detroit ? Ann Arbor ? Flint , MI Combined Statistical Area ( CSA ) with a population of 5 @, @ 318 @, @ 744 .

Ann Arbor was founded in 1824 , named for wives of the village 's founders and the stands of Bur Oak trees . The University of Michigan moved from Detroit to Ann Arbor in 1837 , and the city grew at a rapid rate in the early to mid @-@ 20th century . During the 1960s and 1970s , the city gained a reputation as a center for left @-@ wing politics . Ann Arbor became a focal point for political activism and served as a hub for the civil @-@ rights movement and anti @-@ Vietnam War movement , as well as various student movements .

Ann Arbor is home to the University of Michigan , one of the foremost research universities in the United States . The university shapes Ann Arbor 's economy significantly as it employs about 30 @, @ 000 workers , including about 12 @, @ 000 in the medical center . The city 's economy is also centered on high technology , with several companies drawn to the area by the university 's research and development money , and by its graduates .

= = History = =

Ann Arbor was founded in 1824 by land speculators John Allen and Elisha Walker Rumsey . On 25 May 1824 , the town plat was registered with Wayne County as " Annarbour ; " this represents the earliest known use of the town 's name . Allen and Rumsey decided to name it for their wives , both named Ann , and for the stands of Bur Oak in the 640 acres ( 260 ha ) of land they purchased for \$ 800 from the federal government at \$ 1 @. @ 25 per acre . The local Ojibwa named the settlement kaw @-@ goosh @-@ kaw @-@ nick , after the sound of Allen 's sawmill .

Ann Arbor became the seat of Washtenaw County in 1827 , and was incorporated as a village in 1833 . The Ann Arbor Land Company , a group of speculators , set aside 40 acres ( 16 ha ) of undeveloped land and offered it to the state of Michigan as the site of the state capital , but lost the bid to Lansing . In 1837 , the property was accepted instead as the site of the University of Michigan , which moved from Detroit .

Since the university 's establishment in the city in 1837 , the histories of the University of Michigan and Ann Arbor have been closely linked . The town became a regional transportation hub in 1839 with the arrival of the Michigan Central Railroad , and a north ? south railway connecting Ann Arbor to Toledo and other markets to the south was established in 1878 . Throughout the 1840s and the 1850s settlers continued to come to Ann Arbor . While the earlier settlers were primarily of British ancestry , the newer settlers also consisted of Germans , Irish , and African @-@ Americans . In 1851 , Ann Arbor was chartered as a city , though the city showed a drop in population during the Depression of 1873 . It was not until the early 1880s that Ann Arbor again saw robust growth , with new immigrants coming from Greece , Italy , Russia , and Poland . Ann Arbor saw increased growth in manufacturing , particularly in milling . Ann Arbor 's Jewish community also grew after the turn of the 20th century , and its first and oldest synagogue , Beth Israel Congregation , was established in 1916 .

During the 1960s and 1970s , the city gained a reputation as an important center for liberal politics . Ann Arbor also became a locus for left @-@ wing activism and served as a hub for the civil @-@ rights movement and anti @-@ Vietnam War movement , as well as the student movement . The first major meetings of the national left @-@ wing campus group Students for a Democratic Society took place in Ann Arbor in 1960 ; in 1965 , the city was home to the first U.S. teach @-@ in against the Vietnam War . During the ensuing 15 years , many countercultural and New Left enterprises sprang up and developed large constituencies within the city . These influences washed into municipal politics during the early and mid @-@ 1970s when three members of the Human Rights Party ( HRP ) won city council seats on the strength of the student vote . During their time on the

council , HRP representatives fought for measures including pioneering antidiscrimination ordinances , measures decriminalizing marijuana possession , and a rent @-@ control ordinance ; many of these remain in effect in modified form . Alongside these liberal and left @-@ wing efforts , a small group of conservative institutions were born in Ann Arbor . These include Word of God ( established in 1967 ) , a charismatic inter @-@ denominational movement ; and the Thomas More Law Center ( established in 1999 ) , a religious @-@ conservative advocacy group .

Following a 1956 @-@ vote , the city of East Ann Arbor merged with Ann Arbor to encompass the eastern sections of the city .

In the past several decades , Ann Arbor has grappled with the effects of sharply rising land values , gentrification , and urban sprawl stretching into outlying countryside . On 4 November 2003 , voters approved a greenbelt plan under which the city government bought development rights on agricultural parcels of land adjacent to Ann Arbor to preserve them from sprawling development . Since then , a vociferous local debate has hinged on how and whether to accommodate and guide development within city limits . Ann Arbor consistently ranks in the " top places to live " lists published by various mainstream media outlets every year . In 2008 , it was ranked by CNNMoney.com 27th out of 100 " America 's best small cities " . And in the year 2010 , Forbes listed Ann Arbor as one of the most liveable cities in the United States of America .

= = Geography and cityscape = =

According to the United States Census Bureau , the city has a total area of 28 @.@ 70 square miles ( 74 @.@ 33 km<sup>2</sup> ) , of which , 27 @.@ 83 square miles ( 72 @.@ 08 km<sup>2</sup> ) of it is land and 0 @.@ 87 square miles ( 2 @.@ 25 km<sup>2</sup> ) is water , much of which is part of the Huron River . Ann Arbor is about 35 miles ( 56 km ) west of Detroit . Ann Arbor Charter Township adjoins the city 's north and east sides . Ann Arbor is situated on the Huron River in a productive agricultural and fruit @-@ growing region . The landscape of Ann Arbor consists of hills and valleys , with the terrain becoming steeper near the Huron River . The elevation ranges from about 750 feet ( 230 m ) along the Huron River to 1 @, @ 015 feet ( 309 m ) on the city 's west side , near the intersection of Maple Road and Pauline Blvd . Generally , the west @-@ central and northwestern parts of the city and U @-@ M 's North Campus are the highest parts of the city ; the lowest parts are along the Huron River and in the southeast . Ann Arbor Municipal Airport , which is south of the city at 42 ° 13 @.@ 38 ? N 83 ° 44 @.@ 74 ? W , has an elevation of 839 feet ( 256 m ) .

Ann Arbor 's " Tree Town " nickname stems from the dense forestation of its parks and residential areas . The city contains more than 50 @, @ 000 trees along its streets and an equal number in parks . In recent years , the emerald ash borer has destroyed many of the city 's approximately 10 @, @ 500 ash trees . The city contains 157 municipal parks ranging from small neighborhood green spots to large recreation areas . Several large city parks and a university park border sections of the Huron River . Fuller Recreation Area , near the University Hospital complex , contains sports fields , pedestrian and bike paths , and swimming pools . The Nichols Arboretum , owned by the University of Michigan , is a 123 @-@ acre ( 50 ha ) arboretum that contains hundreds of plant and tree species . It is on the city 's east side , near the university 's Central Campus . Located across the Huron River just beyond the university 's North Campus is the university 's Matthaei Botanical Gardens , which contains 300 acres of gardens and a large tropical conservatory .

The Kerrytown Shops , Main Street Business District , the State Street Business District , and the South University Business District are commercial areas in downtown Ann Arbor . Three commercial areas south of downtown include the areas near I @-@ 94 and Ann Arbor @-@ Saline Road , Briarwood Mall , and the South Industrial area . Other commercial areas include the Arborland / Washtenaw Avenue and Packard Road merchants on the east side , the Plymouth Road area in the northeast , and the Westgate / West Stadium areas on the west side . Downtown contains a mix of 19th- and early @-@ 20th @-@ century structures and modern @-@ style buildings , as well as a farmers ' market in the Kerrytown district . The city 's commercial districts are composed mostly of two- to four @-@ story structures , although downtown and the area near Briarwood Mall contain a small number of high @-@ rise buildings .

Ann Arbor 's residential neighborhoods contain architectural styles ranging from classic 19th @-@ century and early @-@ 20th @-@ century designs to ranch @-@ style houses . Among these homes are a number of kit houses built in the early 20th century . Contemporary @-@ style houses are farther from the downtown district . Surrounding the University of Michigan campus are houses and apartment complexes occupied primarily by student renters . Tower Plaza , a 26 @-@ story condominium building located between the University of Michigan campus and downtown , is the tallest building in Ann Arbor . The 19th @-@ century buildings and streetscape of the Old West Side neighborhood have been preserved virtually intact ; in 1972 , the district was listed on the National Register of Historic Places , and it is further protected by city ordinances and a nonprofit preservation group .

#### = = = Climate = = =

Ann Arbor has a typically Midwestern humid continental climate ( Köppen Dfa ) , which is influenced by the Great Lakes . There are four distinct seasons : winters are the coldest time of year , with average highs around 34 ° F ( 1 ° C ) ; however , summers have average highs around 81 ° F ( 27 ° C ) with slightly more precipitation . Spring and autumn are transitional between the two . The area experiences lake effect weather , primarily in the form of increased cloudiness during late fall and early winter . The monthly daily average temperature in July is 72 @. @ 6 ° F ( 22 @. @ 6 ° C ) , while the same figure for January is 24 @. @ 5 ° F ( ? 4 @. @ 2 ° C ) . Temperatures reach or exceed 90 ° F ( 32 ° C ) on 10 days , and drop to or below 0 ° F ( ? 18 ° C ) on 4 @. @ 6 nights . Precipitation tends to be the heaviest during the summer months , but most frequent during winter . Snowfall , which normally occurs from November to April but occasionally starts in October , averages 58 inches ( 147 cm ) per season . The lowest recorded temperature was ? 23 ° F ( ? 31 ° C ) on 11 February 1885 and the highest recorded temperature was 105 ° F ( 41 ° C ) on 24 July 1934 .

#### = = Demographics = =

As of the 2010 U.S. Census , there were 113 @, @ 394 people , 45 @, @ 634 households , and 21 @, @ 704 families residing in the city . The population density was 4 @, @ 270 @. @ 33 people per square mile ( 2653 @. @ 47 / km <sup>2</sup> ) . There were 49 @, @ 982 housing units at an average density of 1 @, @ 748 @. @ 0 per square mile ( 675 @. @ 0 / km <sup>2</sup> ) , making it less densely populated than inner @-@ ring Detroit suburbs like Oak Park and Ferndale ( and than Detroit proper ) , but more densely populated than outer @-@ ring suburbs like Livonia or Troy . The racial makeup of the city was 73 @. @ 0 % White ( 70 @. @ 4 % non @-@ Hispanic White ) , 7 @. @ 7 % Black or African American , 0 @. @ 3 % Native American , 14 @. @ 4 % Asian , 0 @. @ 0 % Pacific Islander , 1 @. @ 0 % from other races , and 3 @. @ 6 % from two or more races . Hispanic or Latino residents of any race were 4 @. @ 1 % of the population .

In 2013 , Ann Arbor had the second @-@ largest community of Japanese citizens in the state of Michigan , numbering 1 @, @ 541 ; this figure trailed only that of Novi , which had 2 @, @ 666 Japanese nationals . In addition , as of 2005 , Ann Arbor has a small population of Arab Americans , including several students as well as local Lebanese and Palestinians .

In 2000 , out of 45 @, @ 693 households , 23 @. @ 0 % had children under the age of 18 living with them , 37 @. @ 8 % were married couples living together , 7 @. @ 5 % had a female householder with no husband present , and 52 @. @ 5 % were nonfamilies . 35 @. @ 5 % of households were made up of individuals and 6 @. @ 6 % had someone living alone who was 65 years of age or older . The average household size was 2 @. @ 22 and the average family size was 2 @. @ 90 . The age distribution was 16 @. @ 8 % under 18 , 26 @. @ 8 % from 18 to 24 , 31 @. @ 2 % from 25 to 44 , 17 @. @ 3 % from 45 to 64 , and 7 @. @ 9 % were 65 or older . The median age was 28 years . For every 100 females there were 97 @. @ 7 males ; while for every 100 females age 18 and over , there were 96 @. @ 4 males .

The median income for a household in the city was \$ 46 @, @ 299 , and the median income for a

family was \$ 71 @, @ 293 ( these figures had risen to \$ 51 @, @ 232 and \$ 82 @, @ 293 respectively as of a 2007 estimate ) . Males had a median income of \$ 48 @, @ 880 versus \$ 36 @, @ 561 for females . The per capita income for the city was \$ 26 @, @ 419 . About 4 @. @ 6 % of families and 16 @. @ 6 % of the population were below the poverty line , including 7 @. @ 3 % of those under age 18 and 5 @. @ 1 % of those age 65 or over .

Ann Arbor 's crime rate was below the national average in 2000 . The violent crime rate was further below the national average than the property crime rate ; the two rates were 48 % and 11 % lower than the U.S. average , respectively .

= = Economy = =

The University of Michigan shapes Ann Arbor 's economy significantly . It employs about 30 @, @ 000 workers , including about 12 @, @ 000 in the medical center . Other employers are drawn to the area by the university 's research and development money , and by its graduates . High tech , health services and biotechnology are other major components of the city 's economy ; numerous medical offices , laboratories , and associated companies are located in the city . Automobile manufacturers , such as General Motors and Visteon , also employ residents .

High tech companies have located in the area since the 1930s , when International Radio Corporation introduced the first mass @-@ produced AC / DC radio ( the Kadette , in 1931 ) as well as the first pocket radio ( the Kadette Jr . , in 1933 ) . The Argus camera company , originally a subsidiary of International Radio , manufactured cameras in Ann Arbor from 1936 to the 1960s . Current firms include Arbor Networks ( provider of Internet traffic engineering and security systems ) , Arbortext ( provider of XML @-@ based publishing software ) , JSTOR ( the digital scholarly journal archive ) , MediaSpan ( provider of software and online services for the media industries ) , Truven Health Analytics , and ProQuest , which includes UMI . Ann Arbor Terminals manufactured a video @-@ display terminal called the Ann Arbor Ambassador during the 1980s . Barracuda Networks , which provides networking , security , and storage products based on network appliances and cloud services , opened an engineering office in Ann Arbor in 2008 on Depot St. and recently announced it will move downtown to occupy the building previously used as the Borders headquarters .

Websites and online media companies in or near the city include All Media Guide , the Weather Underground , and Zattoo . Ann Arbor is the home to Internet2 and the Merit Network , a not @-@ for @-@ profit research and education computer network . Both are located in the South State Commons 2 building on South State Street , which once housed the Michigan Information Technology Center Foundation . The city is also home to the headquarters of Google 's AdWords program ? the company 's primary revenue stream . The recent surge in companies operating in Ann Arbor has led to a decrease in its office and flex space vacancy rates . As of 31 December 2012 , the total market vacancy rate for office and flex space is 11 @. @ 80 % , a 1 @. @ 40 % decrease in vacancy from one year previous , and the lowest overall vacancy level since 2003 . The office vacancy rate decreased to 10 @. @ 65 % in 2012 from 12 @. @ 08 % in 2011 , while the flex vacancy rate decreased slightly more , with a drop from 16 @. @ 50 % to 15 @. @ 02 % .

Pfizer , once the city 's second largest employer , operated a large pharmaceutical research facility on the northeast side of Ann Arbor . On 22 January 2007 , Pfizer announced it would close operations in Ann Arbor by the end of 2008 . The facility was previously operated by Warner @-@ Lambert and , before that , Parke @-@ Davis . In December 2008 , the University of Michigan Board of Regents approved the purchase of the facilities , and the university anticipates hiring 2 @, @ 000 researchers and staff during the next 10 years . The city is the home of other research and engineering centers , including those of Lotus Engineering , General Dynamics and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration ( NOAA ) . Other research centers sited in the city are the United States Environmental Protection Agency 's National Vehicle and Fuel Emissions Laboratory and the Toyota Technical Center . The city is also home to National Sanitation Foundation International ( NSF International ) , the nonprofit non @-@ governmental organization that develops generally accepted standards for a variety of public health related industries and subject areas .

Borders Books , started in Ann Arbor , was opened by brothers Tom and Louis Borders in 1971 with a stock of used books . The Borders chain was based in the city , as was its flagship store until it closed in September 2011 . Domino 's Pizza 's headquarters is near Ann Arbor on Domino 's Farms , a 271 @-@ acre ( 110 ha ) Frank Lloyd Wright @-@ inspired complex just northeast of the city . Another Ann Arbor @-@ based company is Zingerman 's Delicatessen , which serves sandwiches and has developed businesses under a variety of brand names . Zingerman 's has grown into a family of companies which offers a variety of products ( bake shop , mail order , creamery , coffee ) and services ( business education ) . Flint Ink Corp. , another Ann Arbor @-@ based company , was the world 's largest privately held ink manufacturer until it was acquired by Stuttgart @-@ based XSYS Print Solutions in October 2005 . Avfuel , a global supplier of aviation fuels and services , is also headquartered in Ann Arbor . Aastrom Biosciences , a publicly traded company that develops stem cell treatments for cardiovascular diseases , is headquartered in Ann Arbor .

Many cooperative enterprises were founded in the city ; among those that remain are the People 's Food Co @-@ op and the Inter @-@ Cooperative Council at the University of Michigan , a student housing cooperative founded in 1937 . There are also three cohousing communities ? Sunward , Great Oak , and Touchstone ? located immediately to the west of the city limits .

= = Culture = =

Several performing arts groups and facilities are on the University of Michigan 's campus , as are museums dedicated to art , archaeology , and natural history and sciences . Founded in 1879 , the University Musical Society is an independent performing arts organization that presents over 60 events each year , bringing international artists in music , dance , and theater . Since 2001 Shakespeare in the Arb has presented one play by Shakespeare each June , in a large park near downtown . Regional and local performing arts groups not associated with the university include the Ann Arbor Civic Theatre , the Arbor Opera Theater , the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra , the Ann Arbor Ballet Theater , the Ann Arbor Civic Ballet ( established in 1954 as Michigan 's first chartered ballet company ) , The Ark , and Performance Network Theatre . Another unique piece of artistic expression in Ann Arbor is the fairy doors . These small portals are examples of installation art and can be found throughout the downtown area .

The Ann Arbor Hands @-@ On Museum is located in a renovated and expanded historic downtown fire station . Multiple art galleries exist in the city , notably in the downtown area and around the University of Michigan campus . Aside from a large restaurant scene in the Main Street , South State Street , and South University Avenue areas , Ann Arbor ranks first among U.S. cities in the number of booksellers and books sold per capita . The Ann Arbor District Library maintains four branch outlets in addition to its main downtown building . The city is also home to the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library .

Several annual events ? many of them centered on performing and visual arts ? draw visitors to Ann Arbor . One such event is the Ann Arbor Art Fairs , a set of four concurrent juried fairs held on downtown streets . Scheduled on Thursday through Sunday of the third week of July , the fairs draw upward of half a million visitors . Another is the Ann Arbor Film Festival , held during the third week of March , which receives more than 2 @, @ 500 submissions annually from more than 40 countries and serves as one of a handful of Academy Award ? qualifying festivals in the United States .

Ann Arbor has a long history of openness to marijuana , given Ann Arbor 's decriminalization of cannabis , the large number of medical marijuana dispensaries in the city ( one dispensary , called People 's Co @-@ op , was directly across the street from Michigan Stadium until zoning forced it to move one mile to the west ) , the large number of pro @-@ marijuana residents , and the annual Hash Bash : an event that is held on the first Saturday of April . Until ( at least ) the successful passage of Michigan 's medical marijuana law , the event had arguably strayed from its initial intent , although for years , a number of attendees have received serious legal responses due to marijuana use on University of Michigan property , which does not fall under the City 's progressive and compassionate ticketing program .

Ann Arbor is a major scene of college sports , most notably at the University of Michigan , a

member of the Big Ten Conference . Several well @-@ known college sports facilities exist in the city , including Michigan Stadium , the largest American football stadium in the world . The stadium was completed in 1927 and cost more than \$ 950 @,@ 000 to build . It has a 107 @,@ 601 seating capacity after multiple renovations were made . The stadium is colloquially known as " The Big House " . Crisler Center and Yost Ice Arena play host to the school 's basketball ( both men 's and women 's ) and ice hockey teams , respectively . Concordia University , a member of the NAIA , also fields sports teams .

Ann Arbor is represented in the NPSL by semi @-@ pro soccer team AFC Ann Arbor , a club founded in 2014 who call themselves The Mighty Oak .

A person from Ann Arbor is called an " Ann Arborite " , and many long @-@ time residents call themselves " townies " . The city itself is often called " A <sup>2</sup> " ( " A @-@ squared " ) or " A2 " ( " A two " ) or " AA " , " The Deuce " ( mainly by Chicagoans ) , and " Tree Town " . With tongue @-@ in @-@ cheek reference to the city 's liberal political leanings , some occasionally refer to Ann Arbor as " The People 's Republic of Ann Arbor " or " 25 square miles surrounded by reality " , the latter phrase being adapted from Wisconsin Governor Lee Dreyfus 's description of Madison , Wisconsin . In A Prairie Home Companion broadcast from Ann Arbor , Garrison Keillor described Ann Arbor as " a city where people discuss socialism , but only in the fanciest restaurants . " Ann Arbor sometimes appears on citation indexes as an author , instead of a location , often with the academic degree MI , a misunderstanding of the abbreviation for Michigan . Ann Arbor has become increasingly gentrified in recent years .

= = Law and government = =

Ann Arbor has a council @-@ manager form of government . The City Council has 11 voting members : the mayor and 10 city council members . The mayor and city council members serve two @-@ year terms : the mayor is elected every even @-@ numbered year , while half of the city council members are up for election annually ( five in even @-@ numbered and five in odd @-@ numbered years ) . Two council members are elected from each of the city 's five wards . The mayor is elected citywide . The mayor is the presiding officer of the City Council and has the power to appoint all Council committee members as well as board and commission members , with the approval of the City Council . The current mayor of Ann Arbor is Christopher Taylor , a Democrat who was elected as mayor in 2014 . Day @-@ to @-@ day city operations are managed by a city administrator chosen by the city council .

In 1960 , Ann Arbor voters approved a \$ 2 @.@ 3 million bond issue to build the current city hall , which was designed by architect Alden B. Dow . The City Hall opened in 1963 . In 1995 , the building was renamed the Guy C. Larcom , Jr . Municipal Building in honor of the longtime city administrator who championed the building 's construction .

Ann Arbor is part of Michigan 's 12th congressional district , represented in Congress by Representative Debbie Dingell , a Democrat . On the state level , the city is part of the 18th district in the Michigan Senate , represented by Democrat Rebekah Warren . In the Michigan House of Representatives , representation is split between the 55th district ( northern Ann Arbor , part of Ann Arbor Township , and other surrounding areas , represented by Democrat Adam Zemke ) , the 53rd district ( most of downtown and the southern half of the city , represented by Democrat Jeff Irwin ) and the 52nd district ( southwestern areas outside Ann Arbor proper and western Washtenaw County , represented by Democrat Gretchen Driskell ) .

As the county seat of Washtenaw County , the Washtenaw County Trial Court ( 22nd Circuit Court ) is located in Ann Arbor at the Washtenaw County Courthouse on Main Street . This court has countywide general jurisdiction and has two divisions : the Civil / Criminal ( criminal and civil matters ) and the Family Division ( which includes Juvenile Court , Friend of the Court , and Probate Court sections ) . Seven judges serve on the court .

Ann Arbor also has a local state district court ( 15th District Court ) , which serves only the City of Ann Arbor . In Michigan , the state district courts are limited jurisdiction courts which handle traffic violations , civil cases with claims under \$ 25 @,@ 000 , landlord @-@ tenant matters , and

misdemeanor crimes .

The Ann Arbor Federal Building ( attached to a post office ) on Liberty Street serves as one of the courthouses for the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan and Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit .

= = = Politics = = =

Left @-@ wing politics have been particularly strong in municipal government since the 1960s . Voters approved charter amendments that have lessened the penalties for possession of marijuana ( 1974 ) , and that aim to protect access to abortion in the city should it ever become illegal in the State of Michigan ( 1990 ) . In 1974 , Kathy Kozachenko 's victory in an Ann Arbor city @-@ council race made her the country 's first openly homosexual candidate to win public office . In 1975 , Ann Arbor became the first U.S. city to use instant @-@ runoff voting for a mayoral race . Adopted through a ballot initiative sponsored by the local Human Rights Party , which feared a splintering of the liberal vote , the process was repealed in 1976 after use in only one election . As of May 2016 , Democrats hold the mayorship and nine out of the ten council seats . Nationally , Ann Arbor is located in Michigan 's 12th congressional district , represented by Democrat Debbie Dingell .

= = Education = =

= = = Primary and secondary education = = =

Public schools are part of the Ann Arbor Public Schools ( AAPS ) district . AAPS has one of the country 's leading music programs . In September 2008 , 16 @,@ 539 students had been enrolled in the Ann Arbor Public Schools . There were 21 elementary schools , five middle schools ( Forsythe , Slauson , Tappan , Scarlett , and Clague ) three traditional high schools ( Pioneer , Huron , and Skyline ) , and three alternative high schools ( Community High , Stone School , and Roberto Clemente ) in the district . The district also operates a K @-@ 8 open school program , Ann Arbor Open School , out of the former Mack School . This program is open to all families who live within the district . Ann Arbor Public Schools also operates a preschool and family center , with programs for at @-@ risk infants and children before kindergarten . The district has a preschool center with both free and tuition @-@ based programs for preschoolers in the district .

Ann Arbor is home to several private schools , including the Rudolf Steiner School of Ann Arbor , Clonlara School , Michigan Islamic Academy , and Greenhills School , a prep school . The city is also home to several charter schools such as Central Academy ( PreK @-@ 12 ) of the Global Educational Excellence ( GEE ) charter school company , and Honey Creek Community School .

= = = Higher education = = =

The University of Michigan dominates the city of Ann Arbor , providing the city with its distinctive college @-@ town character .

Other local colleges and universities include Concordia University Ann Arbor , a Lutheran liberal @-@ arts institution ; a campus of the University of Phoenix ; and Cleary University , a private business school . Washtenaw Community College is located in neighboring Ann Arbor Township . In 2000 , the Ave Maria School of Law , a Roman Catholic law school established by Domino 's Pizza founder Tom Monaghan , opened in northeastern Ann Arbor , but the school moved to Ave Maria , Florida in 2009 , and the Thomas M. Cooley Law School acquired the former Ave Maria buildings for use as a branch campus .

= = Media = =

The Ann Arbor News , owned by the Michigan @-@ based Booth Newspapers chain , is the major

daily newspaper serving Ann Arbor and the rest of Washtenaw County . The newspaper ended its 174 @-@ year print run in 2009 , due to economic difficulties . It was replaced by AnnArbor.com , but returned to a limited print publication under its former name in 2013 . Another Ann Arbor @-@ based publication that has ceased production was the Ann Arbor Paper , a free monthly . Ann Arbor has been said to be the first significant city to lose its only daily paper . The Ann Arbor Chronicle , an online newspaper , covered local news , including meetings of the library board , county commission , and DDA until September 3 , 2014 .

Current publications in the city include the Ann Arbor Journal ( A2 Journal ) , a weekly community newspaper ; the Ann Arbor Observer , a free monthly local magazine ; the Ann Arbor Independent , a locally owned , independent weekly ; and Current , a free entertainment @-@ focused alt @-@ weekly . The Ann Arbor Business Review covers local business in the area . Car and Driver magazine and Automobile Magazine are also based in Ann Arbor . The University of Michigan is served by many student publications , including the independent Michigan Daily student newspaper , which reports on local , state , and regional issues in addition to campus news .

Four major AM radio stations based in or near Ann Arbor are WAAM 1600 , a conservative news and talk station ; WLBX 1290 , a business news and talk station ; WDEO 990 , Catholic radio ; and WTKA 1050 , which is primarily a sports station . The city 's FM stations include NPR affiliate WUOM 91 @.@ 7 ; country station WWWW 102 @.@ 9 ; and adult @-@ alternative station WQKL 107 @.@ 1 . Freeform station WCBN @-@ FM 88 @.@ 3 is a local community radio / college radio station operated by the students of the University of Michigan featuring noncommercial , eclectic music and public @-@ affairs programming . The city is also served by public and commercial radio broadcasters in Ypsilanti , the Lansing / Jackson area , Detroit , Windsor , and Toledo .

WPXD channel 31 , an affiliate of the ION Television network , is licensed to the city . WHTV channel 18 , a MyNetworkTV @-@ affiliated station for the Lansing market , broadcasts from a transmitter in Lyndon Township , west of Ann Arbor . Community Television Network ( CTN ) is a city @-@ provided cable television channel with production facilities open to city residents and nonprofit organizations . Detroit and Toledo @-@ area radio and television stations also serve Ann Arbor , and stations from Lansing and Windsor , Ontario , can be heard in parts of the area .

= = Health and utilities = =

The University of Michigan Medical Center , the only teaching hospital in the city , took the number 1 slot in U.S. News & World Report for best hospital in the state of Michigan , as of 2015 . The University of Michigan Health System ( UMHS ) includes University Hospital , C.S. Mott Children 's Hospital and Women 's Hospital in its core complex . UMHS also operates out @-@ patient clinics and facilities throughout the city . The area 's other major medical centers include a large facility operated by the Department of Veterans Affairs in Ann Arbor , and Saint Joseph Mercy Hospital in nearby Superior Township .

The city provides sewage disposal and water supply services , with water coming from the Huron River and groundwater sources . There are two water @-@ treatment plants , one main and three outlying reservoirs , four pump stations , and two water towers . These facilities serve the city , which is divided into five water districts . The city 's water department also operates four dams along the Huron River , two of which provide hydroelectric power . The city also offers waste management services , with Recycle Ann Arbor handling recycling service . Other utilities are provided by private entities . Electrical power and gas are provided by DTE Energy . AT & T Inc. is the primary wired telephone service provider for the area . Cable TV service is primarily provided by Comcast .

= = Transportation = =

= = = Surface roads and paths = = =

The streets in downtown Ann Arbor conform to a grid pattern , though this pattern is less common in



the surrounding areas . Major roads branch out from the downtown district like spokes on a wheel to the highways surrounding the city . The city is belted by three freeways : I @-@ 94 , which runs along the southern portion of the city ; U.S. Highway 23 ( US 23 ) , which primarily runs along the eastern edge of Ann Arbor ; and M @-@ 14 , which runs along the northern edge of the city . Other nearby highways include US 12 , M @-@ 17 , and M @-@ 153 . Several of the major surface arteries lead to the I @-@ 94 / M @-@ 14 interchange in the west , US 23 in the east , and the city 's southern areas . The city also has a system of bike routes and paths and includes the nearly complete Washtenaw County Border @-@ to @-@ Border Trail .

= = = Bus service = = =

The Ann Arbor Area Transportation Authority ( AAATA ) , which brands itself as " The Ride " , operates public bus services throughout the city and nearby Ypsilanti . A separate zero @-@ fare bus service operates within and between the University of Michigan campuses . Since April 2012 , route 787 ( the " AirRide " ) connects to Detroit Metro Airport a dozen times a day . There are also limited @-@ stop bus services between Ann Arbor and Chelsea as well as Canton . These two routes , 710 and 711 respectively , are known as the " ExpressRide " . The Michigan Flyer , a service operated by Indian Trails , cooperates with AAATA for their AirRide and additionally offers bus service to East Lansing .

Greyhound Lines provides out @-@ of @-@ town bus service from 115 E. William , across the street from the Blake Transit Center . Megabus has twice daily direct service to Chicago , Illinois , while a bus service is provided by Amtrak for rail passengers making connections to services in East Lansing and Toledo , Ohio .

= = = Airports = = =

Ann Arbor Municipal Airport is a small , city @-@ run general aviation airport located south of I @-@ 94 . Detroit Metropolitan Airport , the area 's large international airport , is about 25 miles ( 40 km ) east of the city , in Romulus . Willow Run Airport east of the city near Ypsilanti serves freight , corporate , and general aviation clients .

= = = Railroads = = =

The city was a major rail hub , notably for freight traffic between Toledo and ports north of Chicago , Illinois , from 1878 to 1982 ; however , the Ann Arbor Railroad also provided passenger service from 1878 to 1950 . The city was served by the Michigan Central Railroad starting in 1837 . The Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti Street Railway , Michigan 's first interurban , served the city from 1891 to 1929 .

Amtrak , which provides service to the city at the Ann Arbor Train Station , operates the Wolverine train between Chicago and Pontiac , via Detroit . The present @-@ day train station neighbors the city 's old Michigan Central Depot , which was renovated as a restaurant in 1970 .

= = Sister cities = =

Ann Arbor has seven sister cities :

Tübingen , Germany ( since 1965 )

Belize City , Belize ( since 1967 )

Hikone , Shiga , Japan ( since 1969 )

The schools in Ann Arbor and Hikone have regular exchanges .

Peterborough , Ontario , Canada ( since 1983 )

Juigalpa , Chontales , Nicaragua ( since 1986 )

Dakar , Senegal ( since 1997 )

Remedios , Cuba ( since 2003 )