

Akron, Ohio



Population Rank: U.S. # 81
Ohio # 5

Proportions: 3:5 (usage)

Adopted: March 1996 (official)



DESIGN: Akron's flag has a white field with the city seal in the center. The seal features an American shield, which recalls the design of the All-America City program's shield, awarded to cities meeting the program criteria. Akron's shield is divided roughly into thirds horizontally. At the top of the shield are two rows of five white five-pointed stars on a dark blue field. In the center section is **AKRON** in black on white. The lower third displays six red and five white vertical stripes. Around the shield and the white field on which it rests is a dark blue ring on which **1981-ALL-AMERICA CITY-1995** curves clockwise above, and **CITY OF INVENTION** curves counterclockwise below, all in white.

SYMBOLISM: Akron, having twice won the distinction of “All-America City” (in 1981 and 1995), has chosen to pattern its seal to commemorate that award. The ten stars represent the ten wards of the city. **CITY OF INVENTION** refers to Akron as home to the National Inventor’s Hall of Fame at Inventure Place, a museum of inventors and inventions.

HOW SELECTED: Prepared by the mayor and his chief of staff.

DESIGNER: Mayor Don Plusquellic and his chief of staff, Joel Bailey.



FORMER FLAG: Akron’s former flag also places the city seal in the center of a white field. That former logo-type seal is oval, oriented horizontally. On a blue background is a rhomboid (a diamond shape). A horizontal blue line that narrows at both ends at the two horizontal points of the diamond divides it horizontally, producing two isosceles triangles. At the inner ends of the line are two short vertical lines the same width as the greater part of the horizontal lines, in a “T” turned sideways. Between the two inner ends, a white tree trunk expands above into five straight white branches tipped with arrowheads: two horizontal, one vertical, and two halfway between the others. The branches are on a field of red, with a white border that forms an “A” with very short feet. The trunk extends below the centerline to form five white roots, similarly placed below as the branches are above, but on a blue background, again with the white “A” border, this time inverted. Curved clockwise over the top of the oval is **THE CITY OF**, curved counterclockwise below the oval is **AKRON • OHIO**, all in blue. Between the two groups of letters on either side are five small red isosceles triangles resembling sun’s rays emanating from the oval. The overall effect is that the bottom half is a virtual mirror image of the upper half, with the differences noted. The flag’s proportions are 5:7 (usage).

This flag, designed by Sam Scherr, an industrial designer, was officially adopted in August 1965. Mr. Scherr, explaining the symbolism of his design, said that it was *based on historic concepts as well as future image desires. The small triangles represent the 10 wards—also expansion—growth. The triangle shapes represent Summit, and Akron means Summit in Greek. The letter 'A' is for Akron. The abstract tree represents life—growth—expansion. The top part represents direction—progress; and the bottom part represents planning—traffic—street layout. Two triangles represent the original two Akrons and are enclosed in quartic shape to form present-day Akron. The passage between the 'A's represents Akron, the City of Bridges.* Summit is also the name of the county of which Akron is the seat.

JP 

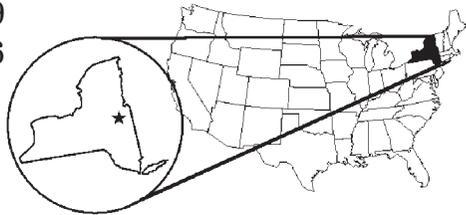
ALBANY, NEW YORK



Population Rank: U.S. ... # 249
New York # 6

Proportions: 3:4 (usage)

Adopted: 1916 (official)



DESIGN: Albany's flag centers the city's coat of arms on a field of three equal horizontal stripes of orange, white, and blue. The city describes its arms in heraldic terminology:

The shield: Gules, two wheat sheaves Or, on a chief Azure a beaver felling a tree proper; For a crest: a Dutch sloop proper; For supporters: dexter, a farmer holding a sickle on his right arm and sinister is an Indian resting his left hand on a bow. For a motto: ASSIDUITY.

The coat of arms consists of a shield divided horizontally. The top third section is blue with a beaver felling a tree in natural colors. The lower two-thirds section is red with two yellow wheat sheaves. Above the

shield is a Dutch sloop under sail in natural colors on a heraldic wreath. On the hoist side is a farmer holding a sickle on his right arm; on the fly side is an Indian resting his left hand on a bow, both in natural colors. The motto on the scroll at the bottom of the arms is **ASSIDUITY**.

SYMBOLISM: The orange, white, and blue stripes allude to the city's early Dutch heritage. In 1609, explorer Henry Hudson sailed his ship the *Half Moon* to present-day Albany. He flew the flag of his sponsor, the Dutch East India Company. That flag, the first flown in the area, had three horizontal stripes of orange, white, and blue, with **V.O.C.A.** on the center stripe. In 1614, Fort Nassau was founded there as a trading post, later leading to the establishment of the Dutch settlement of Fort Orange. Twelve years later the Dutch West India Company succeeded the Dutch East India Company, and used a flag of three horizontal stripes of red, white, and blue, with **G.W.C.** on the center stripe. In 1664, the British took control of the city and the Union Jack replaced that flag.

The coat of arms signifies the early occupations of the city. The wheat sheaves and the colonial farmer holding a sickle are for farming and agriculture. The beaver reflects the fur trade between the Native American people, symbolized by the Indian supporter, and the Dutch, and later English, settlers. The Indian also represents the people who first lived in this area. The Dutch sloop represents the commerce of the area and Albany as a major port on the Hudson River.

HOW SELECTED: By the Hudson Fulton Celebration Committee.

DESIGNER: Unknown.

MORE ABOUT THE FLAG: In 1909 the Hudson Fulton Celebration Committee first used the current city flag for the commemoration of the 300th anniversary of the founding of Albany. Seven years later, in 1916, the common council officially adopted this design.

SEALS: There have been at least three seals used in Albany's history. The first dates from 1686, when several towns were incorporated into

the municipality of Albany. The seal was octagonal with the letters **ALB** in monogram, with a crown above.

In 1752 the seal was altered—although similar in shape, it consisted only of a beaver cutting down a tree and the date, 1752.

The current seal was designed in 1789 and the common council legalized it through an ordinance in 1888. It is a seal with the coat of arms described above, except below **ASSIDUITY** appears **Charter 1686**. At the top of the disk is **The Seal of the City of Albany**.

FORMER FLAGS: As early as 1884, Albany flew a white flag, apparently unofficially, with the coat of arms on it in blue and white.

JC 

ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO



Population Rank: U.S. # 35
New Mexico # 1

Proportions: 10:17 (unofficial)



Adopted: February 1969 (official status uncertain)

DESIGN: Albuquerque uses the Zia sun symbol from the New Mexico state flag, but with the colors reversed: the sun is yellow on a crimson field. The symbol is also proportionately larger on the Albuquerque flag, and located slightly above center rather than in the exact center of the field. On a field of 10 by 17 units, the two interior rays of the sun's four arms measure about 2.4 units long. As on the state flag, the two exterior rays measure slightly less. On the center of the sun, in yellow, is **1706**. Centered below the sun symbol, in italics, is *Albuquerque*, about 9 units in length. In the upper hoist is a stylized Native American thunderbird in flight, descending toward the center, measuring about 2.7 units from beak to tail.

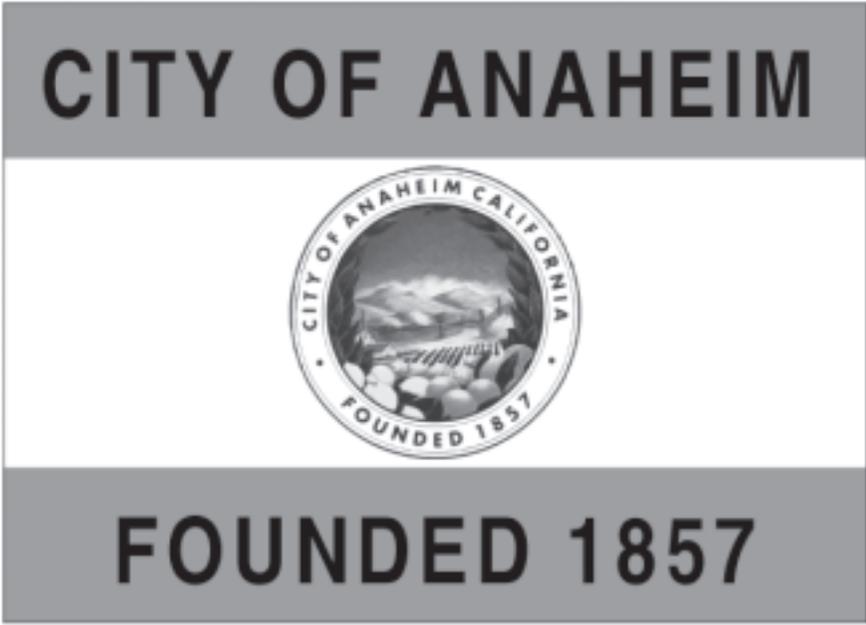
SYMBOLISM: The sun symbol of the Native American Zia Pueblo has four arms signifying the importance of the number four in their spiritual beliefs: four figures in the four cardinal directions, the four seasons, the four aspects of the day (sunrise, noon, sunset, and night), and the four stages of life (childhood, youth, adulthood, and old age). Additionally, the Zia believe that a person has four sacred obligations: to develop a strong body, a clear mind, a pure spirit, and a devotion to the welfare of the people. Aside from the obvious link to the state's flag with the Zia sun symbol, the thunderbird on the flag of Albuquerque may represent the city's great progress in recent years.

HOW SELECTED: The Zonta Club (an international women's organization) of Albuquerque apparently solicited a design.

DESIGNER: Said to be Dr. Richard T. Vann, a local optometrist, but the microfilm records are now barely legible.

MORE ABOUT THE FLAG: On 13 January 1969, representatives of the Albuquerque Council of Camp Fire Girls presented a city flag it had made to the city aviation director, Clyde Scharrer. This flag measured 5 by 8 feet. The ceremony was repeated for the city commission on 26 February 1969. Nearly a year later, on 26 January 1970, the Zonta Club presented four city flags to the city commission. JP 

ANAHEIM, CALIFORNIA



Population Rank: U.S. # 55
California # 9

Proportions: 5:7 (usage)



Adopted: 11 April 1967 (unofficial)

DESIGN: The flag of Anaheim is a horizontal tribar of light blue, white, and light blue stripes in proportions of 1:2:1. Centered on the top stripe in black block letters is **CITY OF ANAHEIM**; likewise on the bottom stripe is **FOUNDED 1857**. In the center of the white stripe is the city's seal in full color, 2 units in diameter on a field of 5 units by 7 units. The outer edge of the seal is a dark green. Immediately within it are two concentric circles somewhat narrower than the outer edge, forming a ring of the same color. Curved clockwise within the top part of the ring, in an Arial font, is **CITY OF ANAHEIM CALIFORNIA**, and below, counterclockwise, **FOUNDED 1857**, all

in dark green. Dots at 8 o'clock and 4 o'clock separate the two legends. Within the inner edge of the ring is another green circle that matches the outer edge of the seal in width and surrounds the body of the seal, which depicts a colorful view of a typical agricultural farm. In the foreground on the hoist side are nestled a half-dozen yellow lemons; on the fly side are five oranges, some with leaves attached. A wreath of dark green citrus leaves extends from the lemons and oranges to the top of the circular scene, diminishing in width as it rises. Five sun-dappled brown walnuts rest atop the pile of lemons and oranges. As a background to the fruit, a vineyard of 11 green rows appears in the distance. A white house with a red roof stands to the left of the vineyard. Behind it is another taller building, also white with a red roof. Beyond the vineyard, the land is divided into two strata, green over yellow, above which rises a snow-covered mountain range in blue and white, topped by low-lying white clouds and a bright blue sky. Spaced across the strata are five oil derricks, appearing to be at varying distances, in dark blue.

SYMBOLISM: The seal depicts the agricultural origins of Anaheim and Orange County that centered on Valencia oranges, walnuts, grapes, and lemons. The oil derricks represent industry; the San Gabriel Mountains are visible from many parts of the city. The city's seal was adopted on 24 May 1960. The artwork is very reminiscent of a fruit box label.

HOW SELECTED: By the mayor, Fred Krein.

DESIGNER: Howard C. "Bud" Nagel, Public Information Officer.

MORE ABOUT THE FLAG: The first flag was presented by Mayor Krein in a pre-game ceremony when the Los Angeles Angels and the Detroit Tigers opened the 1967 American League season at Anaheim. Governor (later President) Ronald Reagan and Gene Autry, star of western-themed movies, took part in the ceremony.



FORMER FLAG: The city does not consider that there was a former flag, as such. However, the flag presented in the 1967 ceremony differs from the current version in that the first flag was swallow-

tailed, with proportions of 3:5. The city seal, without the outer ring and lettering, was set near to the hoist, instead of occupying the center of the white stripe. Otherwise, the details are the same. It is not known when the shape changed to a rectangle.

JP

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA



Population Rank: U.S. # 65
Alaska..... # 1

Proportions: 2:3 (usage)

Adopted: Unknown (unofficial)



DESIGN: The flag of Anchorage has a gold field of 6 units by 9, with the municipal seal in the center, 3.5 units in diameter. The field of the seal is white. In its center, and extending nearly to its inner circumference, is a blue anchor with its tangs curving upwards halfway along each side of the seal, ending in barbed inward-facing points. The anchor overlays an 18th-century sailing ship in yellow under full sail toward the hoist. A wavy yellow line below the ship suggests the ocean. In the upper left above the ship's prow is a small rayless yellow sun. Above the ship's stern, in blue, is a modern airplane, flying toward the hoist. Two narrow blue concentric circles set closely together enclose the seal. Curved and centered above the outer edge of the seal is

ANCHORAGE, curved and centered below is **ALASKA**, all in small blue letters.

SYMBOLISM: The ship on the seal symbolizes the voyages of British Captain James Cook (1728-1779) who explored the site of Anchorage in today's Cook Inlet. The airplane represents Anchorage's pivotal role as a transportation hub, and the sun symbolizes the city's northern latitude and wide variation of daylight hours from summer to winter. The anchor represents the city's name and origin as an anchorage.

HOW SELECTED: The flag was developed sometime after the municipality's seal was adopted.

DESIGNER: Unknown.

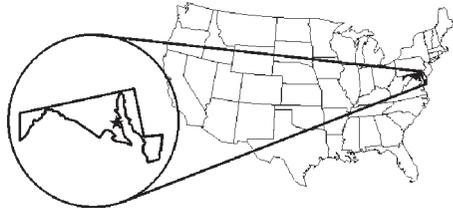
JP 

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND



Population Rank: U.S. ... # 983
Maryland # 7

Proportions: 2:3 (usage);
originally 3:4



Adopted: 11 January 1965 (official)

DESIGN: The flag of Annapolis is white with the royal badge of Queen Anne (1665-1714) occupying most of the center of the field. The badge consists of a purple thistle and red Tudor rose with a white center appearing to issue from the same stem, the thistle on the hoist side with two of its distinctive dark green serrated leaves, and the rose on the fly side, with two dark green rose leaves. Centered above the flowers is a royal crown in gold with a red bonnet, lined at the bottom in ermine. The official description of the crown in the ordinance of adoption describes the jewels on the crown: *...a large green stone at the peak, one large purple stone, two small green stones, two small red stones and twenty-four small white stones....* The placement of these gems is not specified,

except for the first, but it appears that the colored stones grace the lower part of the crown, while the white stones (perhaps pearls), encrust the cross-arch over the bonnet. Below the entire badge is a heraldic scroll in yellow, with red lining and the Latin motto in black **VIXI LIBER ET MORIAR** (“I Have Lived Free and Will Die So”).

SYMBOLISM: The city is named for Queen Anne of Great Britain, who granted the original charter to Annapolis in 1708. The thistle represents Scotland, and the rose, a united England (after the fifteenth century “War of the Roses” between the House of Lancaster—the red rose, and the House of York—the white rose). The motto was chosen by the flag’s designer as “one that might be acceptable”.

HOW SELECTED: The city council asked the Peggy Steward Tea Party Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution to design a flag.

DESIGNER: Anna Dorsey Linder.

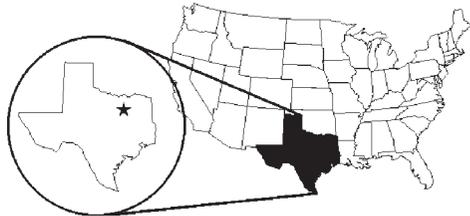
MORE ABOUT THE FLAG: The original flag hung under glass in council chambers. When the production costs of additional flags were found to be prohibitively expensive because of the many colors on the flag, the colors of the gemstones on the crown were changed to black in practice.

JP 

ARLINGTON, TEXAS



Population Rank: U.S. # 53
Texas # 7



Proportions: 3:5 (official)

Adopted: 27 May 1980 (official)

DESIGN: The ordinance of adoption describes the flag of Arlington: *The City of Arlington Flag is ... rectangular having its width equal to 60% of its length. The Flag shall consist of a white background with the City of Arlington logo imprinted or embossed thereon and the words **City of Arlington Texas** printed or embossed beneath such logo. Such lettering shall be in black or navy blue. The distance from the top of the Arlington logo to the top of the Flag shall be one-sixth (1/6) of the width of the Flag, and the distance from the bottom of the lettering to the bottom of the Flag shall be one-sixth (1/6) of the width of the Flag. The entire width of the lettering and logo shall be two-thirds (2/3) of the length of the Flag. The height of the lettering shall be one-tenth (1/10) of the width of the Flag. Plus or minus 5% of all the foregoing measurements and proportions is permitted.*

The city's logo is a large stylized letter **A**, composed of two broad strokes on either side that extend outwards, resembling two hockey sticks back to back. The hoist stroke is dark blue, the fly stroke is red. In place of a crossbar for the "A" is a five-pointed star divided vertically in half: the hoist side red, the fly side dark blue. The lettering is an unusual sans-serif font; the letter "i" is not dotted in **City** or **Arlington**, and the "C" and "i" in "City" are joined.

SYMBOLISM: The "A" stands for "Arlington". The colors are those of the state and national flags. The single star suggests the state's nickname, "The Lone Star State".

HOW SELECTED: The flag was developed seven years after the logo was adopted in 1973, presumably by city hall personnel simply placing it on a white background.

DESIGNER: Unknown. The name of the logo's designer is also not available, but was likely a graphic arts firm.

MORE ABOUT THE FLAG: The chapter devoted to Arlington's flag ordinance is seven pages long and has 34 regulations governing its use and display.

ATLANTA, GEORGIA ★



Population Rank: U.S. # 39
Georgia # 1

Proportions: 2:3 (usage)

Adopted: Unknown



DESIGN: Atlanta's flag centers the city seal in gold outline on a blue field. On a field of 2 by 3 units, the seal's diameter is roughly 1.5 units. The city seal features a phoenix, with eight rays ringing its head, rising from flames. Above the phoenix is **RESURGENS**. Around the lower edge is **1847 ATLANTA, GA. 1865**. The two dates, although appearing below the wings of the phoenix, are oriented clockwise to read in the direction of "**RESURGENS**"; the city's name and state abbreviation run counterclockwise. The seal is edged with a solid line, within which is a double beaded line; the phoenix's wings extend slightly beyond the outermost line. All letters are in an outline font.

SYMBOLISM: The phoenix refers to the rising of the city from the ashes of its destruction in the Civil War. An official pamphlet explains: *Just as the phoenix, fabled bird of myth and story, rose from its ashes to begin a new life, the people of Atlanta returned to the ashes of their city without bitterness or self-pity, and began the gigantic task which lay before them. Their seal is an enduring symbol of the courage, vision and selflessness they brought to that task ... reminders of a gallant past, of the civic spirit which will make tomorrow the full realization of today's hopes and plans.* (In Latin, *Resurgens* means "Rising again".)

HOW SELECTED: Officially adopted by ordinance of the city council (date unknown).

DESIGNER: Information unavailable.

MORE ABOUT THE FLAG: Atlanta adopted its charter and seal in 1847. In 1865, rebuilding of the city began after the devastation of the Civil War. The ordinance of adoption also mentions a city pennant and a city ensign, but it is uncertain if these have ever been used.

RM 

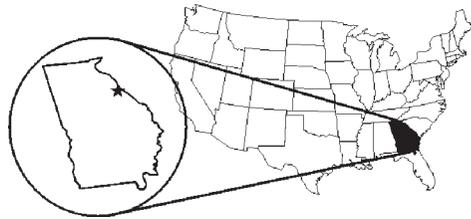
AUGUSTA, GEORGIA



Population Rank: U.S. # 97
Georgia # 2

Proportions: 2:3 (usage)

Adopted: 5 December 2000



DESIGN: Augusta's flag bears the city's official service mark logo, in black figures and outline on a gold oval disk, centered on a field of dark forest green. On a field of 2 by 3 units, the oval is 1.5 units high and 2.1 units wide. The logo was designed for the consolidated government of Augusta and Richmond County created in May of 1996. It features the old Government House, a stately two-story structure with four windows on the top floor and a door to a balcony. The four windows on the first floor are partially obscured by bushes. The balcony is supported by what appear to be wrought iron pillars, forming archways about the first floor windows and door. Shutters flank all the windows. A chimney caps off each side of the house. Below the image is **OLD**

GOVERNMENT HOUSE c.1800. Centered below this legend appears **1736** in larger numerals. In a ring around this inner oval field are **AUGUSTA** at the top and **GEORGIA** at the base.

SYMBOLISM: The selection of the Old Government House seems to show the appreciation and continuity of history in the municipality of Augusta. The stately, dignified structure is undoubtedly a source of pride in Augusta. The year 1736 marks the founding of the city.

HOW SELECTED: Approved at a meeting of the Augusta Commission.

DESIGNER: Information unavailable.

MORE ABOUT THE FLAG: The dark forest green of the flag seems nearly blue in practice.

RM 

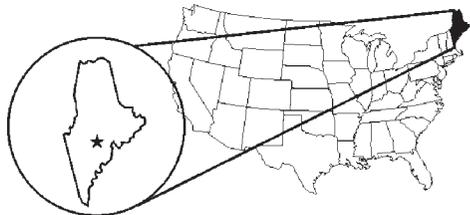
AUGUSTA, MAINE ★



Population Rank: U.S. # 2,070
Maine..... # 9

Proportions: 2:3 (usage)

Adopted: 20 February 1961



DESIGN: The field of Augusta's flag is divided diagonally, from the lower hoist to the upper fly, blue over green. In the center of the flag is the central portion of the city's seal in white, outlined in red. Above the seal is **CITY • OF • AUGUSTA**, and below it **1754**, all in white. The order of the city council establishing the flag states: *ORDERED, that the official flag of the city of Augusta be a rectangular blue and green flag with the name of the city, the date 1754, and the city seal in the center thereof.* The lower center of the seal depicts an Abenaki warrior in a canoe on the eastern side of the Kennebec River, viewing Fort Western along with its storehouses and the southwest blockhouse. A guard in colonial-era dress stands with his musket at the open gate door. Further behind is the 1829 statehouse. Clouds and trees embellish the design.



Note: The design does not follow the ordinance, as the complete seal should be shown on the flag, including the outer ring with **CITY OF AUGUSTA** at the top of the seal, and **ESTABLISHED 1754** below, separated by two Abenaki arrowheads pointing downward.

SYMBOLISM: Augusta was founded in 1754 with the building of Fort Western during the French and Indian Wars; the building still stands and serves as the city's museum. The image of the 1829 statehouse, which opened in 1832, honors Augusta's status as Maine's state capital.

HOW SELECTED: A contest in the elementary school system.

DESIGNER: Unknown.

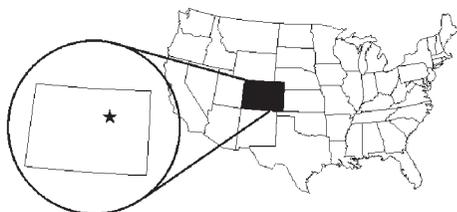
MORE ABOUT THE FLAG: The symbolism of the colors, if any, is not given. When displayed indoors the flag is bordered with gold fringe. The city seal was designed by an Augusta policeman, Officer Carroll W. Black, who took artistic license with the placement of the buildings, since Fort Western and the 1829 statehouse actually stand on opposite sides of the river.

JC 

AURORA, COLORADO



Population Rank: U.S. # 67
Colorado # 3



Proportions: 2:3 (usage)

Adopted: 1969 (official status uncertain)

DESIGN: Aurora's flag has a dark blue field with a large city seal in the center. On a flag of 2 by 3 units, the seal has a diameter of about 1.5 units. The seal has a narrow ring in bright yellow around its edge enclosing a white field. A dark blue bar, nearly as long as the circle's diameter, runs horizontally below the midpoint of the seal. A white sun surrounded by 15 yellow rays, alternating short and long, rises from the blue horizon bar. Immediately below the blue bar, in a semi-circle completing the circle of the sun's rays, are 5 small yellow five-pointed stars, evenly spaced. Arched over the sun is **City of Aurora**; curved below the stars counterclockwise is **Colorado**, all in a blue sans-serif font.

SYMBOLISM: Aurora means “Dawn” in Latin, hence the rising sun, which also represents a rising community letting its light shine and making its voice heard throughout the Rocky Mountain Empire. The five stars stand for Home, Church, School, Business, and Industry, which the city considers essential to a healthy, progressive community. The city’s colors are blue and gold. The blue symbolizes the azure sky; the gold represents the minerals that made Colorado famous and resulted in its settling in the early days of the West. The seal was adopted in 1907 when the town of Fletcher changed its name to Aurora.

HOW SELECTED: No information given.

DESIGNER: Albert Christen, an artist who painted many murals of the early Aurora, designed the seal (date not given). JP 

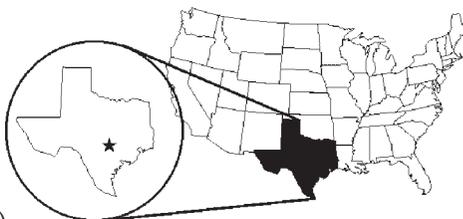
AUSTIN, TEXAS



Population Rank: U.S. # 16
Texas # 5

Proportions: 2:3 (usage)

Adopted: 12 April 1919 (official)



DESIGN: Austin's flag has a white field with a heraldic shield in the center. On a field of 2 by 3 units, the shield, which has a triangular shape at its bottom, is about 1 unit high overall and about $\frac{2}{3}$ of a unit wide. The shield is divided vertically in three equal stripes of red, white, and red. The top of the shield, or chief, is an inverted blue isosceles triangle bearing an ancient oil lamp, in gold, its spout toward the hoist. The shield is fimbriated with a narrow gold border. The crest of the shield rests on a white wreath, from which two large white wings outlined in blue rise vertically on either side of a gold cross bottonny. Silhouetted behind the crest in red is the dome and upper part of the state capitol. Centered in a curve counterclockwise below the shield is **CITY OF AUSTIN** in blue, across the center third of the flag.

SYMBOLISM: The crest comes from the coat of arms of Stephen F. Austin, for whom the city is named. (Austin was an early settler in Texas and the first Secretary of State of the Republic of Texas, and is often called the “Father of Texas” for his efforts in helping it win independence from Mexico.) The colors of the shield match the Texas state flag and the United States flag. The ancient lamp symbolizes knowledge, citing the educational advantages of living in Austin, where the University of Texas is located. The image of the state capitol and its distinctive dome marks Austin’s status as the state’s capital.

HOW SELECTED: In mid-1915, Mrs. William R. Wyse, editor of *Gossip*, suggested to Mayor A. P. Wooldridge that the city ought to have its own flag. The mayor appointed a committee of some 38 citizens to study the issue. That committee led to another committee of 10 to develop a process for selecting a flag. The city, through this committee, set up a contest and offered two prizes, one of \$50 for first place, and another of \$25 for second place, for an appropriate design. A third committee judged the more than 100 entries, a process which took several months.

DESIGNER: Ray F. Coyle, of San Francisco, took first place. Second place went to G. A. Geist, a faculty member at Texas A&M College.

MORE ABOUT THE FLAG: Coyle’s original design had a white star and crown on the chief, representing “The City of the Violet Crown”, but the committee suggested substituting the gold lamp in their place as more appropriate to Austin’s role as a center of education. The committee also added the blue to the wings of the crest to make them more visible.

In 1991, a citizen identified as “Murray” sued the city, protesting the use of the Christian cross on the crest as violating the separation of church and state mandated by the U.S. Constitution. The court ruled that the use of the cross was a historically valid part of Austin’s arms, and could therefore be retained on the flag.

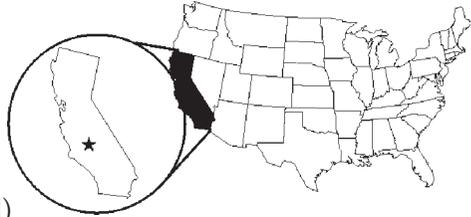
BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA



Population Rank: U.S. # 69
California # 11

Proportions: 5:8 (usage)

Adopted: 9 March 1983 (official)



DESIGN: The field of Bakersfield's flag is white with a narrow gold beveled border. In the center is the city's seal with a diameter of 3 units on a field of 5 by 8 units. The seal has a gold beveled outer edge matching the field's border. Immediately within the edge is a dark blue ring on which **CITY OF BAKERSFIELD** arches clockwise over the top and **CALIFORNIA** curves counterclockwise below, separated by a star on each side, all in gold. The field of the seal is white. On it, immediately below the blue ring, **INCORPORATED** arches clockwise over the top and **JANUARY 11, 1898** curves counterclockwise below, all in smaller gold letters. The center of the seal bears a large dark yellow cornucopia, its mouth toward the hoist. It appears to be filled to overflowing with

various fruits, mainly melons and grapes, and several stalks of grain extend from the opening.

SYMBOLISM: Blue and gold are the city's official colors. The cornucopia's abundance of fruits represents the area's agricultural wealth.

HOW SELECTED: The Bakersfield Beautification Committee, on 2 February 1983, petitioned the city council to consider the adoption of a city flag, city colors, a city flower, and a city bird. The committee had commissioned the flag design and presented it to council.

DESIGNER: Rick Alton, a local artist.

MORE ABOUT THE FLAG: At the same time that it adopted the city flag and city colors, the city council adopted the Miss Bakersfield Camellia as the city flower and the western robin as its city bird.

JP 

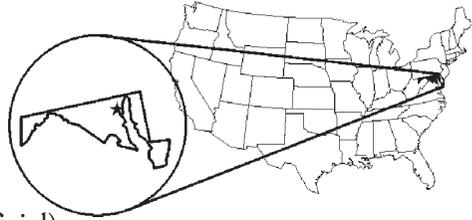
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND



Population Rank: U.S. # 17
Maryland..... # 1

Proportions: 2:3 (official)

Adopted: 11 February 1915 (official)



DESIGN: Baltimore's flag is heraldic in design. The ordinance of adoption describes it:

The Flag shall be of the Lord Baltimore colors, to wit: black and gold, heraldically arranged as in his armorial bearings, that is to say, paly of six pieces, Or and Sable, a bend counterchanged; and superimposed thereon, as an augmentation of honor, a shield, Sable, bordered, or, charged with the Battle Monument argent, in memory of the Defenders of Baltimore during the War of 1812-14.

In non-heraldic language, the field of the flag is divided into six equal vertical stripes, alternating from the hoist gold and black. From the top

of the hoist to the bottom of the fly is a diagonal stripe (the same width as the vertical stripes) that reverses the colors, beginning with black. Overlaying the center is a heraldic shield with a black field bordered in gold. The center of the shield depicts Baltimore's Battle Monument in white.

The ordinance specifies that on a flag of 6 by 9 feet, the shield is two feet six inches wide by three feet and three-eighths of an inch high.

SYMBOLISM: The city was named for Lord Baltimore (George Calvert, the first English Baron of Baltimore, seated in County Longford, Ireland). His arms also appear on the first and fourth quarters of Maryland's flag, and were the colors first brought ashore by the early settlers of the state in the 17th century. The Battle Monument, the central figure on the city's seal, was designed by Maximilian Godefroy in 1815 to commemorate the successful defense of the city against the British in the War of 1812, the same attack that gave rise to the national anthem, *The Star-Spangled Banner*.

HOW SELECTED: Mayor James H. Preston appointed a flag commission on 10 July 1914 to develop a city flag design in cooperation with the municipal art commission, in time for the September 1914 centennial of the writing of *The Star-Spangled Banner*. The centennial committee offered a prize of \$50, and 40 designs were submitted to the flag commission. However, finding none of them "entirely acceptable", the commission itself "evolved and accepted" a suitable design.

DESIGNER: The flag commission, consisting of Judge Henry Stockbridge, Mr. Carroll Lucas, Mr. Wilbur F. Coyle, and Mrs. Hester Dorsey Richardson.

MORE ABOUT THE FLAG: The original design submitted by the flag commission also showed a green laurel wreath around the shield, perhaps because of concern whether it would be heraldically correct to place a black shield on a black field. Later someone wrote to the heraldic experts at the College of Arms in London to inquire about this matter. Keith W. Murray, Portcullis Pursuivant, replied that the flag was correct without the wreath because the field was "paly or and sable"

(vertically divided yellow and black), so the “rule of tincture” was not violated. He did suggest changing the “inescutcheon” (shield) to “azure” (blue), but the all-black-and-gold design with the white monument won out, and the wreath was dropped.



FORMER FLAG: From about the turn of the 20th century, Baltimore used a blue banner with the Battle Monument in white. One early version also included a wreath of green around the Battle Monument, perhaps the inspiration for the wreath suggested by the flag commission.

JP 

BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA ★



Population Rank: U.S. ... # 74
Louisiana # 2

Proportions: 2:3 (usage)

Adopted: 13 December 1995 (official)



DESIGN: The flag of Baton Rouge has a field of crimson. In about the center of the top half of the field, beginning at the hoist, **Baton** runs horizontally in white in a large italic script that extends five-eighths of the flag's length. **Rouge**, in the same white script, appears below, beginning five-eighths of the flag's length from the fly, in the upper quarter of the lower half of the field. Centered in the space below **Baton** and before **Rouge** at the fly is a heraldic shield, its top extending to slightly above the mid-point of the flag's width, and its base extending nearly to the flag's bottom edge. The shield is divided horizontally into two parts. Above, on a blue field, is a white *fleur-de-lis* on the hoist side and a white castle tower on the fly side. Below, occupying the rest of the

shield, is an adaptation of the British Union Flag of 1606-1801, combining the white Cross of St. Andrew on blue with the red Cross of St. George on white.

SYMBOLISM: The crimson field recalls the “*Rouge*” (French for red) of the city’s name. The red, white, and blue colors of the shield are also those of the United States. The emblems on the shield represent the three foreign powers whose flags have flown over Baton Rouge: the fleur-de-lis for France; the *castillo* (castle) for Spain, and a variant of the then-current Union Jack for the United Kingdom.

HOW SELECTED: By the metro council on recommendation of a special committee established for the purpose.

DESIGNER: A committee appointed by the city-parish administration.

MORE ABOUT THE FLAG: The flag was adopted despite opposition by several prominent citizens who wanted to retain the earlier flag. In an effort to appease the opponents, the earlier flag was enclosed in a glass case for permanent display in council chambers.



FORMER FLAG: The first flag of Baton Rouge has a green field, described as a “lime” green, although the mayor at the time of the flag’s adoption said it was intended to be “emerald” green. In any case, the green color sufficiently annoyed some citizens that they complained to the city-parish administration, which gave rise to the movement to change the flag.

noyed some citizens that they complained to the city-parish administration, which gave rise to the movement to change the flag.

The green flag is elaborate. In the center of the field is an elongated rococo shield, bordered with white plumes. The field of the shield is also white. The upper portion of the shield depicts, dexter, a *castillo*, for Spain, and sinister, an upright red lion with a halo crown facing the hoist, for England. Centered above and between these figures in the

crest position is a five-pointed yellow star above which are seven white feathers of a Native American headdress. The star recalls Baton Rouge's role as capital of the Republic of West Florida for 74 days in 1810. Below these figures an arched white ribbon runs across the shield, separating the two portions, with **BATON ROUGE** in blue. Below this ribbon are three yellow *fleurs-de-lis*, one each on the hoist and fly sides and one below in the center for France. Between the upper pair of fleurs-de-lis is a truncated red cypress tree, symbolizing the *baton rouge* (red stick) of the city's name. Below the shield, in an extended heraldic ribbon curved upward in three folds appear **FOUNDED 1721** on the first part, **CAPITAL CITY ON THE MISSISSIPPI** on the second (center) part, and **INCORPORATED 1817** on the third part, all in blue.

This flag was designed by a committee established by the mayor, W. W. Dumas, and was adopted officially on 11 December 1968. JP 

BILLINGS, MONTANA



Population Rank: U.S. ... # 250
Montana # 1

Proportions: 3:5 (usage)

Adopted: 3 February 1986 (official)



DESIGN: The flag of Billings is a vertical tribar of blue, white, and blue stripes in proportions of 1:2:1, making the white stripe nearly square. On the center of the white stripe is a large city seal, 1.5 units in diameter on a flag of 3 units by 5. A white ring edged in blue surrounds the seal. Running across the bottom of the seal and hiding the lower portion of the ring is a red horizontal bar extending beyond the seal's edges. Across this bar is **BILLINGS**, in white, the "B" and the "S" larger and more cursive than the other letters. Centered below the red bar on the white field, in small blue letters, is **MONTANA**. On the visible portion of the ring, curved over the top, is the legend **STAR OF THE BIG SKY COUNTRY**, in red. The inner field of the seal is blue. Along the lower portion of the seal are four buildings represent-

ing the skyline of the city, in blue shaded in white. Behind the buildings on the hoist side are the Rimrocks, a city landmark, jutting from the hoist side and slanting downward in the center, in blue with a white line running down it. The blue sky above has a red sun hovering over the buildings, slightly to the fly side of center.

SYMBOLISM: The seal depicts what the city calls “a progressive image of Billings”, showing the city’s three tallest buildings. Montana’s nickname is “Big Sky Country”.

HOW SELECTED: On 23 January 1986, the Flag Committee of Billings met to discuss the need for a city flag and a new city seal to replace the former seal adopted in 1885. Two contests were held, one for the seal and one for the flag, with a top prize of \$500 in each. The committee received 66 entries.

DESIGNER: Fernando Méndez received a plaque and his prize of \$1,000 at the council meeting of 9 June 1986 for designing both the flag and the new seal. JP 

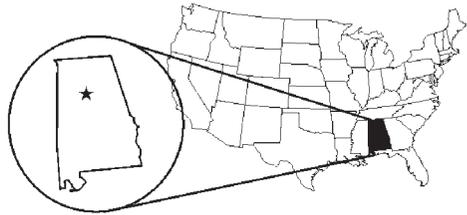
BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA



Population Rank: U.S. # 71
Alabama # 1

Proportions: 10:19 (usage)

Adopted: 15 December 1925 (official)



DESIGN: Birmingham's flag is a vertical tribar of red, white, and red stripes in proportions of 4:7:4. In the center of the white stripe is a large red five-pointed star inscribed in a circle of stars 5.5 units in diameter, on a flag with overall dimensions of 10 by 19 units. In the center of the star is the city seal in gold with black figures and lettering. The outer edge of the seal, which has seven notches somewhat like a gear (which the designer called a "hub"), extends nearly to the five inner points of the star. Along the inner notches of the gear are two concentric circles forming the traditional ring around the seal proper. Curved clockwise over the top part of the ring is **★ Official Seal ★**. Curved counterclockwise in the lower part of the ring is **Birmingham, Alabama**, beginning at 9 o'clock and ending at 3 o'clock. In the center of the seal, its baseline bisecting it horizontally, is the skyline of the city. Radiating from the midpoint of that baseline in the lower half of the

seal are eight ray-like lines, equidistant from each other. Slightly to the fly side of the seal's center, and appearing to be in the seal's foreground, is a statue of the Roman god Vulcan on a pedestal, facing the city skyline, his right arm upraised.

Encircling the red star are 67 tiny gold stars, pointing outwards and forming a circle. Radiating out from these stars are eighty-five gold rays, forming another circle of 6.5 units in diameter. The rays start with a longer one (one-eighth of a unit in length) at the red star's top point and alternate long and short around the star. The shorter rays are about three-fourths the length of the longer ones.

SYMBOLISM: The seal suggests that Vulcan, Roman god of smiths and metalworkers, and hence, of industry, is bestowing his blessing upon the city. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Birmingham was the center of the iron and steel industry in the Southern states. The designer carefully explained the remainder of the flag's symbolism:

The WHITE is symbolic of the purity of our women; the RED typifies the valor of our men; the GOLD hints not only of the fabulous mineral wealth of this district, but also represents the high standard of purpose and character of our citizens

The larger RED star represents our marvelous young city; in its center is the golden official seal (with the year of our City's birth, 1871, added to it), and surrounded by a golden "hub", which signifies that Birmingham is considered the industrial, financial, and aerial "hub" of the South.

The SIXTY-SEVEN GOLD stars surrounding the large RED star, represent the sixty-seven counties of Alabama enjoying correlative glory of our 'Magic City.'

The GOLDEN RAYS or sunbeams depict our city's fame and prosperity, and also suggest that 'all roads lead to Birmingham'—à la Imperial Rome.

HOW SELECTED: The designer, assisted by the junior chamber of commerce, presented a flag to the city council, which adopted it.

DESIGNER: Mrs. Idly King Sorsby.

MORE ABOUT THE FLAG: In spite of the mention of the 1871 date on the seal in Mrs. Sorsby's explanation of the symbolism, the date is sometimes omitted on depictions of the flag today. 10:19 are the same proportions as the United States flag.

JP 

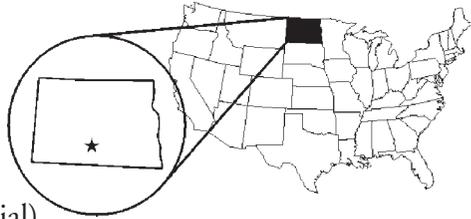
BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA



Population Rank: U.S. ... # 628
 North Dakota # 2

Proportions: 3:5 (usage)

Adopted: September 1986 (official)



DESIGN: Bismarck’s flag is a horizontal bicolor, 3 units by 5 units. The stripes are white over red, each of 1.25 units, and are surrounded by a yellow border .25 units wide, except at the hoist, where the border is .5 units wide. Centered on the white stripe is the legend **BISM☆RCK**, in dark blue letters .4 units high. The five-pointed star that replaces the “A” in the name is distorted slightly so that the top point is slightly longer than the others; it has a gold interior, with the outline of the star in dark blue. Set at the hoist is a large dark blue disk 1.25 units in diameter, half of which is on the white stripe, and half on the red stripe. Within the disk, and almost to its inner edge, is a circle formed of a gold wheat stalk, the stem of which starts at 9 o’clock; the grains of wheat begin at 6 o’clock and complete the circle. Within the circle thus

formed by the wheat is a large five-pointed white star, two points of which extend toward the edge of the wheat stem at 9 and 7 o'clock. The points at 12 and 3 o'clock extend to where the wheat grains join the stem. The remaining point, which would be at 5 o'clock, is hidden by a red-edged yellow ribbon that issues narrowly from the upper part of the star's point at 9 o'clock and swirls down across the star and on out horizontally across the red stripe, gradually widening to three-quarters of a unit, to join the yellow frame's edge at the fly. The ribbon, which at its horizontal position is nearly .25 units from the top of the red stripe, bears the legend **NORTH DAKOTA** in dark blue letters that are about half the size of the letters on the white stripe.

SYMBOLISM: The large white star encircled by wheat represents Bismarck as the capital city of an agricultural state, while the horizontal ribbon represents the freeway (Interstate 94) through North Dakota, on which Bismarck is located.

HOW SELECTED: Mayor Marlan Haakenson and the city commission held a contest to design a new city flag. The city commissioners appointed a "Betsy Ross Committee" to judge the entries. Its members were Fran Gronberg, Mary College; Dorothy Jackman, Bismarck Public Schools; Karen Syvertson, Bismarck Arts and Galleries Association; Nancy Hart, homemaker; and Susan Anderson, a Bismarck free-lance photographer.

DESIGNER: The winner of the contest and the \$100 prize was Mark Kenneweg, a commercial production manager at KXMB-TV, with a degree from Columbus College of Art and Design in Columbus, Ohio.

JP 

BOISE, IDAHO ★



Population Rank: U.S. ... # 105
Idaho # 1

Proportions: 2:3 (usage)



Adopted: March 2001 (official status uncertain)

DESIGN: The flag of Boise has a blue field with the city's logo slightly below its center. A narrow horizontal white stripe extends from the lower half of the logo to the flag's edges. The logo shows the dome of the state capitol in blue and white with trees on either side in the foreground. The capitol forms the upper half of the logo; behind it is a narrow gold ring forming a semi-circle around the logo's top half. The spire of the capitol juts above the ring, which crosses behind it on the dome's roof. The lower half of the logo intersects the horizontal white stripe, which is 8 units of the 48 units of the flag's width. The white stripe has **BOISE** in gold letters about 5 units high above a thin blue line. Below the line is **CITY OF TREES** in blue letters about 3 units

high. Below the white stripe, the gold ring continues on the blue stripe, completing a circle. The words on the white stripe extend on either side slightly beyond the circle formed by the gold and blue ring, 24 units in diameter. (Only an image of the logo was available in determining the flag's design. The flag has been reconstructed based on an oral description from the city's administration.)

SYMBOLISM: The capitol dome denotes Boise's role as capital city of Idaho. The trees reflect its motto, "City of Trees". The motto suggests the origin of the name of the city, corrupted from the French *Les Bois*, "The Woods".

HOW SELECTED: By the city council.

DESIGNER: Unavailable.



FORMER FLAG: An earlier flag designed by Mrs. Delton (Marguerite) Irish, was adopted by city council on 3 January 1972 and used until March 2001. This flag placed the city's seal of 19 units in diameter in the center of a blue field 34 units by 60 units.

The seal, which was adopted in the 19th century, is very elaborate. Its gold beveled edge has 60 small triangular gold points emanating from around it. The seal itself has a white field, and is heraldic in appearance. In the center is an ornate shield with gold edges. Four thin gold lines emanate from a tiny gold-edged blue rhomboid in the center of the shield, thus quartering it. The first quarter shows a golden yellow sunrise over the area's Shaw Mountain, with a cultivated field and cottonwood trees, in natural colors, to suggest the origin of the city's name, *Les Bois*. The second quarter has a white-winged caduceus with two brown snakes entwined around it on a green field, to represent the first doctors and medical missionaries in the area. The third quarter has a gold sheaf of wheat on a green background, to symbolize the area's agriculture. The fourth quarter shows a burnished gold cornucopia

spilling out golden coins toward the dexter side of the shield, to represent the mining wealth of the region.

At the base of the shield is a small golden yellow ribbon with 1865 in gold numerals outlined in black. The dexter supporter is a white-bearded miner, symbolizing the gold rush and early mining development of the area; his left arm leans on the shield, his right arm holds the handle of a pickaxe to his side. A long-handled shovel lies at his feet, pointed toward the base of the shield. He wears a brown broad-brimmed hat, a light blue shirt with a scarf around his neck, and dark blue trousers. The sinister supporter is a soldier in full 19th-century uniform, commemorating Fort Boise as a military post; his right arm supports the shield, his left hand rests on his sword. His jacket and broad-brimmed hat are dark blue, his trousers a lighter blue, and his boots, brown. The shield and the supporters stand on a brown platform of hewn logs.

Immediately below the platform is a blue heraldic ribbon with **BOISE CITY** in gold, curved to follow the inner edge of the seal. At the top of the seal, curved along its inner edge, is a similar ribbon reading **SEAL OF**. Below this ribbon, in the crest position, is a brown beaver on a log, facing the hoist, commemorating an early name for the Idaho Territory, “Beaver Territory”. Between the beaver and the shield is yet another blue heraldic ribbon with the motto in gold: **PERIL, ENERGY, SUCCESS**, summarizing Boise’s settlement history.

The seal was first colored by Mayor Eugene W. Shellworth in 1963; it was previously embossed or depicted only in black and white. JP 

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS



Population Rank: U.S. # 20

Massachusetts # 1

Proportions: 7:10 (official)

Adopted: 30 January 1917



DESIGN: Boston's flag centers the city's seal on a blue field. The seal consists of a white disk with its features outlined in blue. It shows a city scene in the early 1800s with the state house, built in 1790, featured prominently in the center, along with several sailing ships in Boston Bay. In the lower part of the seal appears, in three lines, **BOSTONIA/CONDITA A.D. / 1630.** ("Boston Founded AD. 1630"). On a ring of "continental buff" surrounding the seal is **SICUT PATRIBUS SIT DEUS NOBIS** ("God be with us as He was with our fathers") at the top, and **CIVITATIS REGIMINE DONATA AD. 1822.** ("Presented with the government of a body politic in the year of Our Lord 1822"), at the bottom, all in blue. A thin white line fimbriates the outer edge of the ring.

SYMBOLISM: Governor John Winthrop founded Boston in 1630 and made it the capital of the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1632. The ships signify the importance of maritime commerce to the city's development. The motto "God be with us as He was with our fathers" comes from 1 Kings, 8:57.

HOW SELECTED: In 1913 the Columbus Day Committee designed a civic flag for its parade and later proposed to the mayor that it be adopted. An ordinance was introduced into the city council on 16 January 1914, after the municipal art commission had been consulted, but it was not adopted until 30 January 1917.

DESIGNER: Unknown.



Seal of the Boston Society, showing an image of the Trimountain.

MORE ABOUT THE FLAG:

The city seal was created in 1823 and has no colors. Since the ordinance does not specifically define the flag, except to specify that *the colors herein specified shall be the official colors of the city of Boston, namely: Continental blue and Continental buff* (the colors derive from the uniforms of Boston soldiers during the Revolutionary War), the flag has been manufactured differently. One version has the seal in blue and white with the buff circle on

a light blue field. Another has a colored seal that appears on a dark blue field. The city ordinance creating the civic flag described "a City Flag and a Municipal Standard". The flag was to be flown from public buildings such as city hall, and made of bunting with the seal showing through to the reverse side. The standard was to be used in parades and other functions when the mayor could attend, and made of silk with the reverse showing the Trimountain (three hills of Boston). Apparently the standard was never manufactured, as no reports, examples, illustrations, or photographs of it exist.

FORMER FLAGS: In the 19th-century booklet (n.d.) *City Flags*, published by Allan and Ginter, the civic flag of Boston is illustrated as a colored city seal on a white field with wreath below it. Whether this flag was actually used remains unknown, as no other evidence has appeared to either verify or refute its use.

JC 

BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT



Population Rank: U.S. ... # 160
Connecticut # 1

Proportions: 3:5 (usage)

Adopted: 17 February 1936



DESIGN: The city resolution states: *The field of the official flag shall be dark blue and the figures on said field shall consist of the following: The Official Seal and the words **City of Bridgeport, Connecticut** in gold under the seal and a suitable fringe shall be provided.*

The *de facto* design does not follow exactly the official description in the above resolution. The current flag places **City of Bridgeport** above the seal and **Connecticut** below. The lettering is gold in an Old English font. The seal is rendered in natural colors rather than in gold. The seal portrays a view of the city's economic and civic life.

In the center of the lower third of the seal are an anvil and a cogwheel; below the anvil is a cornucopia. Above the anvil is a shield bearing a right arm holding a hammer, with a rising sun behind three hills. Above

the shield is an American eagle with wings spread, facing the hoist, upon a globe, with a scroll in its beak reading **INDUSTRIA CRESCIMUS** (“By Industry We Thrive”). On the observer’s right of the seal is a section of a bridge, with mills above and a train below. To the observer’s left are a sailing ship and a harbor scene. Above this are a grain elevator, railroad roundhouse, and church spire. Below the ship is an old-fashioned fire engine. A sewing machine is below the train and next to the anvil. In the blue ring surrounding the seal appear **SEAL OF THE CITY OF BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT** clockwise above, and **INCORPORATED 1835** counterclockwise below, all in gold.

SYMBOLISM: Bridgeport is an industrial city whose manufacturing development accelerated after the Civil War. The anvil, cogwheel, and hammer symbolize industry; the cornucopia is for wealth. The bridge recalls the origin of the city’s name (Bridgeport’s name derives from the first drawbridge over the Pequonock River). The sailing ship represents maritime commerce (Bridgeport is a coastal city on Long Island Sound). Bridgeport was one of the first cities to manufacture sewing machines and has a monument to the inventor, Elias Howe.

HOW SELECTED: The flag was created for the city’s centennial commemoration in 1936. Alderman Taft proposed a resolution to adopt this design as the civic flag, which the city council approved by a 15-1 vote.

DESIGNER: Unknown.

MORE ABOUT THE FLAG: Bridgeport has had two seals. The seal in use today on the civic flag was designed by Julian H. Sterling and adopted by the common council in 1873. It is a revision of the original seal.

JC 

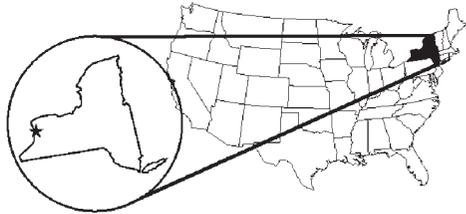
BUFFALO, NEW YORK



Population Rank: U.S. # 58
New York # 2

Proportions: 5:8 (official)

Adopted: 7 May 1924 (official)



DESIGN: The field of Buffalo’s flag is dark blue with a central image in white. In the center is the city seal, from which emanate thirteen rays (“electric flashes”) of three jagged sections each similar to the conventional depiction of lightning flashes. Between each pair of flashes is a five-pointed star, point outwards. The seal itself has a narrow ring around the outside edge. The seal’s field is white with blue figures. In the upper half, from the hoist, are a lighthouse on a pier, a three-masted ship under full sail (bow toward the hoist), and a small sailboat. The top of the pier and the surface of the water on which the ship and boat are sailing (Lake Erie) form the bisecting line. The waters of the lake occupy about a third of the top of the seal’s lower half. The remainder shows a shoreline, below which the old Erie Canal is seen, with a canal boat (also headed toward the hoist) being drawn by two horses or don-

keys, one ahead of the other. The rear animal has a human figure riding it. The lower edge of the canal has a fence running along it, and below are shrubs, filling in the remainder of the seal.

The Charter and Code of the City of Buffalo (1974) specifies the official dimensions:

Said flag in dimensions shall be five (5) feet wide by eight (8) feet long, or a flag of other dimensions may be used if the width and length and the following elements are of similar proportions. The inner and outer circles above indicated on a flag of five by eight (5x8) feet shall be, respectively, eighteen (18) inches and twenty-two (22) inches in diameter. The electric flashes shall be sixteen (16) inches long and approximately one and one-half inches wide at the base, which base shall be separated from the outer circle by a space of one-fourth (1/4) inch. The stars shall be four (4) inches tip to tip, and the center of each star shall be sixteen (16) inches distant from the center of the circle.

SYMBOLISM: The 13 stars symbolize that New York was one of the thirteen original colonies of the United States. The flashes recall the fact that Buffalo was one of the first cities to install electricity widely. The ship and lighthouse on the seal show that Buffalo is an important commercial port on Lake Erie, and the boat suggests that the lake is also a center for recreation. Buffalo was the terminus of the Erie Canal, which helped to develop the city commercially.

HOW SELECTED: By the city planning committee, which held a citywide contest.

DESIGNER: Louis Greenstein, president of the local chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

MORE ABOUT THE FLAG: The designer was awarded \$250 as winner of the contest. The prize was presented to him by the mayor on 14 June 1924, Flag Day, which was declared a holiday for the occasion. Greenstein had designed a similar flag in 1907 for the Old Home Week celebration that was chosen by a committee at that time as the best design.



FORMER FLAG: On 3 June 1912, Mayor L. P. Fuhrmann and the commissioner of public works, Francis G. Ward, proposed a flag to the city council that was apparently not adopted officially. This flag has a “Continental buff” field with the coat of arms of New York

in its center. Superimposed on the shield of the arms is the city’s seal. Both arms and seal are all in blue. While Fuhrmann and Ward asserted in their letter to the council that it was common in other cities to use the city seal superimposed on the arms of the state, no such practice was in fact observed.

JP 

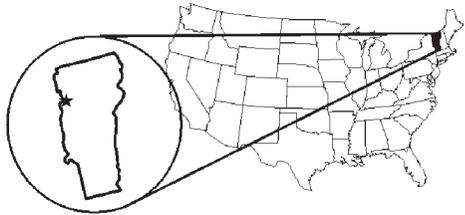
BURLINGTON, VERMONT



Population Rank: U.S... # 918
Vermont..... # 1

Proportions: 2:3 (unofficial)

Adopted: Circa 1991 (unofficial)



DESIGN: The flag of Burlington is divided horizontally. The upper section is medium blue, with a curved scroll in yellow with **BURLINGTON** in red. In the top half of the lower section is a mountain range in dark and medium green. Below it is a lake in light blue with four medium-green islands near the hoist. In the center of the flag is a quartered shield. The first quarter is royal blue with a white dove flying toward the hoist; the second is red with a yellow “lamp of knowledge” with a white flame; the third is yellow with seven dark green pine trees placed from top to bottom 2,2,2,1; the fourth is royal blue with five white narrow horizontal stripes charged with thin black stripes; overall are the two masks of the theater, tragedy and comedy, in white and outlined in black. In the center of the shield is a white globe cen-

tered in the mid-Atlantic Ocean (depicted in light blue) with the edges of North and South America, Greenland, and Europe and Africa depicted in dark green. Between the first and second quarters, above the globe and emanating above the shield into the center of the scroll, is a city hall image in white, outlined in black, with a yellow dome atop a tower (the new city hall is shown, as opposed to the image of the old city hall that appears on the city seal). The tower overlaps a yellow half-disk with four red conjoined triangles in a semi-circle touching its top on either side of the tower; the dome overlaps the scroll below the “N” of the city’s name.

SYMBOLISM: The medium blue represents the sky, while the light blue symbolizes Lake Champlain, one of the largest lakes in the United States, on which Burlington is located. The mountain range is New York’s Adirondack Mountains, the view from Burlington westward across Lake Champlain. The islands are the Four Brother Islands, with Juniper Island farthest from the hoist.

The first quarter’s dove symbolizes peace and Burlington’s connections to its sister cities: Yaroslavl, Russia; Puerto Cabezas, Nicaragua; Burlington, Ontario, Canada; and, since the introduction of the flag, both Arab and Israeli Bethlehem, Israel. The second quarter’s lamp of knowledge represents the colleges and universities in Burlington: The University of Vermont, Champlain College, Burlington College, and Trinity College (which closed in 2001). It also represents the city’s commitment to education and in particular its public schools.

The third quarter’s pine trees represent the city’s commitment to the environment and conservation. According to the flag’s official description, the pine tree was chosen because it is “the state tree of Vermont”, although the sugar maple is actually the state tree. However, the pine tree does prominently figure on the Vermont state seal and on the Vermont coat of arms. Two pine boughs flank the arms and are referred to as the “Vermonters’ badge”, as troops from Vermont wore such a badge in 1814 at the Battle of Plattsburgh. The fourth quarter’s theater masks reflect the city’s love of the arts. The globe represents the theme of “we are one world”.

HOW SELECTED: A group of students in the Paradise Project at Edmunds Middle School developed the flag. The project was conceived and led by Cara Wick, an eighth grader.

DESIGNER: Students at the Edmunds Middle School in Burlington, Vermont.

