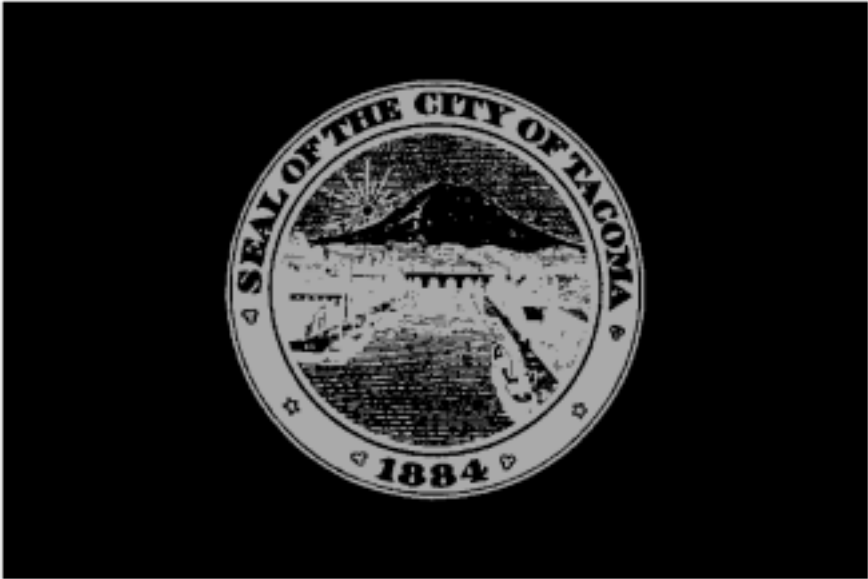


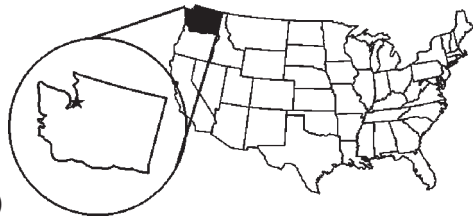
# TACOMA, WASHINGTON



*Population Rank:* U.S. .... # 99  
Washington ..... # 3

*Proportions:* 2:3 (usage)

*Adopted:* 18 June 1991 (official)



**DESIGN:** The field of Tacoma's flag is a bright medium (royal) blue, with the city seal in blue and gold in the center. On a field of 2 by 3 units, the diameter of the seal is 1.25 units. A gold ring edged in blue encircles the seal. Arched over the top half in blue is **SEAL OF THE CITY OF TACOMA**, preceded and followed by a small blue-outlined star at the midpoints of the ring. Centered below is **1884**, also in blue. Immediately preceding and following the two legends are small three-lobed objects, edged in blue. The center of the seal shows Mount Tacoma (now Mount Rainier) in blue, rising from a horizontal line about one-third of the way from the top of the seal. A gold sun with rays appears over its hoist shoulder. Centered below the mountain is a bridge with

four arches over a waterway that widens to fill the bottom of the seal. An old-fashioned train with coal tender and two boxcars is crossing the bridge in the direction of the fly. On the promontories on either side of the bridge are factories with smokestacks in operation. Wharves run along the edge of the banks where the factories meet the water. Two small steamships are moored, one on either side of the waterway. The water and the sky behind the mountain are a lighter shade of blue; the rest is gold with blue shadings.

**SYMBOLISM:** The seal captures a scene from the area at the city's founding. Mount Rainier is a prominent landmark overlooking the city, drawn on the seal in 1884, the year of the city's incorporation.

**HOW SELECTED:** The flag was developed as part of the city's Corporate Identity Program, which calls for the use of the city seal on all materials related to official, policy-making activities of the mayor and city council. It was felt that the seal, because of its historic significance, would reinforce the official status of the flag.

**DESIGNER:** Not available.



**FORMER FLAGS:** Tacoma has had two previous flags. The first flag was designed by C. A. Darmer, a member of the Military and Naval Affairs Committee of the Tacoma Chamber of Commerce, which proposed the adoption of the flag to city council.

The flag is a horizontal bicolor, crimson over gold, with the city seal in the center in black and white, with proportions of 2:3. It was officially adopted on 30 November 1931.

The second flag was adopted officially on 11 April 1972. This flag has a white field with proportions of 3:5 units. In the center is a circular emblem with an overall diameter of about 2.25 units consisting of a semicircular rainbow composed of 3 stripes, from the top red, orange, and yellow, curved over a circular blue emblem. Complementing the rainbow below is **CITY OF TACOMA** in blue in an Arial-type font,



curved counterclockwise from one end of the rainbow to the other. There is a white space between the rainbow/city-name circle and the central symbol, enclosed in a narrow blue circle of about 1.25 units in diameter.

The symbol has a white field and is divided approximately in half. The upper portion shows a stylized Mount Rainier in blue; the lower portion, open water, representing Commencement Bay, detailed with four curved blue lines and a blue seagull, centered, flying toward the hoist. The flag was designed by John Wallerich and Larry Lawson of the city, and recommended to the city council by the Tacoma-Pierce County Civil Arts Commission. The rainbow symbolizes the bridge of communication; the seagull, the union of sky and abundant waters; and the circle, the timeless union of these qualities leading to a bright future.

JP 

# TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA



*Population Rank:* U.S. ... # 135  
Florida..... # 8

*Proportions:* 4:7 (usage)

*Adopted:* 1957 (official)



**DESIGN:** Tallahassee's flag is a white saltire on a dark blue field, with the city seal in blue on a gold background overlaying the center. On a field of 4 by 7 units, the seal is about 2 units in diameter. Immediately within the seal's outer edge is a narrow white ring, into which emanate some 80 tiny black triangles, suggesting the cut edge of a seal. Within the white ring is a gold ring, the inner edge of which is formed by a narrow black ring. Curved over the top of the gold ring is **CITY of TALLAHASSEE**, and counterclockwise below is **FLORIDA**, all in black and an Arial-type font. The dome of the capitol appears in the center of the seal, its lower portion white detailed in black and its upper portion black detailed in white. A small United States flag flies atop the dome, blowing toward the hoist. Clouds on either side of the dome are gold edged in black.

**SYMBOLISM:** The capitol dome on the seal represents Tallahassee's status as the capital of Florida. No particular symbolism is given for the colors or saltire, although the flag has the same basic design as the Florida state flag, with different colors. In the choice of colors for the Tallahassee flag, the designer, whose name is of Scottish origin, may have been influenced by the flag of Scotland, a white saltire on blue.

**HOW SELECTED:** At the urging of Mrs. Florence R. S. Phillips, one-time secretary of the Tallahassee Booster Club (a forerunner of the chamber of commerce), and City Engineer Miller Walston, the city commission held a contest for a new city flag sometime in 1916.

**DESIGNER:** Miss Abernathy, an art teacher at Florida State College for Women.



**MORE ABOUT THE FLAG:**

From its creation, the flag was apparently considered the city flag, even though not officially adopted, since an ordinance existed prohibiting its use for advertising or commercial purposes without the approval of the city commission. The

original flag had the seal in blue on white. It was evidently changed to gold about the time of its official adoption in 1957. According to a number of references, the flag appeared for years on city postcards with an account of its history.

JP 

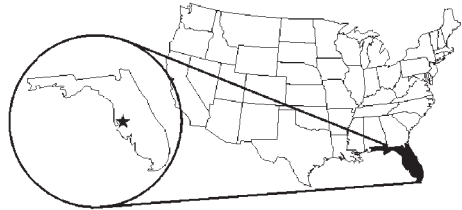
# TAMPA, FLORIDA



*Population Rank:* U.S. .... # 58  
Florida ..... # 3

*Proportions:* 3:5 (unofficial)

*Adopted:* 8 July 1930 (official)



**DESIGN:** Tampa's flag has a shape unlike any other U.S. city flag. It is a modified burgee with a shallow indentation between the two traditional end points, and a third point (suggesting the tongue found on some swallow-tailed war ensigns), about half as long, between the other two. At the hoist are three narrow equal vertical stripes—red, white, and blue—each .2 units wide on a white field of 3 by 5 units. Spaced evenly on the blue stripe are 7 white five-pointed stars. 1.6 units from the hoist are five approximately equal vertical stripes (three yellow and two red) that form a central bar .75 units wide. Centered on this red and yellow bar is the city's seal, 1.1 units in diameter. From the seal's fly midpoint, three stripes—red, white, red—each .2 units wide, bend in a

chevron oriented to the fly. At the end of the fly is a dark green stripe about the same width as the red stripes of the chevron and oriented in the same fashion. The top and bottom of the stripe have diamond-shaped red tips at the top and bottom points of the fly. The tongue between these two points forms a diamond, and is itself divided into four smaller equal diamonds; the top and bottom of these are dark green and meld into the green chevron, while the fly diamond at the tip of the tongue is red like its counterparts above and below. The hoist diamond is dark blue and displays a single white five-pointed star.

Extending across the center of the field horizontally from the blue stripe at the hoist, is another blue stripe .2 units wide that runs behind the seal and over the chevron stripes, stopping at the border of the green chevron at the fly's edge. Two white stars are on the hoist portion of this stripe, in line with the center star of the vertical stripe, and four more are on the fly side, evenly spaced. The blue diamond of the tongue with its lone star gives the impression that the blue stripe is overlaid by the green chevron. All of the stars on the flag are oriented point-upwards.

The seal is blue on white. The outer ring around the seal is edged in blue. The white field of the ring is divided into two semicircular bands with rounded ends, one above and one below, that do not quite meet at the center, where a small white star on blue separates them on both sides. Arched on the top band is **CITY OF TAMPA FLORIDA** and on the lower band, counterclockwise, is **ORGANIZED JULY 15, 1887**, all in blue. In the center of the seal is the steamer *Mascotte* on a blue sea headed toward the fly. Midway across the lower portion of the sea is a white horizontal stripe with **MASCOTTE** on it in blue. The seal was adopted in 1887.

**SYMBOLISM:** The designer suggested rather creative symbolism for his design. The colors are inspired by the national flags of the immigrants who settled the area: France, Great Britain, and the United States (red, white and blue); Italy (green, white, and red); and Spain (red and yellow). British contributions to the area (1763-1821) are also suggested by portions of the crosses of St. Andrew and St. George. Florida is acknowledged by the red and white colors of its state flag and by a

stylized “F”. A stylized “H” suggests Hillsborough County, of which Tampa is the seat of government. The seal superimposed on a stylized “T” commemorates the official birth of Tampa in 1855. (Some imagination is required to trace out the letters intended by the designer.) The Mascotte on the seal recalls the ship built for railroad magnate Henry B. Plant, which ran passengers and freight from Tampa to Key West, Florida, and Havana, Cuba, in the late 19th century, allowing Cuban cigar workers to travel inexpensively between factories in Florida and Cuba.

**HOW SELECTED:** Presented to Mayor D. B. McKay by the designer. The mayor recommended it to the board of representatives, who adopted the flag.

**DESIGNER:** F. Grant Whitney, a local industrial engineer.

**MORE ABOUT THE FLAG:** A photo in the *Tampa Tribune* of 24 February 1944 shows the flag with a white vertical stripe centered over the red vertical stripe behind the seal. Neither the original version nor the official version on file in the city shows that stripe, which was apparently added in error by the manufacturer.



**OTHER FLAGS:** Tampa is one of the few cities, including Cleveland and New York, with a sub-municipal flag, in this case the flag of Ybor City, which comprises Tampa’s Latin Quarter. Ybor City was founded as a village devoted to

cigar manufacturing in 1885 and was annexed to Tampa in 1887. There is no information available about the flag’s history or designer, but it is at least forty years old.

The flag is divided into four triangular quarters (per saltire), yellow at the hoist, green at the top, red at the fly, and blue on the bottom. Overlaying the center is a white disk resembling a seal, the outer edge of which has a white band bordered in gold. In the lower half of the disk



is a gold cigar slanting up from the hoist toward the fly, with a blue tip at the hoist end. Over the cigar in script is **Ybor**, in white outlined in blue. Below the cigar, in small blue letters, is **CITY**. A narrow white vertical stripe runs from the center edges of the disk to the top and bottom edges of the flag. The colors come from the flags of the original countries of the city's many ethnic groups. A rather comical "Pledge of Affection" for the flag reads, in "Spanglish":

*I pledge affection to the flag of Ybor Ciudad  
 The symbol of fame and fine calidad  
 It should always wave proudly arriba  
 With friendship and good will ever viva!  
 Yesterday, today and mañana,  
 My it always inspire our hazañas  
 We are españoles, italianos, and cubanos  
 But together we make americanos.  
 Salute our flag and alcalde  
 Trust them to always be salve.  
 Respect this ensign we demanda  
 Let's be gay when see it, caramba!*

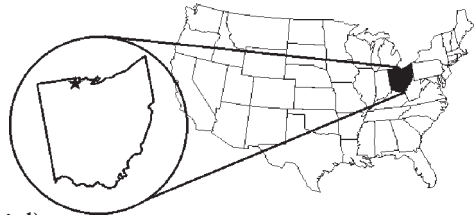
# TOLEDO, OHIO



*Population Rank:* U.S. .... # 56  
Ohio ..... # 4

*Proportions:* 3:5 (usage)

*Adopted:* 18 January 1994 (official)



**DESIGN:** Toledo's flag is a vertical tribar of equal medium blue, white, and medium blue stripes, with the city's seal in the center. The seal, nearly as wide as the center stripe, is encircled by a white ring edged in black. Arched over the top half is • **SEAL • OF • THE • CITY • OF • TOLEDO •** and in the lower half, counterclockwise, **JANUARY • 7 • 1837**, all in black. A silhouette of old Fort Industry at sunrise, in brown, appears in the center fly portion of the seal. A small United States flag in full color flies overhead, though little more than a suggestion of the blue and red. The fort is perched on a green grassy plain over a chalky white bluff detailed in black. Below the bluff and toward the hoist is the Maumee River, which the rising sun has tinted yellow with brown-

ish waves. The orange sun, its top half visible, is aligned with the fort horizontally. Orange rays in varying sizes form a hemisphere over the sun, and the sky is also yellow with brownish tints. Arched immediately below the inner circle of the outer ring, and in black letters about two-thirds the size of those on the ring, is the city's Latin motto, • **LABORARE • EST • ORARE** • (“To work is to pray”).

**SYMBOLISM:** Fort Industry was the first building, constructed around 1800, in what would later become the city of Toledo, at the junction of Swan Creek and the Maumee River. The rising sun, prominent on the state seal, symbolizes Ohio.

**HOW SELECTED:** Mayor Carleton S. Finkbeiner and city council adopted a “modification” of the city's official flag in 1994 in preparation for a celebration of the city's 160th anniversary in 1997 by placing the city's first engraved seal on the flag. (This seal was adopted in 1873; before that a kind of generic seal with a scroll on which “L. S.”—for the Latin *Locus Sigilli*, or “Place of the Seal”—was used.) In effect, however, it is a new flag.

**DESIGNER:** Presumably Mayor Finkbeiner, who thought that a return to the old seal was appropriate. The designer of the 1873 seal was an engraver, O. J. Hopkins.

**MORE ABOUT THE FLAG:** Because of the seal's many colors, Toledo's current flag is considerably more costly to manufacture than the previous flag, so it is not flown as widely about the city as was its predecessor.



**FORMER FLAG:** The former flag of Toledo was adopted by city council on 11 January 1909. The ordinance of adoption describes the design and proportions of the flag:

*A field divided into three vertical bars of equal width, each bar to be one-third of the whole; the width of the flag to be five parts of its whole length; the two outer bars to be of navy blue, the*

*center bar of pure white; in the middle of the center bar a conventionalized figure of the blockhouse of old Fort Industry, in red, surrounded by a circle of blue; the diameter of the outer edge of the circle to be 2.4 of a part.*

Robert M. Corl designed the flag based on suggestions by the mayor, Brad Whitlock. Corl also designed a new city seal (also repealed in 1994 in favor of the 1873 version), which incorporated the blockhouse design, and was adopted along with the flag. The symbolism of the flag is explained in the 1 February 1947, issue of *The Toledo City Journal* (p. 74): *On our city flag the blockhouse stands for security, industry, and the pioneer spirit of advancement. The circle denotes unity, completeness, and eternity and also represents the state of Ohio. The colors of the flag, red, white, and blue stand for the nation; blue for constancy, white for purity, and red for labor, courage, and brotherhood.*

JP 

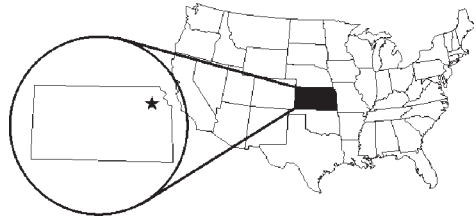
# TOPEKA, KANSAS



*Population Rank:* U.S. ... # 176  
 Kansas .... # 14

*Proportions:* 2:3 (usage)

*Adopted:* 1977 (official)



**DESIGN:** The field of the flag of Topeka is divided vertically, with a shield and ribbon on a white field on the hoist half, and gold stripe over a dark green stripe on the fly half. The shield has a gold field; its images, lettering, and its dividing lines and chevron are all in dark green. In a compartment across its top is **GOLDEN CITY** in outlined letters, centered in two lines. The rest of the field is divided into three portions by a chevron (upside-down “V”), the top point of which is in the center of the shield, and a line extending upwards to the top compartment. In the hoist third are a beehive and a locomotive drive wheel. In the fly third is a grass hut of the Kaw Tribe, with an arrow and stalk of corn on either side of the hut. In the lower third is the dome of the Kansas

state capitol. The chevron has a zigzag band design in gold, forming ten unequal divisions separating nine five-pointed gold stars. Below the shield is a heraldic ribbon in gold, on which **TOPEKA 1854 KANSAS** appears in green outlined letters.

**SYMBOLISM:** The gold on the flag reflects the city's nickname, "The Golden City", given by the early settlers because of the beauty of the city's sunlit rolling hills and autumn elms. The dark green represents the fertility of the Kaw Valley and corn, an important agricultural product of the region. The beehive and locomotive drive wheel symbolize industry and the major part the railroads contributed to the region's development. The Kaw hut recalls the original settlers of the land, and the arrow and corn stalk suggest that the Kaw were both hunters and farmers. The capitol dome shows that Topeka is the capital of Kansas. The zigzag design on the chevron symbolizes the first bridge over the Kansas River, a structure that contributed to the city's growth. The nine stars stand for the nine founders of the city.

**HOW SELECTED:** The flag was a United States bicentennial project of Boy Scout Troop 43.

**DESIGNER:** Dana Villeme, a 13-year old Eagle Scout, with the advice of some local architects. The city coat of arms that appears on the flag was designed in 1960 by Ed Bruske, an artist for the city-county planning agency.

**MORE ABOUT THE FLAG:** Beginning in 1975, it took Boy Scout Troop 43 two years of hard work to embroider the first flag on poplin. This flag was 4:7 in proportion; later versions are 2:3. In 1996, after Villeme died in an automobile accident, the city dedicated a memorial plaque in his honor on the flagpole at city hall where the city flag is flown.

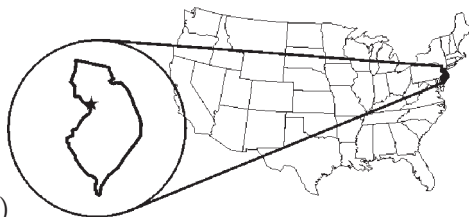
# TRENTON, NEW JERSEY



*Population Rank:* U.S. ... # 297  
New Jersey ..... # 5

*Proportions:* 3:5 (usage)

*Adopted:* 18 April 1985 (official)



**DESIGN:** Trenton's flag is divided in half, blue at the hoist and gold at the fly. In the center is the city seal in gold. The seal, nearly the height of the flag, has a white field bordered by a fancy blue ring. In its center is a blue shield with three wheat sheaves, 2 over 1, in buff. From the upper corners of the shield hang tassels or chains. Above the shield on a heraldic wreath is a nag's head, in profile facing the hoist, and encircling the coat of arms is **SEAL OF THE CITY OF TRENTON**, with **1792** below.

**SYMBOLISM:** The nag's (horse's) head, which also appears on the state seal, and wheat sheaves represent agriculture, an important economic resource when the area was first settled by English Quakers in

1679. They are also appropriate symbols for the capital city of New Jersey, “The Garden State”. The state legislature granted the city’s charter in 1792. Since 1909, blue and gold have been the city’s official colors; buff has been a traditional color of New Jersey since the 1700s.

**HOW SELECTED:** Attorney George Dougherty researched the Trenton flag in 1985 and discovered that an earlier version was unofficial. He suggested a flag, based on a former design, be officially adopted by the city council.

**DESIGNER:** Unknown.

**MORE ABOUT THE FLAG:** Although not directly related to the flag, the first city seal bore just one wheat sheaf and **CITY OF TRENTON** with the city motto **E PARVIS GRANDES** (“Out of the Small [come] the Great”) around the circumference. The seal was later changed, adding two more wheat sheaves, the nag’s head, and the year 1792, eliminating the motto.



**FORMER FLAG:** Before the adoption of this official flag, the city had used a similar unofficial flag for a number of years, except the city seal was centered on the blue stripe at the hoist.



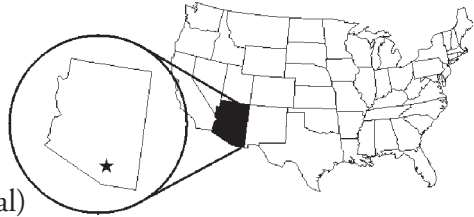
# TUCSON, ARIZONA



*Population Rank:* U.S. .... # 30  
Arizona ..... # 2

*Proportions:* 3:5 (usage)

*Adopted:* 5 January 1953 (official)



**DESIGN:** Tucson's flag has a white field with the city seal in the center. No size is specified for the seal, but it usually occupies a significant portion of the field. The seal's outer edge is blue, surrounding a white interior ring. Curved on that ring from about 10 o'clock to 2 o'clock is **CITY OF TUCSON**, and centered below, counterclockwise, is **ARIZONA**, all in blue in an Arial-type font. The seal is circular, but its field is divided in half between the upper hoist side and the lower fly side, resembling a tilted yin-yang symbol.

The upper part of the seal is yellow with its curved edge suggesting the sun, with 33 short rays emanating outward, every fourth ray slightly longer. The rays are shadowed in red on the hoist side. Horizontally across the center of the upper portion is Tucson's 1949 skyline, with

buildings in beige, blue, brown, and gray, and a green saguaro cactus in the hoist foreground.

The lower part of the seal shows the historic San Xavier mission, in white with black shadowing, as if guarding the city at night, on a blue background. Very narrow red rays in sets of four in alternating sizes extend from the edge of the blue portion to balance the sun's rays above, perhaps suggesting moonlight. Loosely surrounding the seal's lower half is a brown lariat, portions of which extend into the white ring of the seal.

**SYMBOLISM:** The designer wished to contrast the modern Tucson with the historic city. The lariat symbolically binds the two eras together.

**HOW SELECTED:** The Tucson Press Club sponsored a contest for a new city seal in 1949 after Mayor E. T. "Happy" Houston mentioned to the club's president that a new seal was needed. The winning design was adopted 1 March 1950 as the city's registered trademark, but was not officially made the city seal until 1953, when the flag was also adopted.

**DESIGNER:** Mrs. Norman (Mary) Crowfoot, an artist who had just recently arrived in Tucson, learned of the contest and entered it.

**MORE ABOUT THE FLAG:** The original seal's colors were much brighter than the current version, with a lighter yellow and blue, and red on the buildings of the skyline and mission. The current shades of color seem to be a "cooler" variation. Also, earlier flags had been made in proportions of 4:5 units, as well as 8:13.

JP 

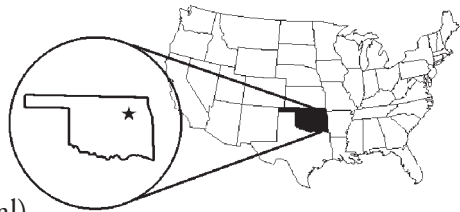
# TULSA, OKLAHOMA



*Population Rank:* U.S. .... # 42  
Oklahoma..... # 2

*Proportions:* 12:19 (official)

*Adopted:* 17 August 1973 (official)



**DESIGN:** Tulsa's flag is described in the ordinance of adoption:

*The flag design shall be the corporate seal of the City of Tulsa as described herein, positioned on both sides of a white material measuring six (6) feet, four (4) inches by four (4) feet, with the seal measuring two (2) feet, six (6) inches from top to bottom located in the center of the white material.*

The corporate seal is also described in its own ordinance of adoption (27 December 1967):

*The Corporate Seal of the City of Tulsa shall be in the shape of a modified vertical ellipse. The upper one-third of this ellipse shall be a gold field. Superimposed on this field, in the optical center and pointing upward shall*

*be an Indian [Native American] projectile point (arrowhead) of the Snyder variety in black and white facets. To the left [hoist] and adjacent to the base of this arrowhead there shall be the numerals "1" and "8". To the right [fly] and adjacent to the base of this arrowhead there shall be the numerals "9" and "8", together representing the year 1898. Superimposed upon and circumscribing the curved edge of the gold field there shall appear two rows of five-pointed blue stars, forty-six (46) in number.*

*The lower left [hoist] quadrant of the seal shall be a black field with a stylized white oil derrick superimposed upon and centered in the field.*

*The lower right [fly] quadrant of the seal shall be a blue field with parallel horizontal white lines. Each line shall be composed of a series of arcs to suggest a wave form.*

*The upper gold field, the lower left black quadrant and the lower right blue quadrant shall be separated from each other to form the letter "T" in white. Circumscribing the lower half of the seal in Lincoln Gothic type style shall be the words "CITY OF TULSA OKLAHOMA" in gold capital letters.*

**SYMBOLISM:** The "T", of course, is the initial letter of the city's name. The arrowhead recalls the importance of the early Native Americans in the region and their continuing influence today. The 46 stars symbolize Oklahoma as the 46th state to join the Union (16 November 1907). Tulsa was incorporated in 1898. The oil derrick suggests the importance of the petroleum industry in the rapid development of the city from its founding in 1879. The blue waters suggest the important waterways of the region, the Arkansas and Caney Rivers and Keystone Lake.

**HOW SELECTED:** The flag was adopted as part of celebrations of the city's 75th anniversary.



**DESIGNER:** Unknown.

**FORMER FLAGS:** Tulsa's first flag is non-rectangular, the fly ending in an isosceles triangle. The proportions are:

hoist, 25 units; length, 43 units; triangle sides, 13 units, for a total of 26 units at the fly. The field is white, with a large red circle in the center, about 13 units in diameter, with **TULSA** in large narrow white letters curving to conform to the circle. From the red circle emanate eight blue rays that widen as they reach the flag's edges. Four rays meet the flag's corners, four more meet its upper and lower edges. Another set of narrow white pointed rays, varying in length and suggesting sun's rays, overlay the broader blue rays, and in the six broad white rays formed in the spaces between the blue rays at the top and bottom are corresponding thin blue rays, for a total of 14 narrow rays.

In both broader white sections in the center portions of the hoist and fly is a broad red arrow, fimbriated in white with red edges, pointing to the center. On the hoist arrow is **UNLIMITED**, and on the fly arrow, **OPPORTUNITY**, both in white. The design suggests the brashness of early Tulsa as it grew rapidly with the petroleum industry, attracting visitors, settlers, and businesses, loudly proclaiming a bright future for all. The flag was designed by Alfred Perry, and adopted by the city commission on 5 June 1924. Mrs. W. A. (Rose) Cease made the first flag.

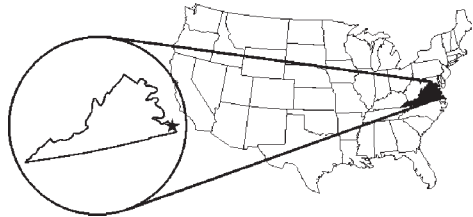
JP 

# VIRGINIA BEACH, VIRGINIA



*Population Rank:* U.S. .... # 38  
Virginia ..... # 1

*Proportions:* Indoor flags, 3:5;  
outdoor flags, 2:3  
or 5:8 (usage)



*Adopted:* 11 January 1965 (official)

**DESIGN:** The flag of Virginia Beach centers the city seal on a light blue field. The edge of the seal, in gray, appears to be scalloped, but is in fact made up of 39 tiny marlins linked nose-to-tail counterclockwise, enclosing a white ring around the seal. The inner edge of the ring is composed of a wreath of 54 gray strawberry leaves, half counterclockwise and half clockwise. On the white field between the ring's two edges, beginning at 9 o'clock and ending at 3 o'clock, is **• CITY • OF • VIRGINIA • BEACH • VIRGINIA •** in gray. Between the same two points, running counterclockwise, is **LANDMARKS OF OUR**

**NATION'S BEGINNING**, in gray letters about half the size of the first legend. The central portion of the seal depicts the Cape Henry lighthouse, in a dusty rose with gray shadings. It stands on a rocky shore, a dark gray fading into white beach at either side. An aquamarine sea is behind the lighthouse, its horizon line at the midpoint of the seal. On the upper hoist side is an orange sun with rays emanating from it. The sky is a light blue, and white clouds float overhead and on the horizon on the fly side. The diameter of the seal is about half the width of the hoist. The seal was officially adopted 21 January 1963.

**SYMBOLISM:** The city describes the seal's symbolism:

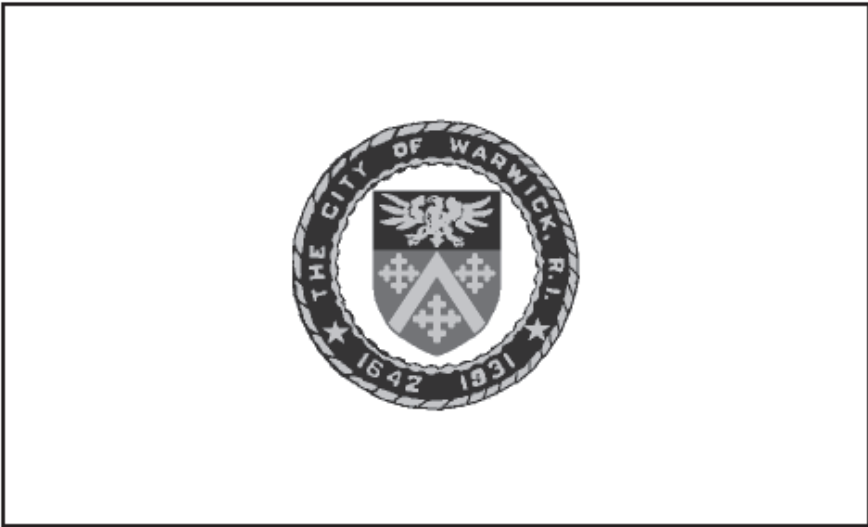
*The Virginia Beach City Seal reflects our nation's beginnings and highlights, Virginia Beach landmarks and features ... Leaping marlins form its outer edge and represent sport fishing, boating, and other water activities. Strawberry leaves are linked together to create an inner circle, representing the importance of agriculture to the City. Bright sunshine and blue water join the sandy beach to show the importance of tourism and the pleasures of nature available to Virginia Beach residents and visitors. In the seal's center is the Cape Henry Lighthouse and a white cross. The cross marks the first landing of settlers on this nation's soil "Cape Henry" at Virginia Beach in 1607. The lighthouse is the first ever approved by the Continental Congress ... The lighthouse and cross symbolize the beginnings of Virginia Beach and the United States. As the Cape Henry Light signals a safe haven, so its replica erected in 1881 beams a warm welcome to Virginia Beach, a vibrant year-round city.*

**HOW SELECTED:** On 24 June 1963, city council established a committee of three to develop a city flag.

**DESIGNER:** The committee, consisting of Richard B. Kellam, Laura Lambe, and A. R. Mailhes.

**MORE ABOUT THE FLAG:** The original version of the seal clearly shows a white cross on the horizon on the fly side of the lighthouse (and is still part of the city code), but today that seems to have been replaced by clouds.

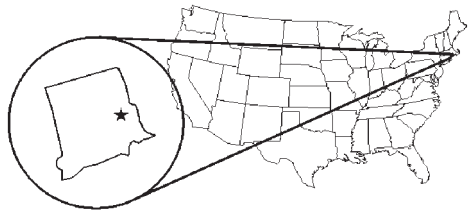
# WARWICK, RHODE ISLAND



*Population Rank:* U.S. ... # 291  
Rhode Island ..... # 2

*Proportions:* 2:3 (usage)

*Adopted:* Unknown



**DESIGN:** Warwick's flag has a white field with the city seal centered in full color. The seal consists of a white disk bearing the shield of the city's coat of arms. In heraldic terminology, the shield is described as: *Gules, a chevron between three crosses bottonny Or, on a chief Azure, an eagle displayed Or.* In lay terms, the shield is a red field with a chevron (inverted "V") between three crosses, each tip shaped like a trefoil (cloverleaf), all in gold. The upper third of the shield is blue with a gold eagle facing the hoist with wings extended. Around the white disk is a dark blue ring with the inner lining resembling a chain and the outer lining resembling a rope. On the blue ring **THE CITY OF WARWICK, R.I.** curves over the top clockwise, **1642** and **1931** are paired at the



bottom counterclockwise, and two five-pointed stars separate the inscriptions, all in gold.

**SYMBOLISM:** Warwick was founded on 12 January 1642. It was originally called Shawomet, after a local Indian tribe, a branch of the Nanhiganset (Narragansett) Nation. The land, on the west shore of Narragansett Bay, was purchased from this tribe by Samuel Gorton and his friends. Gorton, like Roger Williams, the founder of the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, was a fugitive from Massachusetts for championing religious freedom.

In 1644 Gorton left for England to defend the title to this land, as the Massachusetts-Bay Colony was challenging its ownership. In 1647, a charter was granted by Robert Rich, the Earl of Warwick and Governor-in-Chief of Foreign Plantations. The grateful townspeople then renamed the settlement after their benefactor and adopted his family coat of arms as the town's arms, changing some colors on the shield. For the next thirty years Massachusetts would dispute the title to this land near Narragansett Bay. At the age of 84, Gorton had to return to England again to secure this land against a Massachusetts challenge.

**HOW SELECTED:** Unknown.

**DESIGNER:** Unknown.

**MORE ABOUT THE FLAG:** Nathaniel Tiffany designed the seal. Although the shield has an "azure" or blue chief (upper section) with a spread-winged golden eagle, on the shield of the family of Warwick the chief is "Or" or gold and the eagle is "Gules" or red. Heraldic tradition requires a city or other entity adopting a coat of arms from a family to change ("difference") it in some manner, by adding another symbol or changing the colors. Although the bird is clearly an eagle, there has been controversy over this creature. A Warwick Heritage Committee publication entitled: *Origin of the Seal of the City of Warwick, Rhode Island* (n.d.), argues that the eagle is really a *wyvern*, a heraldic beast.

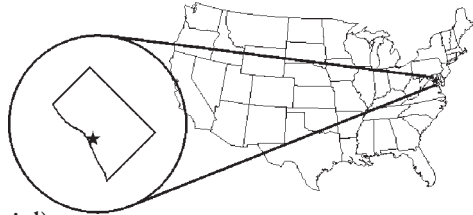
# WASHINGTON, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA ★



*Population Rank:* U.S. .... # 21  
District of Columbia ..... # 1

*Proportions:* 7:12 (official)

*Adopted:* 15 October 1938 (official)



**DESIGN:** The flag of Washington, DC, the nation's capital, has a white field with two horizontal red stripes below three red five-pointed stars spaced evenly across the top of the field. The placement of these elements was carefully detailed upon adoption:

*The upper white portion is 3/10 of the hoist; the two horizontal bars are each 2/10 of the hoist; the white space between bars is 1/10 of the hoist; and the base, or lowest white space, is 2/10 of the hoist. The three red five-pointed stars have a diameter of 2/10 of the hoist and are spaced equidistant in the fly or horizontal dimension of the flag. So long as the proportions herein prescribed are observed, the dimensions of the flag both in hoist and fly may vary in accordance with the size of flag desired.*

**SYMBOLISM:** The symbolism is described in a publication of the District of Columbia (*The Government of the District of Columbia*, 1963, p. 32):

*The flag for the District of Columbia is based on the shield of the Washington family coat of arms, which is described as follows: "Arms—Argent, two bars, gules; in chief, three mullets of the second. Crest—Out of a ducal coronet or, a raven, wings endorsed, proper." This coat of arms was confirmed to Laurence Washington of Sulgrave, in the County of Northampton, and his descendants, by Cook Clarenceux, King of Arms, in 1592.*

In lay terms, "Argent" is silver or white, "Gules" is red, "chief" is the upper part, and "mulletts" are five-pointed stars deriving from the rows of spurs.

**HOW SELECTED:** On 16 June 1938, the Congress of the United States (which oversees the District of Columbia) passed an act creating a commission to procure a design for a flag. Commission members included Melvin C. Hazen, president of the Board of Commissioners for the District of Columbia, chairman; Harry H. Woodring, secretary of war, represented by Captain A. D. Hopping, Office of the Quartermaster General; Claude A. Swanson, secretary of the navy, represented by Lieutenant J. W. Murphy, Jr., Office of Naval Communications; A. E. DuBois, Heraldic Section, Quartermaster Corps; and G. M. Thornett, secretary to the board of commissioners. The commission also received advice from the Commission on Fine Arts.

**DESIGNER:** Not stated. During the previous five years, designs had been submitted from various unidentified sources, anticipating the work of the yet-to-be-named commission, but no designer was ultimately identified.

**MORE ABOUT THE FLAG:** There are 14 paragraphs detailing how the flag of the District should be displayed, accompanied by 20 illustrations. There are also 18 "cautions" detailing how the flag should not be displayed or handled. These regulations are among the most detailed of any civic flag in the United States

**FORMER FLAGS:** The District of Columbia apparently had at least two former flags, both unofficial, and both designed to fulfill a ceremonial need in the military. The more recent is depicted in *The National Geographic Magazine*, LXVI, No. 3 (September 1934): 367. The text accompanying it is brief:



*In the absence of any official flag for the District of Columbia, the District Militia devised the one reproduced here, and until such time as it shall be replaced by law, it will be the flag of the District of Columbia, just as formerly the one with the hatchet had that status. (p. 361).*

The flag has a dark blue field. Horizontally across the center third of the flag is a heraldic wreath of six alternating stripes, red and white. Above the wreath is the white dome of the U.S. Capitol, superimposed on a sunburst in gold emanating from either side. Below the wreath is a short white heraldic ribbon, arched, with **HEADQUARTERS** across it in blue. Below that ribbon is another, curved in opposition to the arched one, and folded into three sections. On the center, and longest, section is **DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA MILITIA**, also in blue. The flag has proportions of 3 by 4.5, and is fringed in gold.



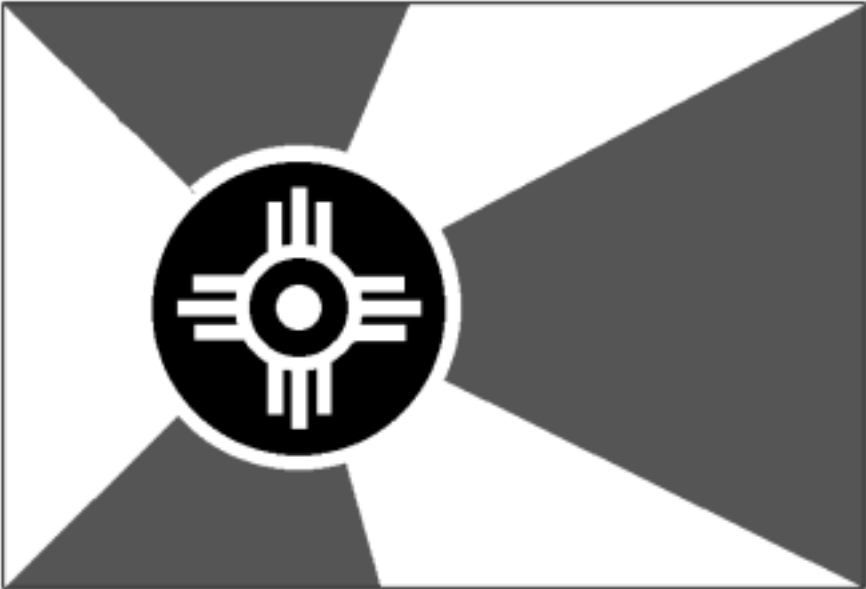
The earlier flag appears in *The National Geographic Magazine*, XXXII, No. 4 (October 1917): 335, with a short description on p. 340:

*The flag of the National Guard of the District of Columbia has a rectangular field, the fly end of which is swallow-tailed. Centered thereon is a small hatchet, whose alleged manipulation in connection with an apocryphal cherry tree is reputed to have put the Father of His Country to a very trying test in the matter of veracity. The designation of the forces appear on scrolls above and below the hatchet.*

The field of the flag is dark blue, with a gold fringe. The hatchet, in brown, has the blade facing down and toward the hoist, the handle slanting from upper hoist to lower fly. The heraldic ribbons are similar to those on the later flag, but in red with gold lettering and with the hatchet between them. The wry reference to the cherry tree relates to the oft-told legend that when Washington was a boy, he chopped down his father's cherry tree with a small hatchet. When confronted by his father, the tale goes that he said he could not tell a lie, and confessed to the deed, thus becoming a role model for generations of American school-children.

JP 

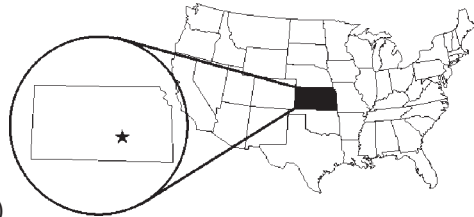
# WICHITA, KANSAS



*Population Rank:* U.S. .... # 50  
Kansas ..... # 3

*Proportions:* 2:3 (usage)

*Adopted:* 14 June 1937 (official)



**DESIGN:** The field of Wichita's flag would be described in heraldry as "Gyronny of six, Gules and Argent", that is, alternating red and white rays that expand from the center to the field's borders. On a field of 2 by 3 units, the rays emanate from a point .875 units from the hoist. The hoist segment is white, the remaining rays alternate in color. The hoist and fly rays are 2 units at their widest; the upper and lower hoist rays, 1.33 units; and the upper and lower fly rays, 1.67 units. A blue disk of 1 unit in diameter, fimbriated in white, overlays the center. A Native American sun sign in white fills the disk. The sun sign differs slightly from those on the New Mexico state flag and the Albuquerque and Madison city flags: the arms comprise three rays rather than four

(the central ray is slightly longer than the others) and it contains a small white disk in its center.

**SYMBOLISM:** The symbolism is explained by the designer:

*The white circle around the field of blue in the center and containing the Indian design for the sun, symbolizes a 'hogan', or permanent home. Superimposed on the field of blue is the white sun. The blue indicates happiness and faithfulness in a town of happy people and permanent homes. Radiating from the circular field of blue are red and white stripes. The red means virtue and honor, the white stands for courageous virtues. The stripes lining the red and white background are symbols of rays of light and ways to come and go, open and free to all—hence, the red, white, and blue.*

**HOW SELECTED:** Bert Wells, the city manager, asked the American Legion to develop a contest for a new city flag. A committee was appointed by the Legion, consisting of Paul Henrion, head of the Civic Flag Committee of the Legion, chairman; H. M. Van Auken, secretary of the chamber of commerce; Glen Thomas, a local architect; John Rydjord, Wichita University professor; and W. H. Allen, publisher of the *Wichita Beacon*. Six prizes totaling \$85 were supplied by the Wichita Rotary Club, ranging from \$40 for the first place to \$2 for sixth place. Judging was done by R. T. Aitchison, Charles M. Capps, and William Dickinson, who had been appointed by the American Legion and the Wichita Art Association.

**DESIGNER:** Cecil McAlister, a resident of the city, took first place in the American Legion contest.

**MORE ABOUT THE FLAG:** An interesting footnote to the flag's adoption followed. McAlister's original design shows **WICHITA** in white on the fly's red segment, appearing to emerge from the center as the letters grow steadily larger toward the fly's edge. The first flags sewn, however (by Mrs. Mary J. Harper), did not have the city's name on them. On 25 March 1940, at the suggestion of Mrs. W. E. Haines of Haines Tile and Mantel Co., the city commission adopted a resolution to add the city's name to the flag, perhaps unaware that it had been part of the original design. The resolution, however, went into the

“pending” file, and was never acted upon, even though there were periodic calls for the name to be added in later years. The reluctance of the city government—in opposition to an overwhelming trend among U.S. cities to place the name of the city on its flag—leads the vexillologist to wonder if there is a wise flag designer in the Wichita city hall who has never been persuaded to tamper with success!

JP 



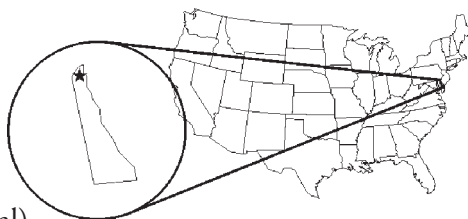
# WILMINGTON, DELAWARE



*Population Rank:* U.S... # 387  
 Delaware..... # 1

*Proportions:* 5:8 (assumed)

*Adopted:* 28 March 1963 (official)



**DESIGN:** Wilmington's flag is simply the Swedish national flag (an off-center yellow cross on a blue field) with a large seal of the city at the intersection of the cross's arms. The seal has a narrow ring around its outside, in gold. It depicts a colonial scene: A tall red mill detailed in gold, its water wheel in white, occupies the center hoist side. The mill rests on a gold horizontal stripe, above a green field. Behind the mill is the blue sea, the horizon just slightly below center. In the distance, from the center to the fly side, is a sailboat and an old-fashioned sailing ship, under full sail, all sails white. The light-blue sky fills the rest of the seal's field. Curved clockwise around the top of the seal from 8 to 4 o'clock is **SEAL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON**, and curved

counterclockwise below is **DELAWARE**, all in black letters superimposed over the edges of the scene.


**SYMBOLISM:** The city was founded by Swedes on March 28, 1638; the flag was adopted for the city's 325th anniversary commemoration. The seal shows Wilmington soon after its founding and suggests the milling and shipping industries that would become important in the city's development.

**HOW SELECTED:** The flag's design dates to 18 February 1927, as a result of a request by Robert J. Forman, superintendent of the public buildings, for a city flag for an official dinner in honor of Superintendent of Police George Black. The seal dates from 1832, but its official adoption date is uncertain.

**DESIGNER:** Stanley M. Arthurs, a local artist.

**MORE ABOUT THE FLAG:** The flag was apparently first used unofficially in 1927 and occasionally thereafter. Wilmington formally adopted the design before presenting a city flag to its Swedish sister city, Kalmar, whose officials were attending the 1963 anniversary celebration. The designer based his design on information, obtained from various Swedish officials, about the flag most likely used by the Swedes who first landed at the Wilmington site. That flag was "nearly square", so the first flag made followed that pattern, but by the time of the official adoption it had assumed a longer rectangular shape. Its proportions are not specified, but presumably the same as Sweden's flag.

The seal shown on the flag differs somewhat from a more traditional version also used by the city. In the alternate version the seal has a blue ring around the outside, edged in gold. The lettering appears on the ring, and a five-pointed star is shown before and after **DELAWARE**, all in gold.

**FORMER FLAGS:** Another unofficial city flag existed around 1960, a blue field with the city seal in the center (presumably in gold), but it was apparently rarely used, and little is known about it. JP 

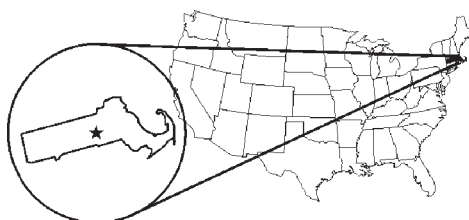
# WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS



*Population Rank:* U.S. ... # 121  
Massachusetts ..... # 2

*Proportions:* 10:19 (official)

*Adopted:* 11 December 1967 (official)



**DESIGN:** The flag of Worcester centers the city seal on a green field. The seal contains a white disk with a red heart encircled by a green wreath. On an outer white ring runs **WORCESTER** at the top, clockwise, and **A TOWN JUNE 14, 1722, A CITY FEB. 29, 1848** below, counterclockwise, all in gold.

As stated in a city ordinance: *The flag of the city shall bear on both sides a representation of the seal of the city upon a green field in the proportion of hoist to fly of one to one point nine. The diameter of the seal shall be one-half the hoist.*

**SYMBOLISM:** Worcester is the geographic center of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and often referred to as “The Heart of the Commonwealth”. This motto was first noted on 4 October 1831, on


the 100th anniversary of the incorporation of Worcester County, of which Worcester is the county seat. During the celebrations, Levi Lincoln, Worcester's first mayor and a former governor of Massachusetts, paid tribute to Chief Justice Isaac Parker of the Supreme Court, who had just died. Mr. Lincoln stated: *It was the wish of his heart that the county of Worcester should remain one and indivisible. Whatever changes may in evil times await it, in honoring his virtues there will be no division in the 'Heart of the Commonwealth'.*

**HOW SELECTED:** Committee.

**DESIGNER:** Unknown.

**MORE ABOUT THE FLAG:** According to a photograph and article in the *Worcester Telegram* of 11 December 1968, the city flag “was exhibited for the first time yesterday in the City Council Chambers”, apparently just one day short of a year after adoption. 10:19 are the same proportions as the United States flag.

Alderman Stephen Salisbury headed a committee to adopt a city seal on 18 December in 1848, Worcester's first year as a city. On 23 January 1849, the city council unanimously adopted the seal.

**FORMER FLAG:** Although not official, during the Tippecanoe convention in Worcester on 17 June 1840 a flag flew during a parade displaying a heart clasped by joined hands and below it on a scroll: **With Heart and Hand** and the dates **1674**, the first attempt to settle Worcester, and **1684**, when Worcester adopted its name. JC 

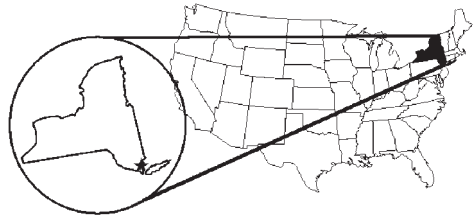
# YONKERS, NEW YORK



*Population Rank:* U.S. .... # 95  
New York ..... # 4

*Proportions:* 3:5 (official)

*Adopted:* Unknown



**DESIGN:** The flag of Yonkers centers the city seal on a white field. The city seal portrays a bust of George Washington facing toward the fly with a furled United States flag below. On an outer ring, **CORPORATION** runs over the top of the seal clockwise and **OF THE CITY OF YONKERS** runs counterclockwise below, separated by five-pointed stars. The outlines of the seal, the lettering, and the bust are dark blue on white; the stripes of the flag are red.

According to *An Ordinance Adopting the Code of the Ordinances of the City of Yonkers*, Article I, Section 1. Corporate Seal (*Code of Ordinances of the City of Yonkers*), adopted 26 December 1911:

*The corporate seal of the city shall consist of the device of the bust of Washington with the American flag folded underneath, surrounded by the words Corporation of the City of Yonkers.*

However, an even earlier description appears in the *Bylaws and General Ordinances of the Village of Yonkers* amended and adopted as amended on 28 June 1860:

*The seal of this corporation shall be of some suitable metal, with the words Corporation of Yonkers engraved around the same, and the head of Washington with the American flag folded under the figure.*

The seal's design used by Yonkers as a village was apparently carried over when it was incorporated as a city on 1 June 1872.

**SYMBOLISM:** There is no official symbolism assigned to the flag. George Washington's image may have been chosen for the seal because during the American Revolution he led the Continental Army, which was often in the area of today's Yonkers.

**HOW SELECTED:** Unknown.

**DESIGNER:** Unknown.

**MORE ABOUT THE FLAG:** Indoors, the flag has dark blue fringe. The flag dates at least from 3 February 1956 when it appeared in the *Yonkers Herald Statesman*.