

Designing a New Minnesota State Flag & Seal

Dr. Anita Gaul, Vice Chair
Minnesota State Emblems Redesign Commission

Current Minnesota State Flag

Adopted 1893



Current Minnesota State Seal

Adopted 1849



Photo Credit: MNopedia

5 Principles of a Good Flag Design

According to Vexillologists (Flag Experts)

1. **Keep It Simple:** *The flag should be so simple that a kid can draw it.*
2. **Use Meaningful Symbolism:** *The flag's images, colors, or patterns should relate to what it symbolizes. Example: Blue symbolizes the water or sky.*
3. **Use 2 or 3 Basic Colors**
4. **No Lettering or Seals:** *Don't use writing of any kind.*
5. **Be Distinctive:** *Avoid copying other flags.*

Is Minnesota's current flag:

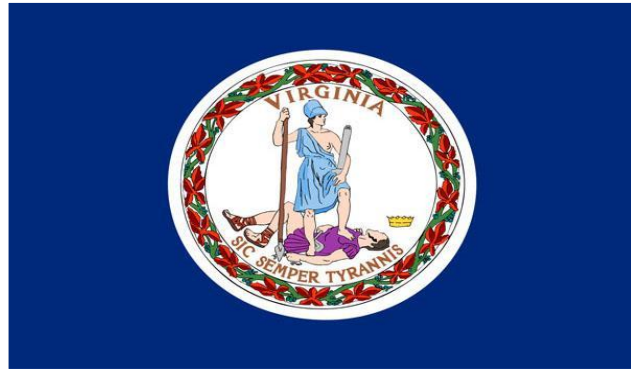
Simple?

Have meaningful symbolism?

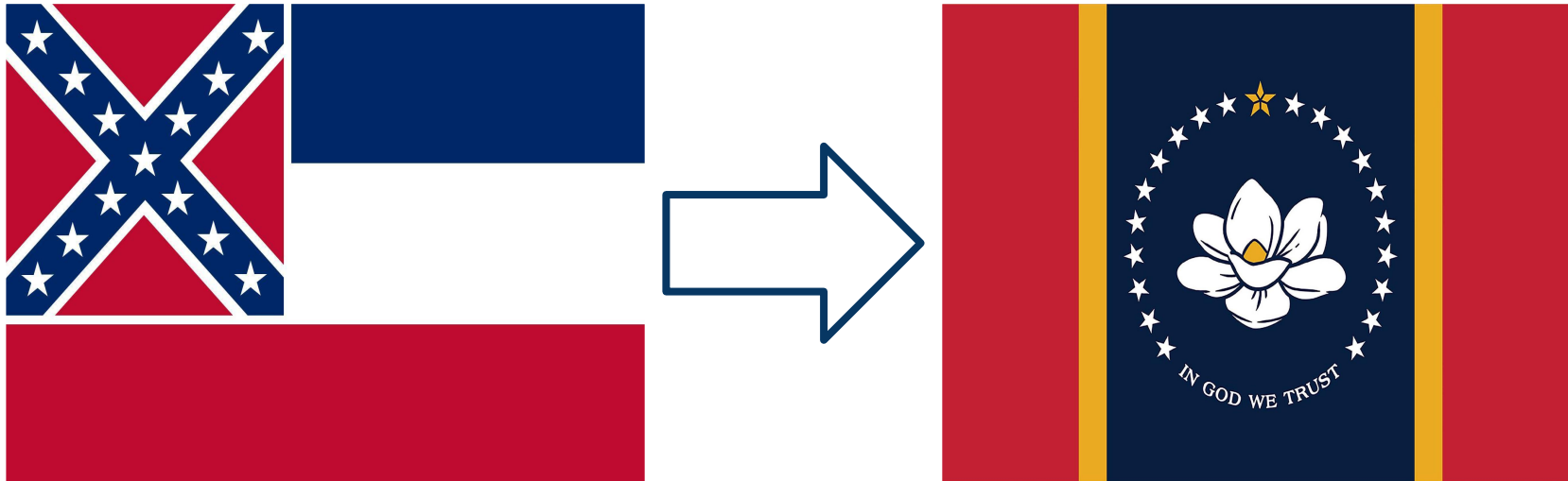
Use 2-3 basic colors?

Contain no lettering or seals?

Distinctive? *(see next slide)*



U.S. States that have Recently Redesigned their Flags



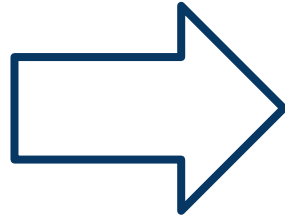
**Mississippi:
New flag adopted
January 2021**

Magnolia flower symbolizes hospitality; 20 stars signifies that Mississippi was the 20th state in the Union; the gold 5-point star represents Mississippi's indigenous tribes.

Source:

<https://www.cnn.com/2021/01/12/politics/mississippi-new-state-flag-flown/index.html>

U.S. States that have Recently Redesigned their Flags



Utah:
New flag adopted
March 2023

Blue symbolizes Utah's skies and lakes; white symbolizes its mountains; red symbolizes the state's red-rock canyons.

The hexagon represents unity and strength; the beehive stands for a community and "Industry" (which is the state slogan). The star represents hope.

U.S. Cities that have Adopted New Flags



Sioux Falls, SD: Adopted this flag in 2018

The zigzag represents the namesake falls of the Big Sioux River.

The blue color and the sun allude to the flag of South Dakota. The pinkish-red portion represents the Sioux Quartzite nearby.

The upward direction of the design represents the growth of Sioux Falls.

The red, white, and blue colors included in the flag are a reference to the US flag.

U.S. Cities that have Adopted New Flags



**Duluth, MN:
Adopted this flag
in 2021**

Blue represents the sky and Lake Superior; the gold star symbolizes the North Star; the green wave symbolizes the land and the hills in and around the city.

DESIGN RULES for the New Minnesota State Flag

Each person may submit up to 3 designs

Your design must NOT:

- Contain any obscene or profane wording or imagery
- Contain symbols, emblems, or likenesses that represent only a single community or person (Example: Someone's face)

Your design should:

- Use the 5 Principles for Good Flag Design

DESIGN RULES for the New Minnesota State Seal

Each person may submit up to 3 designs

Your design must NOT:

- Contain any obscene or profane wording or imagery.
- Contain symbols, emblems, or likenesses that represent only a single community or person (Example: Someone's face)

Your design should:

- Be round in shape

Draw your Designs for the New Minnesota State Flag and Seal

You can submit your design(s) to the State Emblems Redesign Commission. Maybe your submission will be the winning design!

How to submit your design(s):

- Go to the website: <https://www3.mnhs.org/serc>
- Click on “Go to Design Submission Form,” print out the mail-in form, have your parent/guardian help you fill it out, put it in a manila envelope (don’t fold it!), and mail it OR submit your design online
- Submissions are due on October 30, 2023