

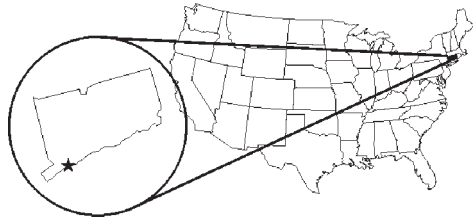
BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT



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 