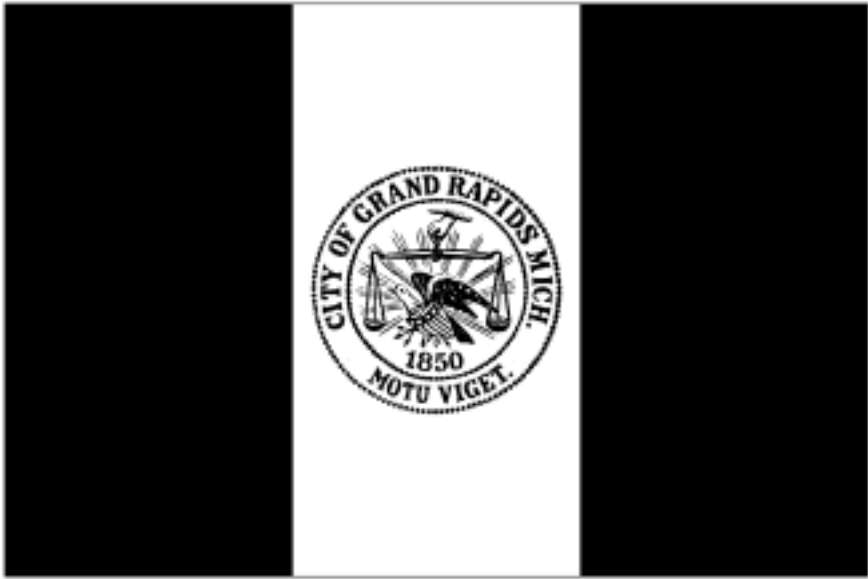


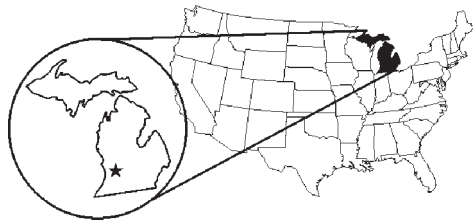
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN



Population Rank: U.S. # 93
Michigan # 2

Proportions: 2:3 (usage)

Adopted: 26 July 1915 (official)



DESIGN: The flag of Grand Rapids is a vertical tribar of equal dark blue, white, and dark blue stripes. Centered on the white stripe is the city seal, consisting of a white field bordered by two concentric circles of dark blue dots, forming solid rings. On a field of 2 units by 3, the seal is about 1 unit in diameter. In the ring, curved over the top clockwise from 9 o'clock to 3 o'clock is **CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS MICH.** in dark blue. Curved below from 7 to 5 o'clock counterclockwise is the Latin motto, **MOTU VIGET.** ("Strength in Activity"). In the center of the seal is a bald eagle, in flight toward the hoist, bearing an American shield, and clutching several arrows, all in dark blue and white. Centered over the eagle are Scales of Justice, held by a hand

reaching down from the clouds, all in dark blue and white. Nine separate “bundles” of three gray rays each are spaced evenly behind the eagle and scales, emanating outward from a baseline that forms the horizontal midpoint of the seal. Centered below the eagle, resting on the inner beaded ring, is **1850** in dark blue.

SYMBOLISM: The seal suggests that divine justice guides the American spirit. The rays represent light. The seal was adopted in 1850.

HOW SELECTED: Joseph Penney, a member of the common council in 1850, suggested the design of the seal.

DESIGNER: Aaron B. Turner, the city clerk in 1850, designed the seal. The designer of the flag is not known.



MORE ABOUT THE FLAG:

Grand Rapids uses a “city banner” more often than the official flag. The Grand Rapids banner has a field of blue with the city’s logo in the center. The logo is oval, wider than high, and measures about 1.5 units across its horizontal center on

a field of 2 by 3 units. The field of the logo is yellow, representing the sun. Across the lower third of the field is a narrow, blue undulating stripe representing the Grand River that courses through the city. Resting on this stripe is a horizontal figure, .5 units at its widest and slightly more than a unit in length, that begins about one-fourth of the way from the oval’s hoist edge and extends to its fly edge. The figure represents the Alexander Calder sculpture in the city, *La Grande Vitesse*, which on the logo resembles a large chess pawn lying on its side. The logo was designed by Joseph Kennebrew, a sculptor and painter.

FORMER FLAG: The city’s first flag was officially adopted on 8 March 1896. It is described only as having red, white, and blue stripes with the inscription **Furniture City**.