

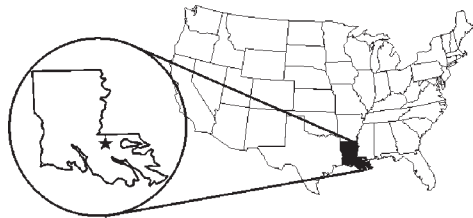
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA ★



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.

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 