

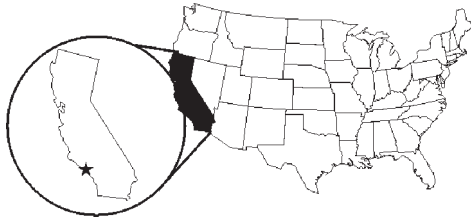
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA



Population Rank: U.S. # 2
California # 1

Proportions: 2:3 and 3:5 (usage)

Adopted: 22 July 1931 (official)



DESIGN: The field of the flag of Los Angeles has three vertical stripes of green, yellow, and red divided by zigzag lines (known heraldically as “dancetty”) on each side of the center stripe. On a field 26 units wide, the stripes have a proportion to each other of 6:12:8 at the top and 8:12:6 at the bottom. Centered on the yellow stripe is the city seal, 7 units in diameter. A white (or silver) ring surrounds the seal, its outer edge beaded in white with black circumferences, its inner edge beaded with 77 solid black beads, alternating one large to ten small. Centered on the top half of the ring clockwise from 10 to 2 o'clock is **CITY OF LOS ANGELES**; centered below, running counterclockwise from 7 to 5 o'clock is **FOUNDED 1781**, all in black.

The field of the seal is a yellow disk with a quartered heraldic shield. The first quarter is an American shield (6 over 7 white stars on a blue chief, and 7 white and 6 red vertical stripes below). The second quarter is the California bear flag without any lettering. The third quarter is a bald eagle, facing the fly, but otherwise in the pose of the Mexican eagle with a serpent in its beak, perched on a *nopal* cactus. The fourth quarter are the arms of Castile and León, a gold castle on red on the hoist side, a red lion on white on the fly side, divided vertically so that León's portion of the field is slightly wider than Castile's. In the position of the dexter supporter is a spray of olives; above in the crest position, a spray of grapes; and in the sinister supporter position, a spray of oranges, all in natural colors.

SYMBOLISM: The colors of the stripes suggest the city's Mexican and Spanish heritage: Green and red from Mexico, and yellow and red from Spain. The seal is explained by the city:

The lion of León and the castle of Castile are from the Arms of Spain and represent Los Angeles under Spanish control from 1542 to 1821.

The eagle holding a serpent is from the Arms of Mexico and represents the period of Mexican sovereignty from 1822 to 1846.

The Bear Flag typifies the California Republic of 1846.

The Stars and Stripes indicate the present status of Los Angeles as an American City.

The sprays of Olive, Grape and Orange suggest the location of Los Angeles as a City set in a garden.

The beaded circle surrounding the shield represents a Rosary suggesting the part played by the Mission Padres in founding the city.

HOW SELECTED: The flag was presented to the city by the La Fiesta Association in preparation for the city's sesquicentennial anniversary celebration. The seal had been officially adopted on 27 March 1905.

DESIGNERS: Roy E. Silent and E. S. Jones, residents of the city.