

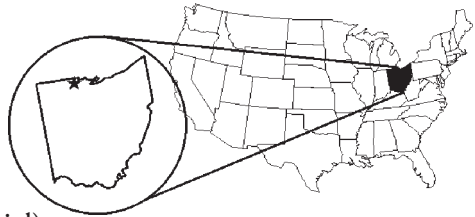
# TOLEDO, OHIO



*Population Rank:* U.S. .... # 56  
Ohio ..... # 4

*Proportions:* 3:5 (usage)

*Adopted:* 18 January 1994 (official)



**DESIGN:** Toledo's flag is a vertical tribar of equal medium blue, white, and medium blue stripes, with the city's seal in the center. The seal, nearly as wide as the center stripe, is encircled by a white ring edged in black. Arched over the top half is **• SEAL • OF • THE • CITY • OF • TOLEDO •** and in the lower half, counterclockwise, **JANUARY • 7 • 1837**, all in black. A silhouette of old Fort Industry at sunrise, in brown, appears in the center fly portion of the seal. A small United States flag in full color flies overhead, though little more than a suggestion of the blue and red. The fort is perched on a green grassy plain over a chalky white bluff detailed in black. Below the bluff and toward the hoist is the Maumee River, which the rising sun has tinted yellow with brown-

ish waves. The orange sun, its top half visible, is aligned with the fort horizontally. Orange rays in varying sizes form a hemisphere over the sun, and the sky is also yellow with brownish tints. Arched immediately below the inner circle of the outer ring, and in black letters about two-thirds the size of those on the ring, is the city's Latin motto, **• LABORARE • EST • ORARE •** ("To work is to pray").

**SYMBOLISM:** Fort Industry was the first building, constructed around 1800, in what would later become the city of Toledo, at the junction of Swan Creek and the Maumee River. The rising sun, prominent on the state seal, symbolizes Ohio.

**HOW SELECTED:** Mayor Carleton S. Finkbeiner and city council adopted a "modification" of the city's official flag in 1994 in preparation for a celebration of the city's 160th anniversary in 1997 by placing the city's first engraved seal on the flag. (This seal was adopted in 1873; before that a kind of generic seal with a scroll on which "L. S."—for the Latin *Locus Sigilli*, or "Place of the Seal"—was used.) In effect, however, it is a new flag.

**DESIGNER:** Presumably Mayor Finkbeiner, who thought that a return to the old seal was appropriate. The designer of the 1873 seal was an engraver, O. J. Hopkins.

**MORE ABOUT THE FLAG:** Because of the seal's many colors, Toledo's current flag is considerably more costly to manufacture than the previous flag, so it is not flown as widely about the city as was its predecessor.



**FORMER FLAG:** The former flag of Toledo was adopted by city council on 11 January 1909. The ordinance of adoption describes the design and proportions of the flag:

*A field divided into three vertical bars of equal width, each bar to be one-third of the whole; the width of the flag to be five parts of its whole length; the two outer bars to be of navy blue, the*

*center bar of pure white; in the middle of the center bar a conventionalized figure of the blockhouse of old Fort Industry, in red, surrounded by a circle of blue; the diameter of the outer edge of the circle to be 2.4 of a part.*

Robert M. Corl designed the flag based on suggestions by the mayor, Brad Whitlock. Corl also designed a new city seal (also repealed in 1994 in favor of the 1873 version), which incorporated the blockhouse design, and was adopted along with the flag. The symbolism of the flag is explained in the 1 February 1947, issue of *The Toledo City Journal* (p. 74): *On our city flag the blockhouse stands for security, industry, and the pioneer spirit of advancement. The circle denotes unity, completeness, and eternity and also represents the state of Ohio. The colors of the flag, red, white, and blue stand for the nation; blue for constancy, white for purity, and red for labor, courage, and brotherhood.*

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