

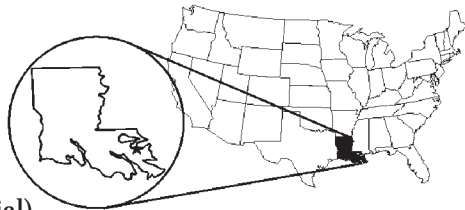
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA



Population Rank: U.S. # 31
Louisiana # 1

Proportions: 2:3 (official)

Adopted: 5 February 1918 (official)



DESIGN: The ordinance of adoption describes the New Orleans flag:

The official flag of the city shall be according to the design ... which consists of a white field five-sevenths wide, with a brilliant crimson stripe one-seventh wide at the top, and a brilliant blue stripe one-seventh wide at the bottom ... There shall be three Fleurs-de-lis in the center of the white field, the height of each of which shall be one fourth of the height of the white field, and to locate their position there must be drawn an inverted equilateral triangle with an altitude of one-third the height of the white field, each angle marking the center of the Fleur-de-lis ... The three fleurs-de-lis are in gold.

SYMBOLISM: Mr. W. J. Waguespack of the Flag Committee, upon presentation of the flag to the city, explained the symbolism:

The white field is the symbol of purity of government from which alone justice and equality can flow. The crimson or red stripe . . . is fraternity . . . one blood or union, which is also the offspring of justice and equality . . . The blue stripe . . . is liberty, the offspring of purity of government . . . The white field of purity is five times as large as the stripe of liberty and fraternity, because it is the mother of both. The combination of these three fundamental principles of good government constitutes 'Democracy'. The three fleurs-de-lis historically grouped in triangular form represent the birth and infancy of New Orleans under the banner of the three fleurs-de-lis, but these have since been snatched from the blue field of the banner of 'Autocracy' and now rest upon the field of purity . . . and symbolize 'Democracy' triumphant over 'Autocracy' . . . the red, white and blue are the colors of the United States, but are also the colors of France; and as New Orleans is the daughter of both, they are so grouped as to constitute a new and separate entity, which is now the flag of New Orleans.

HOW SELECTED: A Citizens' Flag Committee of the New Orleans Bi-Centennial Celebration, headed by W. J. Waguespack and W. O. Hart, selected a design from the 379 submitted and forwarded it to Mayor Martin Behrman and the city council.

DESIGNERS: Bernard Barry and Gus Couret, "sons and citizens of New Orleans".

MORE ABOUT THE FLAG: The New Orleans flag was first raised on Gallier Hall, at that time city hall, on 9 February 1918. Section 1-9 of the city ordinances provides that *The official flag of the city shall be displayed on the City Hall whenever the Council is in session and on all municipal buildings throughout the city on all legal holidays and whenever otherwise directed by the Mayor or the Council.*

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