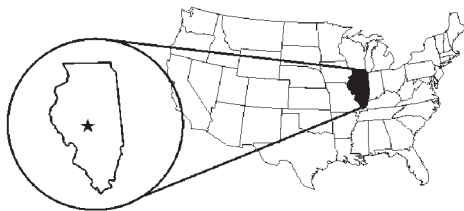


SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS ★



Population Rank: U.S. ... # 201
Illinois # 4

Proportions: 2:3 and
3:5 (both official)



Adopted: 22 October 1917 (official)

DESIGN: Springfield's flag has a dark blue field. On a flag of 3 by 5 units, 20 white five-pointed stars (all oriented upward) form a circle 2 units in diameter in the upper hoist half of the flag, about one-quarter unit from the top and one-half unit from the hoist. In the center of the circle is a large red five-pointed star bordered in white, one point oriented to the top. Centered across the bottom of the flag in gold block letters in an Arial-type font one-third unit in height is **SPRINGFIELD ILLINOIS** (without punctuation).

SYMBOLISM: The 20 white stars represent the number of states in the Union before Illinois was admitted in 1818. The large red star represents Springfield as the capital of Illinois, the 21st state.

HOW SELECTED: A contest was conceived by the poet, Vachel Lindsay (1879-1931), a native of Springfield, and sponsored by the Springfield Art Association.

DESIGNER: S. T. Wallace, a citizen of Springfield.



MORE ABOUT THE FLAG: The early version of the flag does not have the city's name across the bottom, and the circle of stars is centered vertically. Moreover, the red star points downward rather than upward. It is not known

when the original design was altered, or by whom, but the original design was still in use in 1953. The flag was first exhibited on 8 November 1917.

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