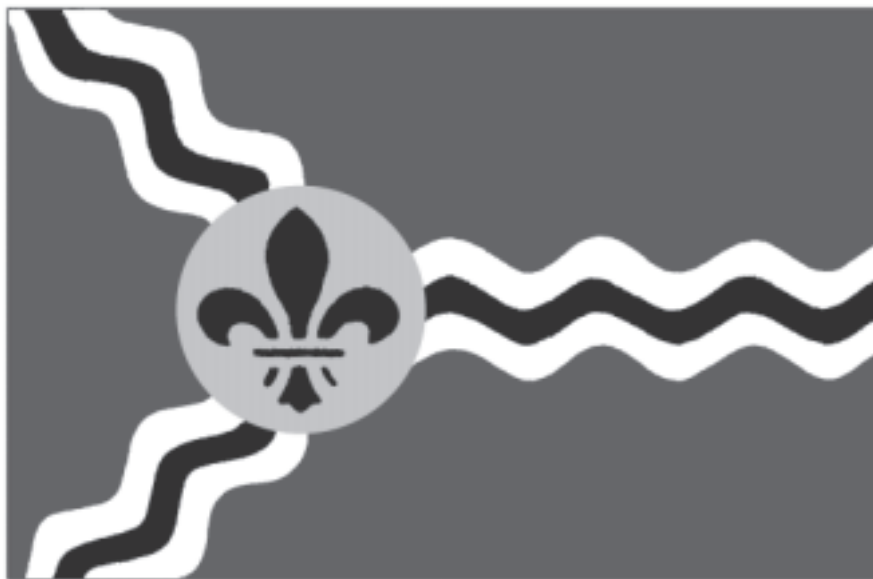


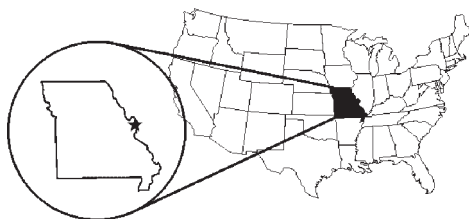
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI



Population Rank: U.S. # 49
Missouri # 2

Proportions: 5:8 (official)

Adopted: 3 February 1964 (official)



DESIGN: The flag of St. Louis has a red field. Three undulating stripes—white, dark blue, white—of equal width extend from both hoist corners to a central point of the field one-third of the distance from the hoist. The three stripes continue horizontally across the center of the field to the fly's edge, forming overall a wavy "Y" shape with its top to the hoist. The combined width of the three stripes is one unit on field of 5 by 8 units, so each stripe is one-third of a unit. Overlaying the intersection of the lines is a large gold disk, with a diameter of 2.2 units. Occupying most of the field of the disk is a dark blue *fleur-de-lis*.

SYMBOLISM: The wavy lines emanating from the hoist corners sym-

bolize the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers, which meet at St. Louis. The horizontal wavy line across the field symbolizes the Mississippi River continuing alone. The gold disk (*bezant*) represents the city of St. Louis itself, located at the confluence of the two rivers. It also symbolizes the Louisiana Purchase, in which the city was included. (The ordinance of adoption explains that heraldically, the bezant, or Byzantine coin, signifies money, or simply, purchase.) The *fleur-de-lis* recalls the early French history of the city and the French saint for whom the city is named. The flag's colors reflect those of Spain (red and yellow), Bourbon France (white and yellow), Napoleonic and Republican France (blue, white, and red), and the United States (red, white, and blue).

HOW SELECTED: On 28 November 1962, Mayor Raymond R. Tucker appointed a five-member committee to design a new flag for the city's bicentennial celebration in 1964. The committee consisted of Charles Nagel, director of the City Art Museum (chairman); Dr. Arthur W. Proetz, a retired physician versed in St. Louis history; George R. Brooks, director of the Missouri Historical Society; Charles van Ravenswaay, a former director of the Missouri Historical Society and president of Old Sturbridge Village in Massachusetts; and Professor Theodore Sizer of Bethany, Connecticut, director emeritus of the Yale Gallery of Fine Arts. An anonymous gift of \$1,000 through the City Art Museum funded the design project.

DESIGNER: Professor Theodore Sizer, of the committee.

MORE ABOUT THE FLAG: The ordinance of adoption does not specify the proportions, but does make Sizer's design official, and the proportions of that flag are 5:8. Sizer's original design had the field between the two rivers at the hoist in blue, but at the suggestion of the Rev. Maurice McNamee, S.J., chairman of the fine arts committee of St. Louis University, the board of aldermen changed the field to one of all red.

FORMER FLAG: The previous flag of St. Louis was designed by Edward A. Kronld in 1916; although it was apparently in use from that time, it was not made official until much later (either 1946 or 1950,



according to conflicting reports). The flag is a horizontal tribar of equal red, white, and dark blue stripes. In each of the four corners of the field is a white five-pointed star. On the center of the field is a large blue shield, almost as broad at the base as it is at the top, outlined in white. On a field of 2 by 3 units, it measures 1 unit

in width by 1.25 units in height. On the shield is a crowned St. Louis in profile toward the hoist, his right arm holding a cross aloft, astride a horse (right foreleg raised). The ground on which they stand is marked with a line, and below, centered, is a *fleur-de-lis*. The entire charge is white, detailed in dark blue.

The four stars represent St. Louis's rank as the fourth largest city in the United States in 1916. By 1964 the eponymous figure on the shield seemed to many in the city inappropriate for the city's flag, a sentiment that helped spur the adoption of a new flag.

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