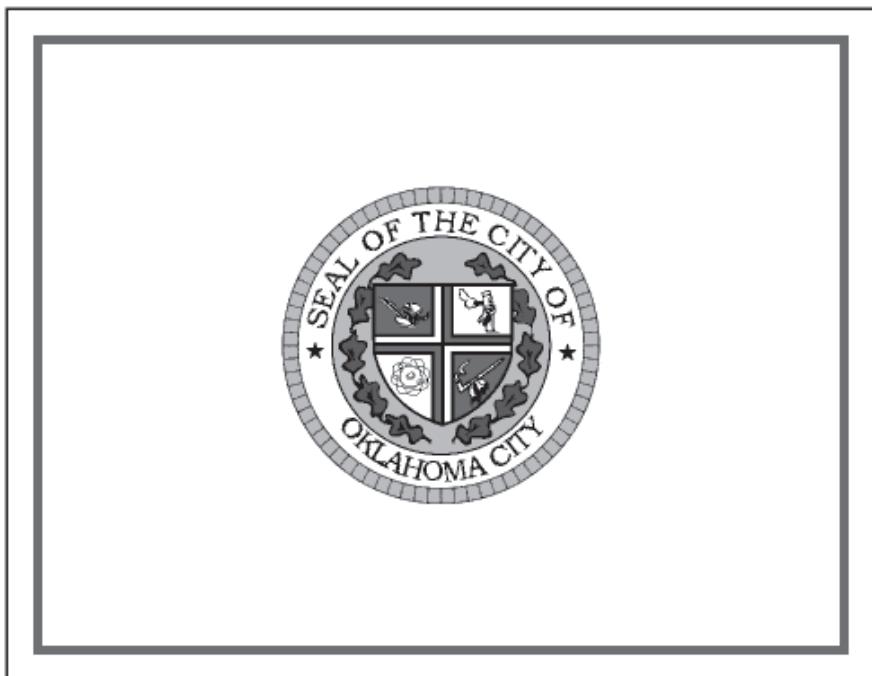


OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA ★

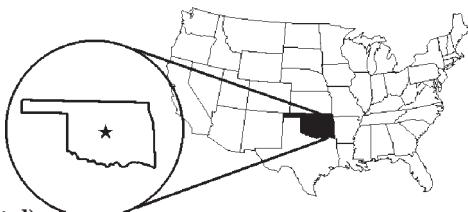


Population Rank: U.S. # 29

Oklahoma..... # 1

Proportions: 13:17 (usage)

Adopted: 8 February 1994 (official)



DESIGN: Oklahoma City's flag has a white field of 13 by 17 units. A red-line border surrounds it, .5 units from the edges. The seal of the city, 6.5 units in diameter, is centered on the field. The outer edge of the seal is a robin's-egg blue, matching the Oklahoma state flag's field. Within that circle is a narrow white ring, on which **SEAL OF THE CITY OF** curves clockwise over the top and **OKLAHOMA CITY** curves counterclockwise below, all in black. Separating the two legends at 9 and 3 o'clock is a five-pointed black star. The inner field of the seal is the same blue as the ring's edge. Centered on the field is a shield,

divided quarterly, its first and fourth quarters in red and second and third quarters in white. A cross is superimposed over the quarters' inner edges, itself divided into four sections with their colors counterchanged (colors alternated) with the quarter they border; thus, white in the first and fourth quarters, and red in the second and third. Charged on the quarters are a plow, a hatchet hammering a stake, an atomic symbol, and a peace pipe. A green oak-leaf wreath borders the shield on either side.

SYMBOLISM: The shield represents law and protection. The plow symbolizes pioneer agriculture in the Oklahoma Territory in 1889; it is also on the seal of the original Creek Nation in whose country Oklahoma City is located. The hatchet and stake recall the "89'ers" staking land claims in the Oklahoma Territory. The atomic symbol portends an industrial and scientific future. The peace pipe echoes the pipe smoked in Native American councils, and the pendant of eagle feathers suggests the great eagle in flight, signifying high aims. The wreath of post oak leaves symbolizes Council Grove, a site in Oklahoma City founded in 1858 by Jesse Chisholm where Native Americans, military, and trade councils met. That area was set aside in 1889 by the federal government to harvest its sturdy post oak timber for Fort Reno.

HOW SELECTED: Mayor Ron Norick asked for a new design after learning that residents in the sister city of Taipei, Taiwan, could not immediately recognize Oklahoma City in its former city flag.

DESIGNER: Mark McFarland, a man with cerebral palsy, who donated his design to the city.

MORE ABOUT THE FLAG: The city council gave McFarland a standing ovation at the session where the flag was adopted. Cognizant of legal actions taken against other U.S. cities (especially, in this case, Edmond, Oklahoma) where crosses on flags have been said to represent Christianity, McFarland maintained that the cross here merely serves as an "artistic divider" to provide sufficient distance among the various symbols.



FORMER FLAG: The first flag of the city might be termed an armorial banner, since it is really the blazon of the seal's shield extended into a rectangle. Unlike the current flag, the cross on the original flag is not counterchanged, but a solid white. Mrs. Daniel C. Orcutt created the

flag for the city's 75th anniversary and the city council adopted it officially on 20 July 1965. She was inspired by the design of the city's seal, adopted on 23 February 1965 (designer unnamed), and by Donald Hogland, a city resident expert in heraldry (and whose eight-page handwritten letter with carefully drawn illustrations to the council on the subject is officially appended to the ordinance of adoption). The flag's proportions are 2:3.

JP