

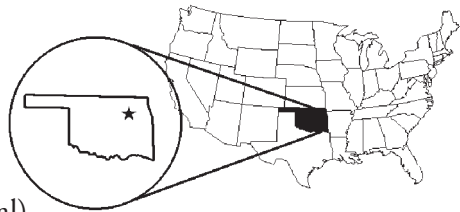
# TULSA, OKLAHOMA



*Population Rank:* U.S. .... # 42  
Oklahoma..... # 2

*Proportions:* 12:19 (official)

*Adopted:* 17 August 1973 (official)



**DESIGN:** Tulsa's flag is described in the ordinance of adoption:

*The flag design shall be the corporate seal of the City of Tulsa as described herein, positioned on both sides of a white material measuring six (6) feet, four (4) inches by four (4) feet, with the seal measuring two (2) feet, six (6) inches from top to bottom located in the center of the white material.*

The corporate seal is also described in its own ordinance of adoption (27 December 1967):

*The Corporate Seal of the City of Tulsa shall be in the shape of a modified vertical ellipse. The upper one-third of this ellipse shall be a gold field. Superimposed on this field, in the optical center and pointing upward shall*

*be an Indian [Native American] projectile point (arrowhead) of the Snyder variety in black and white facets. To the left [hoist] and adjacent to the base of this arrowhead there shall be the numerals "1" and "8". To the right [fly] and adjacent to the base of this arrowhead there shall be the numerals "9" and "8", together representing the year 1898. Superimposed upon and circumscribing the curved edge of the gold field there shall appear two rows of five-pointed blue stars, forty-six (46) in number.*

*The lower left [hoist] quadrant of the seal shall be a black field with a stylized white oil derrick superimposed upon and centered in the field.*

*The lower right [fly] quadrant of the seal shall be a blue field with parallel horizontal white lines. Each line shall be composed of a series of arcs to suggest a wave form.*

*The upper gold field, the lower left black quadrant and the lower right blue quadrant shall be separated from each other to form the letter "T" in white. Circumscribing the lower half of the seal in Lincoln Gothic type style shall be the words "CITY OF TULSA OKLAHOMA" in gold capital letters.*

**SYMBOLISM:** The "T", of course, is the initial letter of the city's name. The arrowhead recalls the importance of the early Native Americans in the region and their continuing influence today. The 46 stars symbolize Oklahoma as the 46th state to join the Union (16 November 1907). Tulsa was incorporated in 1898. The oil derrick suggests the importance of the petroleum industry in the rapid development of the city from its founding in 1879. The blue waters suggest the important waterways of the region, the Arkansas and Caney Rivers and Keystone Lake.

**HOW SELECTED:** The flag was adopted as part of celebrations of the city's 75th anniversary.



**DESIGNER:** Unknown.

**FORMER FLAGS:** Tulsa's first flag is non-rectangular, the fly ending in an isosceles triangle. The proportions are:

hoist, 25 units; length, 43 units; triangle sides, 13 units, for a total of 26 units at the fly. The field is white, with a large red circle in the center, about 13 units in diameter, with **TULSA** in large narrow white letters curving to conform to the circle. From the red circle emanate eight blue rays that widen as they reach the flag's edges. Four rays meet the flag's corners, four more meet its upper and lower edges. Another set of narrow white pointed rays, varying in length and suggesting sun's rays, overlay the broader blue rays, and in the six broad white rays formed in the spaces between the blue rays at the top and bottom are corresponding thin blue rays, for a total of 14 narrow rays.

In both broader white sections in the center portions of the hoist and fly is a broad red arrow, fimbriated in white with red edges, pointing to the center. On the hoist arrow is **UNLIMITED**, and on the fly arrow, **OPPORTUNITY**, both in white. The design suggests the brashness of early Tulsa as it grew rapidly with the petroleum industry, attracting visitors, settlers, and businesses, loudly proclaiming a bright future for all. The flag was designed by Alfred Perry, and adopted by the city commission on 5 June 1924. Mrs. W. A. (Rose) Cease made the first flag.

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