

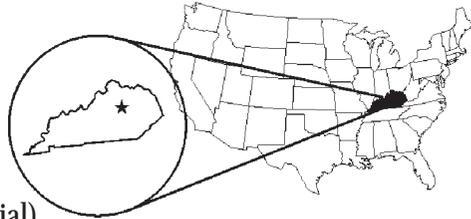
LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY



Population Rank: U.S. ... # 64
Kentucky # 1

Proportions: 4:7 (usage)

Adopted: November 1983 (official)



DESIGN: Lexington's flag consists of its seal centered on a white field, which is enclosed in a narrow, copper-gold inner border. This narrow border is set within a wider light blue border. To complete the flag, an even broader white strip surrounds the light blue border on all four sides. The white strip is broader at the hoist and fly. Details of the seal are set forth in the resolution of adoption:

... (H)enceforth the official Seal of the City of Lexington, Kentucky ... shall be a circle, in the center of which appears the front of Morrison Chapel of Transylvania College, bearing 1964 on the left cornerstone and the initials ENF on the right; an upright horseshoe thereover and overlapping burley tobacco leaves end to end on each side thereof [three on each side], together with 1775, the date of Lexington's incorporation below, all of which shall be surrounded by a circle imprinted City of Lexington Common-

wealth of Kentucky, the outer edge of this circle being another smaller circle of smooth design. When depicted in color, said inner circle shall be of light blue background, with the chapel, tobacco leaves and horseshoe in gold with white shadows and 1775 in black; the circle containing the ... [legend] ... shall be of gold background, the lettering in white framed in black, and the outer circle of the same, light blue.

The legend now reads **LEXINGTON FAYETTE URBAN COUNTY GOVERNMENT** clockwise and **KENTUCKY** counter-clockwise (at the lowest point in the circle). A narrow fimbriation of light blue forms the outer border of the seal. The seal on which the flag is based was adopted on 29 December 1964, superseding a 1916 version. The lettering on the 1964 seal changed in 1974 when the city and county governments merged.

SYMBOLISM: Morrison Chapel of Transylvania University symbolizes the history of the area. Transylvania University was the first college west of the Allegheny Mountains. The horseshoe above Morrison Hall represents the importance of horses in this area of Kentucky. The horseshoe is positioned with the open end upward, for good luck. The burley tobacco leaves stress the importance of tobacco to the economy of Lexington, the world's largest burley tobacco market. The blue in the background of the seal is for the bluegrass of Kentucky.

HOW SELECTED: The seal was adopted in a contest sponsored by the city of Lexington. According to local tradition, the designer used a piece of dry cleaner's cardboard she took out of one of her husband's shirts. Her husband happened to be the mayor of Lexington. He unwittingly chose his wife's design, in a blind contest. The flag itself was designed by a later mayor and his aides and adopted by the Urban County Council. It took only a month from conception to adoption.

DESIGNER: Elizabeth Nunn Fugazzi designed the seal. The design of the flag is attributed to Mayor Scotty Baesler and his aides.

MORE ABOUT THE FLAG: Elizabeth Fugazzi envisioned her seal as a model for the first city flag, but nearly twenty years passed before a design was adopted.