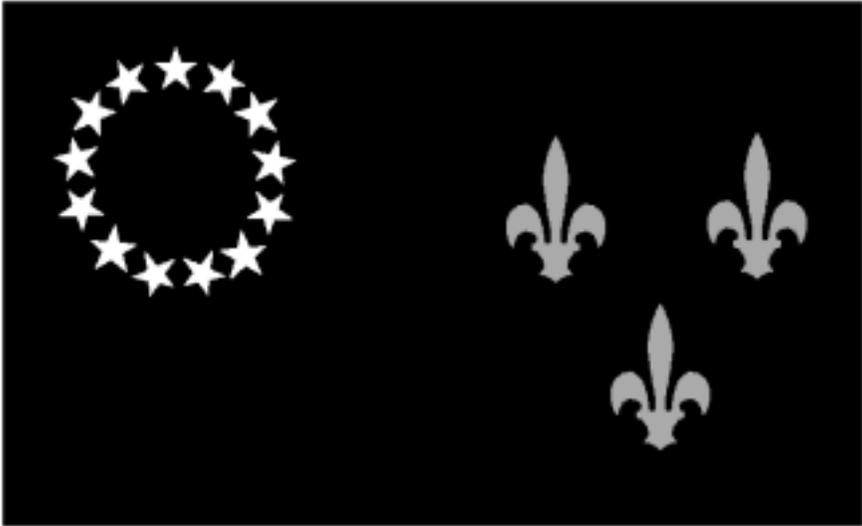


LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY



Population Rank: U.S. ... # 66*
Kentucky # 2

Proportions: 3:5 (usage)

Adopted: 1927-1934 (official)



DESIGN: Louisville's flag is described by the ordinance of adoption:

The following described flag is hereby adopted as the official flag of the City. A flag which shall have thirteen silver stars and three gold fleurs-de-lis placed upon a field of blue. The stars shall be arranged in a circle in the first quarter after the manner of the thirteen stars of the American flag as adopted by Congress, June 14, 1777. Two gold fleurs-de-lis shall be placed in the second quarter and one gold fleur-de-lis shall be placed in the fourth quarter so that the three form a triangle with the point at the bottom and the base at the top.

* 66 is Louisville's rank as of the 2000 Census. As of January 1, 2003, Louisville merged with Jefferson County into one metropolitan government and jumped in national rank to 16. In so doing, Louisville reclaimed title to the largest city of Kentucky (lost in 1974 when Lexington merged with Fayette County).

The form of the fleurs-de-lis shall be the same as the 'Middle Ages' fleurs-de-lis form shown in the eleventh edition of the Encyclopedia Britannica, Volume 10, page 499. The blue of the flag shall be the same shade of blue as is in the field of the American flag.

SYMBOLISM: The circle of stars honors the thirteen original colonies, and of course, is only one of the arrangements of stars found in early United States flags and was not actually specified by the Continental Congress in 1777. Later generations, however, have come to favor this form for 18th-century United States flags, and so it is more frequently used. The *fleurs-de-lis*, according to the city, show the “continuing good will between our people and the people of France”. The city was named for Louis XVI, the king of France at the time of the city’s founding in 1778, to commemorate the help the French were giving to the colonists in their struggle for independence.

HOW SELECTED: Reportedly by a committee.

DESIGNER: The designer’s name is lost, but there is some indication that a committee designed the flag, so that no single person was credited.

MORE ABOUT THE FLAG: The flag is widely seen in the city. Its adoption date is variously cited as 1927 and 1934, although it may have been designed earlier, if the reference in the ordinance to the Encyclopedia Britannica’s eleventh edition (published in 1910-1911) is any indication.



A new flag recently appeared on the Internet for the Louisville-Jefferson County Metropolitan Government. The flag is blue with a gold-bordered white disk bearing in the center a gold *fleur-de-lis*, two gold stars, and the date 1778 in blue over some very thin gold horizontal lines. These devices are surrounded by a thin blue circle; at its base is a blue panel with METRO in white. Surrounding this is LOUISVILLE • JEFFERSON COUNTY in gold.