

# Proposal: Establishing an Official Flag for the Borough of Pennington

**To:** Mayor and Borough Council

**From:** Edward Krupa, Volunteer, Pennington Parks & Recreation Commission

**Date:** May 27, 2026

**Subject:** Proposal for the Creation of an Official Borough Flag

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## Executive Summary

The Borough of Pennington is a unique, "one-square-mile" community defined by its walkability, historic charm, and deep-rooted civic pride. While we are represented by our seal, the Borough lacks a visual symbol that residents can fly at their homes, businesses, and community events. This proposal outlines the benefits of adopting an official municipal flag and suggests a community-driven design contest to ensure the final product reflects the heart of our town.

## The Importance of a Municipal Flag

A well-designed flag is more than just a piece of fabric; it is a tool for community building and branding.

- **Generates Civic Pride:** A flag provides a tangible symbol for residents to rally around. It celebrates our identity as "Penningtonians" and creates a sense of belonging.
- **Enhances "Wayfinding" and Branding:** As a walkable town, a flag can be used to mark municipal buildings, parks, and Howe Commons, reinforcing our unique borders and identity within Mercer County.
- **Commemorates History and Future:** A flag can bridge the gap between our agricultural roots, our prestigious educational institutions like The Pennington School, and our future as a sustainable, park-centric community.
- **Simplicity and Recognition:** Unlike a complex municipal seal, a flag is designed to be recognized from a distance and easily reproduced on everything from lapel pins to community banners.

## Proposed Community Design Contest

To ensure the flag truly represents the people of Pennington, I propose a town-wide design contest.

1. **Phase 1: Submission:** Open to all residents and students. Designs must follow the "Five Principles of Flag Design" (Keep it simple; use meaningful symbolism; use 2–3 colors; no lettering or seals; be distinctive).
2. **Phase 2: Vetting:** The Parks & Recreation Commission (and others) will narrow submissions down to three finalists.
3. **Phase 3: Public Vote:** Residents will vote for their favorite design at Borough Hall or future events like the Summer Concert Series.
4. **Phase 4: Adoption:** The winning design is presented to the Mayor and Council for official

adoption.

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## Design Concepts for Consideration

To kickstart the imagination of the commission, here are three conceptual directions based on Pennington's unique characteristics:

| Concept             | Visual Elements                                                                                  | Symbolism                                                                                                                     |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| "The Green Square"  | A central green square on a white field, bordered by two blue stripes.                           | The 1-sq-mile "Green" borough at the center, with blue representing our local brooks and the Delaware & Raritan Canal nearby. |
| "The Crossroads"    | Two intersecting paths (gold) on a forest green background with a single oak leaf.               | Represents our walkability and the intersection of Main and Delaware, while the leaf honors our surrounding parks and farms.  |
| "Academic Heritage" | A tri-color of Red, Black, and White (nodding to local school colors) with a stylized gate icon. | Represents the integration of The Pennington School within the town and the "open gate" hospitality of our residents.         |

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## Flag Design Visual Examples

I have generated a few visual representations of what a Pennington flag could look like, focusing on simplicity and our "small-town" feel:

1. **The "Walkable Mile" Design:** A clean, minimalist approach featuring a single star (representing the Borough) centered within a green border that signifies the surrounding farmland and "Green Belt."
2. **The "Heritage & Nature" Design:** A horizontal bicolor of deep blue and earth green, separated by a thin gold line, symbolizing the connection between our waterways and our lush, preserved open spaces.
3. **The "Community Hearth" Design:** A vertical banner style using a "P" motif constructed

from geometric shapes that mimic the architectural rooflines of our historic Main Street.

**Note:** These examples are intended to serve as "conversation starters" for the Council and the public to demonstrate how a simple palette can carry a heavy emotional weight for a small town.

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**Next Steps:**

Let me know your thoughts and next steps. I would be happy to discuss at the next Council meeting to formally present this idea and discuss the logistics of forming a small "Flag Committee" under the Parks & Recreation Commission or even Economic Development.





