

# The New Official Flag and Great Seal

Report of  
the Minnesota  
State Emblems  
Redesign Commission  
to the Minnesota  
Legislature and Governor

**JANUARY 1, 2024**

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# State Emblems Redesign Commission – Selection for the New Official Flag and Great Seal for the State of Minnesota

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January 1, 2024

Governor Tim Walz  
130 State Capitol  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Sen. Bobby Joe Champion  
President of the Minnesota Senate  
231 State Capitol  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Rep. Melissa Hortman  
Speaker of the Minnesota House  
463 State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Governor Walz, Lieutenant Governor Flanagan, President Champion, Speaker Hortman, and Members of the Minnesota Legislature,

The Minnesota State Emblems Redesign Commission is honored to present to the people of Minnesota, through their Governor and Legislature, designs for a new state flag and state seal.

Through extensive public input, a design contest that drew over 2,500 entries, and many hours of deliberations by the Commission, together, we have created designs that reflect the spirit of Minnesota — the people, the land and water, and the history of our state.

We are particularly inspired by broad public support for including the North Star on both the flag and the seal. Minnesota has much to be proud of — seeing this powerful, aspirational symbol is a daily reminder of our guiding light, the North Star. It will remind us of how strong we are united and the bright future that we will create together.

We look forward to extensive and proud use of these new emblems for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Luis Fitch, *Chair*  
Dr. Kate Beane  
Michael Harralson  
President Robert Larsen  
Philip McKenzie  
Aaron Wittnebel

Dr. Anita Gaul, *Vice Chair*  
Shelley Buck  
Kim Jackson  
Denise Mazone  
Secretary Steve Simon

Rep. Mike Freiberg  
Sen. Mary Kunesh  
Lauren Bennett McGinty  
Kent Whitworth

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**13**

Voting Commission members

**4**

Nonvoting  
Commission members

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**236,579**

All-time views to the main MNHS SERC page

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**4**

In-person meetings

**14**

Virtual meetings

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**8**

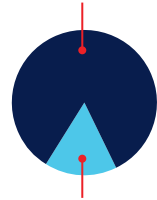
Point star on the  
New Official Flag of  
Minnesota

**21,882**

Total public comments for redesign finalists via main MNHS SERC page

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**2,128**  
Flag redesign  
submissions



**399**  
Seal redesign  
submissions



**1,785**  
North Star cameos

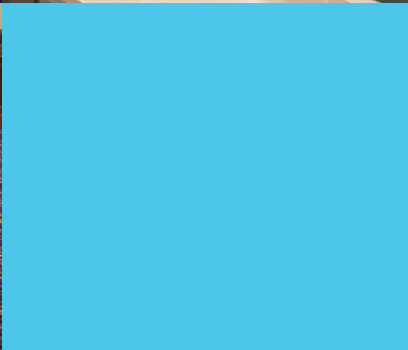
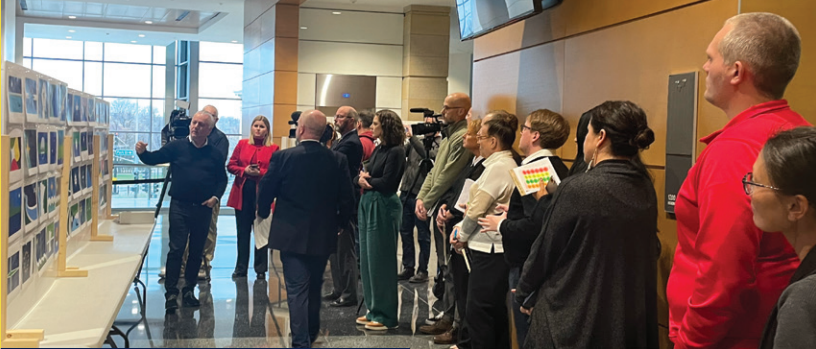
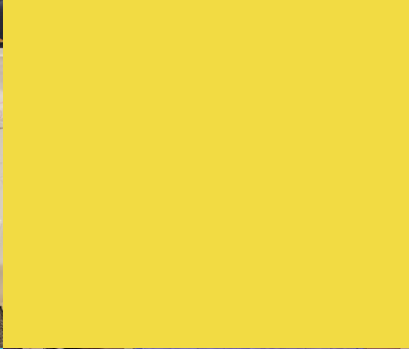
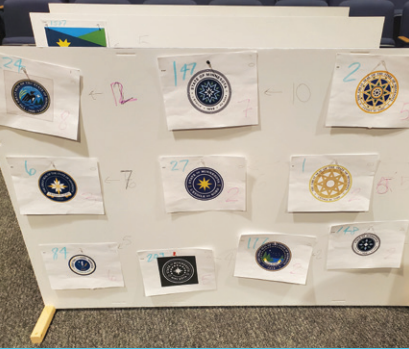
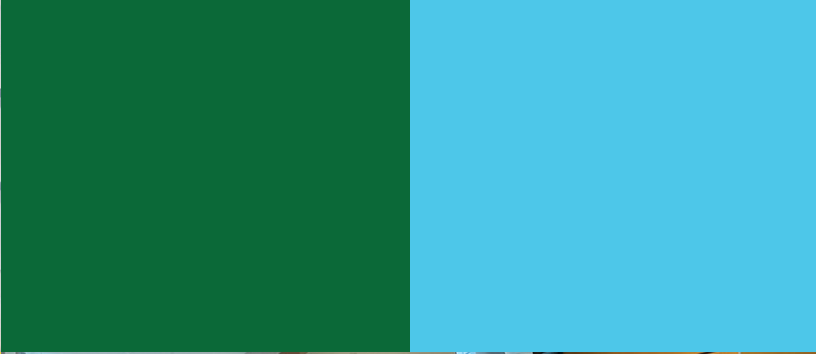


**291**  
Common loon  
cameos



**6**  
Flag redesign  
finalists

**5**  
Seal redesign  
finalists



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# Background

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Created by legislation passed in 2023, the State Emblems Redesign Commission was formed to design a new state flag and state seal. Within a short period of time, the Commission organized itself, created a work plan including an extensive design brief, then turned to public engagement through a design contest and commentary opportunities.

This report will provide a detailed description of the background and activities of the Commission's work, including enabling legislation, the Commission's meetings, public input, and a description of the symbols and elements contained within the new state flag and state seal.

The Commission would like to thank the designers who submitted entries for the new flag and seal, members of the public who submitted comments, and Minnesotans who engaged in discussions around their dinner tables. The Commission was responsible for creating a new flag for Minnesota, informed by more than 2,100 design concepts and, in particular, the designs of Andrew Prekker, who submitted the design concept which inspired Minnesota's new flag and Ross Bruggink, who submitted the design concept which inspired Minnesota's new seal. Together, we have created a new flag and seal that represents ***all*** Minnesotans and the land and water which give us life.

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# Legislation

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Legislation passed by the 2023 Legislature and signed by the Governor provided for membership of the Commission, guidance on how the Commission would conduct its work, and general instruction on what should be contained in the new state flag and state seal. Additional provisions are noted in the reference at the bottom of this section.

Primary Section of Authorizing Legislation:

Laws of Minnesota, 2023, Chapter 62, Article 2, Section 118.

(additional sections are noted below)

## **Sec. 118. STATE EMBLEMS REDESIGN COMMISSION.**

Subdivision 1. **Establishment.** The State Emblems Redesign Commission is established. The purpose of the commission is to develop and adopt a new design for the official state flag and the official state seal no later than January 1, 2024.

Subd. 2. **Membership; meetings.** (a) The commission consists of the following members:

- (1) three members of the public, appointed by the governor;
- (2) one member appointed by the Council for Minnesotans of African Heritage;
- (3) one member appointed by the Minnesota Council on Latino Affairs;
- (4) one member appointed by the Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans;
- (5) one member representing the Dakota community and one member representing the Ojibwe community, appointed by the executive board of the Indian Affairs Council;
- (6) the secretary of state or the secretary's designee;
- (7) the executive director of the Minnesota Historical Society or the director's designee;
- (8) the chair of the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board or the chair's designee;
- (9) the chair of the Minnesota Arts Board or the chair's designee; and
- (10) the executive director of Explore Minnesota Tourism or the director's designee.

(b) The following serve as ex officio, nonvoting members of the commission: (1) two members of the house of representatives, one each appointed by the speaker of the house and the minority leader of the house; and (2) two members of the senate, one representing the majority caucus appointed by the senate majority leader and one representing the minority caucus appointed by the senate minority leader.



(c) Appointments to the commission must be made no later than August 1, 2023. The voting members of the commission shall elect a chair and vice-chair. An appointee designated by the governor shall convene the commission's first meeting. Decisions of the commission must be made by majority vote. The Minnesota Historical Society must provide office space and administrative support to the commission.

Subd. 3. **Meetings.** Meetings of the commission are subject to Minnesota Statutes, chapter 13D.

Subd. 4. **Duties; form and style of recommended state emblems.** The commission shall develop and adopt a new design for the official state seal and a new design for the official state flag. The designs must accurately and respectfully reflect Minnesota's shared history, resources, and diverse cultural communities. Symbols, emblems, or likenesses that represent only a single community or person, regardless of whether real or stylized, may not be included in a design. The commission may solicit and secure the voluntary service and aid of vexillologists and other persons who have either technical or artistic skill in flag construction and design, or the design of official seals, to assist in the work. The commission must also solicit public feedback and suggestions to inform its work.

Subd. 5. **Report.** The commission shall certify its adopted designs in a report to the legislature and governor no later than January 1, 2024. The commission's report must describe the symbols and other meanings incorporated in the design.

Subd. 6. **Expiration.** The commission expires upon submission of its report.

Additional Sections of the 2023 legislation related to the state's flag and seal are referenced here and printed in Appendix 1:

Laws of Minnesota, 2023, Chapter 62, Article 2, Sections 1-5; 118; 133, Subdivision 1; and Article 1, Section 24, Subdivision 2 (b)

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# Members of the State Emblems Redesign Commission

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## Members of the Commission (voting members) and Appointing Authority

Luis Fitch, <i>Chair</i>	Council on Latino Affairs
Dr. Anita Gaul, <i>Vice Chair</i>	Governor - Member of the Public
Dr. Kate Beane	Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board (CAAPB)
Shelley Buck	Governor - Member of the Public
Michael Harralson	Governor - Member of the Public
Kim Jackson	Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans
President Robert Larsen	Minnesota Indian Affairs Council (MIAC) - Dakota Community
Denise Mazone	Council on Minnesotans of African Heritage
Lauren Bennett McGinty	Explore Minnesota
Philip McKenzie	Minnesota State Arts Board
Secretary Steve Simon	Minnesota Secretary of State
Kent Whitworth	Minnesota Historical Society
Aaron Wittnebel	Minnesota Indian Affairs Council (MIAC) - Ojibwe Community

## Ex Officio, Nonvoting Members

Senator Steve Drazkowski, Minnesota Senate - Member of the Minority  
Representative Mike Freiberg, Minnesota House of Representatives - Member of the Majority  
Senator Mary Kunesch, Minnesota Senate - Member of the Majority  
Representative Bjorn Olson, Minnesota House of Representatives - Member of the Minority



# The Great Seal of the State of Minnesota



# Description of the New Seal

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The seal of the State of Minnesota is used in a variety of ways. Traditionally, a seal was used to mark official documents of governments. Today, the seal is still used on official documents, including notaries' stamps, as well as stationery of government officials; it is also used in formal settings of government buildings on podiums and walls.

The new state seal is contained within a traditional round design. Elements of the seal, listed from the outside into the center of the circle, are as follows:

**The outer circle** of the seal contains 98 rectangular golden bars, representing the state's 87 counties and the 11 federally-recognized American Indian Tribes within the border of Minnesota;

**Lettering** of the seal is in Georgia bold font and states "The Great Seal of the State of Minnesota," and, moving towards the center, then contains a series of blue roundels, which are decorative only;

**Symbols and Etymological History of Minnesota.** The innermost part of the circle contains several symbols representing the State of Minnesota, including:

- images of **wild rice**, the official state grain of Minnesota;
- the **common loon** (*gavia immer*), the official state bird of Minnesota, including a red eye;
- a white, four-pointed **star** representing the Star of the North, or, "L'étoile du Nord," the state motto;
- the **phrase "Mni Sóta Makoce"** represents the historical roots of the name of our state. It is the Dakota language term for "Land of the sky tinted water" or "Land where the waters reflect the skies." This phrase is the source of the name of our state — Minnesota — and represents both continuity and change, in language over time. The name "Minnesota" was originally given to the Minnesota River, the longest river contained within the state, and became the state's official name upon statehood in 1858. At the time of statehood, alternate spellings of our state's name were used and considered, including "Minesota" and "Minasota," among others. The phrase "Mni Sóta Makoce" is simply the original rendering of our state's name. The phrase is in Montserrat-Variable font.

The Commission’s intent is that this phrase represents the directive in the authorizing legislation which states that “[t]he designs must accurately and respectfully **reflect Minnesota’s shared history...**” The intent of the Commission is that the phrase does not represent one group of Minnesotans, but rather was selected to demonstrate the roots of the name of our state, honoring our past, our “shared history” as called for in the legislation which created the Commission and directed its work;

- **trees** representing the official state tree, Norway Pine, and other natural areas of the state of Minnesota;
- and, a stylized representation of a body of **water**, representing Minnesota’s many lakes, rivers, and abundance of water.

# Anatomy and Origins

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On December 12 and 19, 2023, the State Emblems Redesign Commission voted to adopt design modifications to the official Great Seal of the State of Minnesota.

- A. **Outer circle** of the seal contains 98 rectangular yellow golden bars, representing the state’s 87 counties and the 11 federally-recognized American Indian Tribes within the border of Minnesota;
- B. **“Mni Sóta Makoce”** the Dakota language term for “Land of the sky tinted water” or “Land where the waters reflect the skies.” The phrase is in Montserrat-Variable font;
- C. **White four-pointed star** representing the Star of the North, or, “L’étoile du Nord,” the state motto;
- D. **Norway Pine** representing the official state tree;
- E. **Stylized water** representing Minnesota’s many lakes, rivers, and abundance of water;
- F. **Common loon** representing the official state bird of Minnesota;
- G. **Wild rice** representing the official state grain of Minnesota;
- H. **Lettering** of the seal is in Georgia bold font and states, “The Great Seal of the State of Minnesota.”

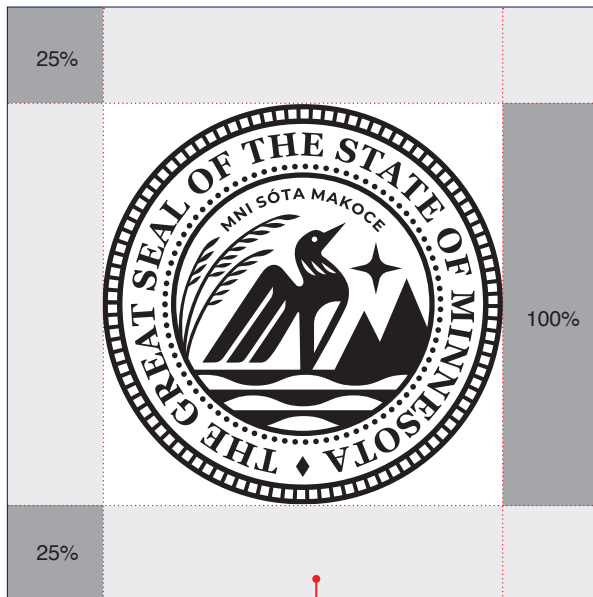


# Technical Specifications

To maintain the integrity of the seal, the minimum diameter size should be 1 inch for print or 116 pixels for digital applications.

The clearspace for the seal should always be a minimum of 25% of the overall height (see below diagram).

The color version of the seal uses six colors. (see below details)



Clearspace



Digital Applications:  
116 px



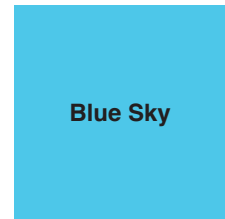
Printed Applications:  
1 inch

## Printed and Digital Color Applications



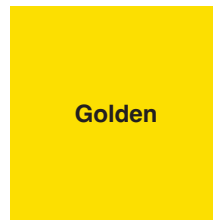
Blue Water

**Pantone 648**  
C: 100 M: 86 Y: 35 K: 31  
R: 0 G: 44 B: 90  
Hex Code: #002C5A



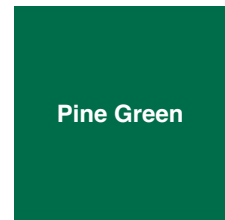
Blue Sky

**Pantone 305**  
C: 59 M: 0 Y: 6 K: 0  
R: 115 G: 198 B: 229  
Hex Code: #73C6E5



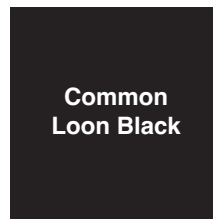
Golden

**Pantone 7405**  
C: 0 M: 8 Y: 100 K: 1  
R: 242 G: 206 B: 0  
Hex Code: #F2CE00



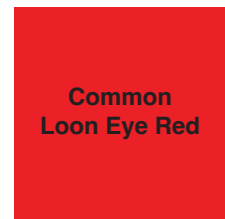
Pine Green

**Pantone 7728**  
C: 94 M: 3 Y: 78 K: 44  
R: 0 G: 104 B: 71  
Hex Code: #006847



Common  
Loon Black

**Pantone Process Black**  
C: 1 M: 1 Y: 0 K: 99  
R: 44 G: 42 B: 41  
Hex Code: #2C2A29



Common  
Loon Eye Red

**Pantone 185**  
C: 0 M: 100 Y: 89 K: 0  
R: 228 G: 0 B: 50  
Hex Code: #E40032





# The New Minnesota Flag



Obverse



Reverse



Greyscale



Folded



With flag spreader



Vertical

# Description of the New Flag

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The new Minnesota flag is simple, yet rich with meaning for all Minnesotans.

On its left side, the flag contains a dark blue background with a white, 8 point star. One of the points of the star points north. The dark background is in the shape of the outline of the State of Minnesota. The remainder of the flag is a solid, bright blue.

**The star** represents the North Star, or “L'étoile du Nord,” Minnesota’s state motto. As the northernmost state in the Continental United States, Minnesota aspires to serve as an inspiration not only for its citizens, but also the rest of the nation. The point of the star faces north, inspiring Minnesotans to follow the North Star to a better future.

**The dark blue field represents the night sky**, where Minnesotans from all cultures look and imagine a larger universe, while working to create a better North Star State. The dark blue field also represents the shape of the State of Minnesota, representing the land on which we all live, together.

**The bright blue field** on the right side of the flag **represents water**: Minnesota is the land of 10,000 lakes (actually 11,842!), 6,564 rivers and streams, including the source or Headwaters of the world-famous Mississippi River, and part of Lake Superior, the start of the Great Lakes Basin. Water is life-sustaining for all Minnesotans. It represents life, leisure, and commerce.

**As an 8 point star**, the star also represents **many cultures** over time and across the globe. More recently, the 8 point star has been used extensively in quilting by both Indigenous people and some new immigrants.

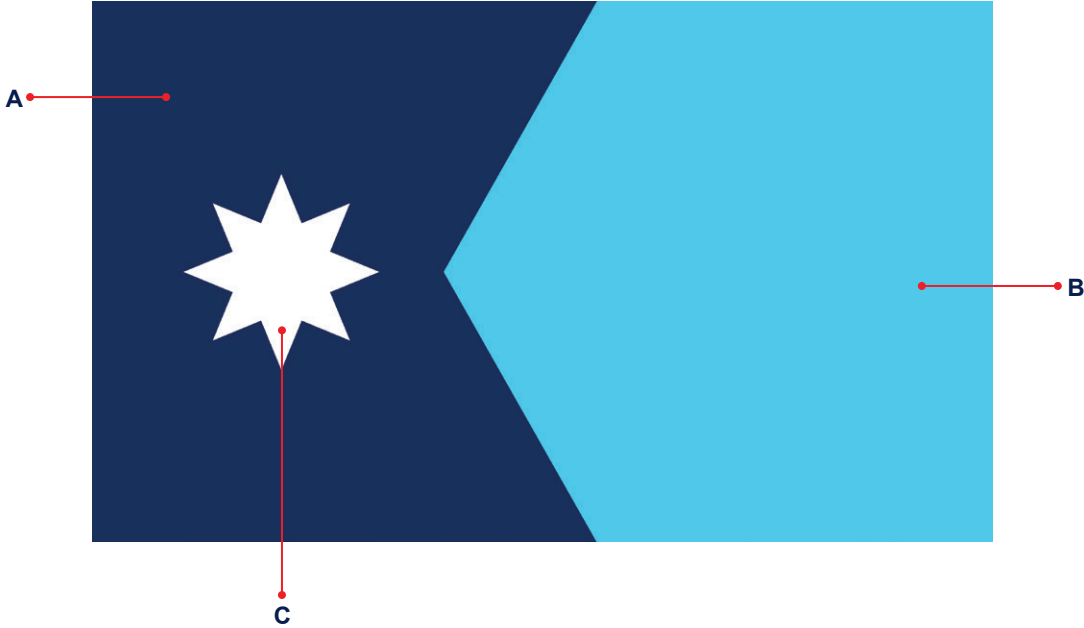
**The 8 point star** also evokes the image of one of the most prominent features of the **Minnesota State Capitol**. The floor of the Rotunda features inlaid African marble with a brass outline of the 8 point star as designed by Cass Gilbert. As one walks on either the first floor or the second floor of the Capitol building, one may notice the illusion of the letter M, which is made by the outline of sections of the 8 point star. The orientation of the star in the new Official Flag of Minnesota matches the orientation of the 8 point star of the Capitol Rotunda — both point to the North.

# Anatomy and Origins


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The Official Flag of the State of Minnesota was adopted on December 19, 2023.

- A. **The dark blue field** representing the night sky and the shape of the state of Minnesota;
- B. **The bright blue field** representing abundance of water: Minnesota is the land of 10,000 lakes (actually 11,842!), 6,564 rivers and streams;
- C. **The 8 point star** representing the North Star, or “L’étoile du Nord,” Minnesota’s state motto.




# Construction Sheet



**Fabric:**  
Legion  
Blue  
or  
Legion  
Blue\*

**Night Sky Blue**

**Pantone 648**  
C: 100 M: 86 Y: 35 K: 31  
R: 0 G: 44 B: 90  
Hex Code: #002C5A



**Fabric:**  
White

**White**

**Pantone White**  
C: 0 M: 0 Y: 0 K: 0  
R: 255 G: 255 B: 255  
Hex Code: #FFFFFF

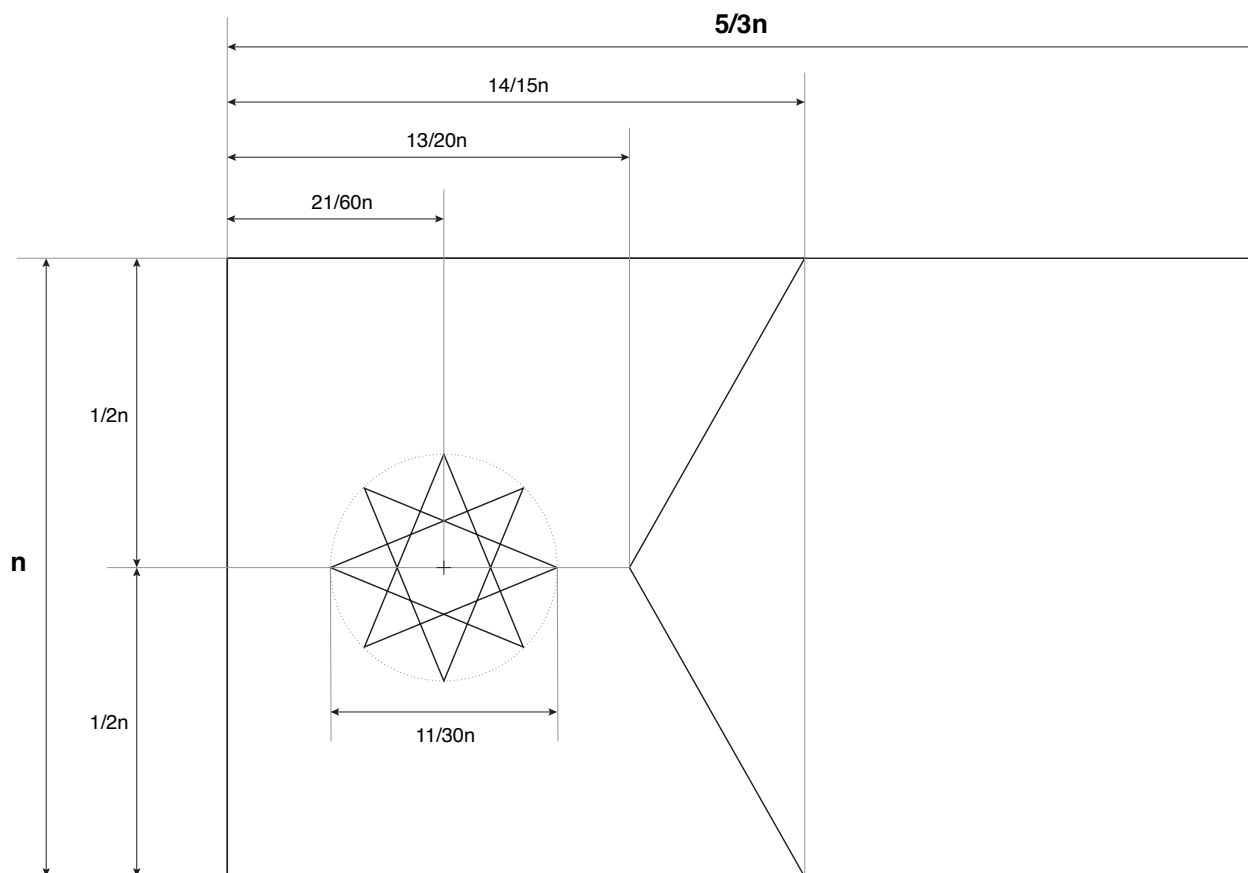


**Fabric:**  
Bluebird  
or  
Process  
Blue\*

**Water Blue**

**Pantone 305**  
C: 59 M: 0 Y: 6 K: 0  
R: 115 G: 198 B: 229  
Hex Code: #73C6E5

*\*Swatch selection subject to change based on physical samples and fabric variation*



The star is a regular octagram with the Schläfli symbol  $\{8/3\}$ .  
It is constructed from 8 vertices arranged equally around a circle.  
Each vertex is connected to the vertex that is 3 turns away.



# Public Meetings and Engagement Summary

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# State Emblems Redesign Commission – Public Meetings, Public Engagement, and Participation

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Despite having a relatively brief amount of time to plan and carry out its work, the [State Emblems Redesign Commission \(SERC\)](#) conducted an active schedule of meetings, each of which was public. A summary of meeting dates and actions follows:

The State Emblems Redesign Commission (SERC) met on the following dates:

Video recordings of Commission meetings can be accessed at the [SERC web page](#).

Tuesday, September 5, 2023 (virtual)

Tuesday, September 12, 2023 (virtual)

Wednesday, September 20, 2023 (virtual)

Tuesday, September 26, 2023 (virtual)

Tuesday, October 3, 2023 (virtual) part 1

Tuesday, October 3, 2023 (virtual) part 2

Tuesday, October 10, 2023 (virtual)

Tuesday, October 17, 2023 (virtual)

Tuesday, October 24, 2023 (virtual)

Tuesday, October 31, 2023 (virtual) part 1

Tuesday, October 31, 2023 (virtual) part 2

Tuesday, November 7, 2023 (virtual)

Tuesday, November 14, 2023 (virtual)

Tuesday, November 21, 2023 (hybrid–Room 1200 in the Minnesota Senate Building, 95 University Ave W, St. Paul, MN 55155)

Tuesday, November 28, 2023 (virtual)

Tuesday, December 5, 2023 (virtual)

Tuesday, December 12, 2023 (hybrid—Room 1200 in the Minnesota Senate Building, 95 University Ave W, St. Paul, MN 55155)

Friday, December 15, 2023 (hybrid—Room 1200 in the Minnesota Senate Building, 95 University Ave W, St. Paul, MN 55155)

Tuesday, December 19, 2023 (hybrid—Room 123 in the Minnesota State Capitol, 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd, St. Paul, MN 55155)

Wednesday, December 27, 2023 (virtual)

Meeting notices and agendas were posted on the SERC website in advance of meetings. All meetings were open to the public. A Zoom link was provided and publicized on the SERC website, as was the time and location of hybrid meetings. All meetings were recorded and made available online for public viewing, as were notes summarizing each meeting.

The State Emblems Redesign Commission (Commission) held its first meeting on Tuesday, September 5, 2023. At this inaugural meeting of the Commission, members learned about the Commission’s responsibilities, met one another, and elected Luis Fitch as Chair and Dr. Anita Gaul as Vice Chair.

At the meeting held September 12, Dr. Bill Convery of the Minnesota Historical Society gave a brief presentation on the history of Minnesota’s current flag and seal. Commissioners reviewed drafts of a proposed timeline for adopting a new flag and seal, as well as drafts of the creative briefs for the flag and seal.

The timeline and creative brief were approved by the Commission at the meeting held on September 19. The Commission discussed draft rules for public submission of flag and seal designs at the September 19 meeting.

These rules were approved by a vote of the Commission members at the September 26 meeting. Commissioners discussed methods and best practices for sorting through the design submissions in order to determine finalists at its October meetings. A timeline for the design selection process was also determined.

Ted Kaye of the North American Vexillological Society (NAVA) gave a presentation on the principles of “good flag design” to the Commission at its meeting on October 31. Commissioners heard expert testimony on the principles of good seal design from Dr. Jonathon Good at its meeting on November 14.



In preparation for the Commission's first in-person meeting, members selected up to 25 designs each for the flag and seal to move onto the next round. Those designs were printed for the meeting so that Commission members would have an opportunity to see what each of the designs looked like in a format other than a small image on a computer screen.

On November 21, the Commission held its first hybrid (in-person and virtual) meeting. Commissioners heard testimony from Lee Herold, Rochester, MN on good flag design. Commissioners then narrowed down the pool of over 2,500 submitted seal and flag designs to five finalists for the seal design and six finalists for the flag design.

Commissioners heard public testimony regarding the flag and seal finalists at its December 5 virtual meeting. The final design for the new state seal was also chosen by commissioners at this meeting.

At the hybrid meeting held December 12, Commissioners voted on modifications to the seal design. Commissioners then winnowed the pool of flag designs from six to three.

For the December 12th meeting, the Commission invited designers of the finalists (or their designees) for flag design concepts to present their inspiration and rationale for their designs.

At the subsequent hybrid meeting held December 15, Commissioners selected the final flag design concept. Modifications to the final flag design—as well as additional modifications to the seal design—were discussed and adopted at the Commission's hybrid meeting of December 19. Also at this meeting, Commission members approved a motion to send records of its work to Minnesota State Archives for use by future researchers and historians.

At the final meeting of the State Emblems Redesign Commission on December 27, a draft of the Commission's final report was discussed and approved. Commissioners also finalized color specifications for both the flag and seal.

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# Public Engagement and Participation

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Authorizing legislation for flag and seal redesign (Laws of Minnesota, 2023, Chapter 62, Article 2, Section 118, Subd. 4) states: “The Commission must also solicit public feedback and suggestions to inform its work.” The Commission took this charge seriously and incorporated participation into its work.

The Commission solicited public feedback and suggestions at every stage of the redesign process, utilizing all forms of media outlets. An official State Emblems Redesign Commission website was created and administered by the Minnesota Historical Society. The main SERC website page received over 236,000 hits throughout the redesign process, a testament to a high level of public interest and engagement.

Throughout the state flag and seal redesign process, the Commission conducted its work in a transparent manner. Meeting notices and agendas were posted on the SERC website. All meetings were open to the public. A Zoom link was provided and publicized on the SERC website, as was the time and location of hybrid meetings. All meetings were recorded and made available online for public viewing, as were the notes summarizing actions taken at each meeting.

The Minnesota Historical Society Communications team sent periodic press releases and distributed a weekly newsletter to those who subscribed to the newsletter distribution list. Media outlets of all forms—digital, print, television, and radio—published the information distributed in the press releases. Media outlets around the state and the entire nation closely followed the redesign process, resulting in over 1,000 media mentions.

The six finalist flag designs were printed as full-size fabric flags and hung for display at the Mall of America in Bloomington, Minnesota, on the weekend of December 9-10, 2023, for mall shoppers to view and comment on. This display drew extensive media coverage, resulting in greater attention for the Commission’s work. A set of the six finalist flag designs was also displayed at the Becker County Museum for public review and comment.

A public submission form for seal and flag designs was launched by the Minnesota Historical Society on October 2, 2023. This resulted in 2,128 flag design submissions and 399 seal design

submissions by the October 30, 2023 deadline.

All submissions were compiled and released for public viewing and comment on the SERC website on November 7, 2023. This resulted in 5,000 comments left for Commission members' consideration. Once the Commission determined the five seal and six flag finalist designs, public comment was again solicited and received through the SERC website. Public comment was subsequently received through the SERC website after the Commission reduced the six flag finalists to three finalists at its December 12 meeting, and again after the Commission selected the final design at its December 15 meeting.

The continuous solicitation of public feedback and suggestions resulted in over 21,882 public comments submitted on the SERC website. Public testimony was also heard by Commissioners at their virtual meeting of December 5, 2023.

The Commission also received public comment from experts to guide them in decision making and the selection process. Dr. Bill Convery of the Minnesota Historical Society informed Commission members of the history of the current flag and seal. Ted Kaye of the North American Vexillological Association, author of the "Good Flag, Bad Flag" guidebook on best practices for flag design, presented information on principles of good flag design. Commissioners heard expert testimony on the principles of good seal design from Dr. Jonathon Good. Graphic designers Tyler and Janae Michaletz presented modification options for the finalist flag designs at meetings held on December 15 and December 19.

In summary, the Commission clearly fulfilled its legislative mandate to "solicit public feedback and suggestions to inform its work." Its work was transparent and open to the public at every step of the process. Public feedback and suggestions were continuously sought, resulting in broad media coverage and tens of thousands of comments received. Public testimony from members of the general public and experts was received and considered. The people of Minnesota were informed, heard, and consulted throughout the entire state flag and seal redesign process.

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# Acknowledgements and Appendix 1

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# Acknowledgements

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The State Emblems Redesign Commission gratefully acknowledges:

Minnesota citizens and others who submitted design concepts, which have informed the Commission in their work to create a new state flag and state seal;

Minnesota citizens and others who shared their comments and observations on flag and seal concepts and designs. Together, we have created a new flag and seal for all Minnesotans;

Flag Design Experts: Ted Kaye, Brian Cham, and the North American Vexillological Association (NAVA), who provided their expertise in best practices in flag design pro bono to the Commission;

Lee Herold (who provided testimony to the Commission) and Reverend William Becker, who both have helped Minnesotans better understand the importance of good flag design and have advocated for an improved flag for all Minnesotans;

David Wicai and Sarina Ehrgott from the Utah Department of Cultural and Community Engagement, who shared their experience with Utah's adoption of a new flag;

Jenae and Tyler Michaletz who served as the Commission's design consultants pro bono providing revision and refinement services;

Jennifer Huang and Cameron Miller with Fish & Richardson, P.C. a Minnesota-based global intellectual property law firm for serving as pro bono counsel to the Commission;

Dr. Jonathan Good, Heraldic Fellow with the Royal Society of Canada and Mr. Bruce Patterson, Deputy Chief Herald for the Canadian Heraldic Authority for providing pro bono expert testimony and opinions on the Great Seal and the differences between it and a Coat-of-Arms or Crest to the Commission;

The Commission is very thankful to each individual, group, and agency, who supplied professional expertise, technical support, logistics, and other assistance pro bono so that we were able to complete our work on time and within the confines of our limited budget.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS (CONTINUED)

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Staff from the Minnesota Historical Society, who have contributed support for the Commission's operations. You have made meetings run smoothly, made design concepts accessible to the public, helped to facilitate public participation, assisted with media inquiries and much more. We appreciate the work of: Brett Baldwin, Jack Baret, Dr. Bill Convery, Lindsey Dyer, Olivia Gentilcore, Jaired Johnson, Nick Jungheim, Brian Juntti, David Kelliher, Sue Leas, Cecily Marcus, Ann Oldenkamp, Allison Ortiz, Brenda Raney, and others who have supported this effort.

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# Appendix 1

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Legislation passed by the 2023 Legislature and signed by the Governor provided for membership of the Commission, guidance on how the Commission would conduct its work, and general guidance on what should be contained in the new state flag and state seal. Additional provisions are noted in this Appendix.

Laws of Minnesota, 2023, Chapter 62, Article 2, Section 118.  
(additional sections are noted below)

Laws of Minnesota, 2023, Chapter 62, Article 2, Sections 1-5; 118; 133,  
Subdivision 1; and Article 1, Section 24, Subdivision 2 (b)

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 1.135, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

Subd. 2. **Official seal.** The seal described in subdivision 3 3a is the “Great Seal of the State of Minnesota.” When the seal, the impression of the seal, the scene within the seal, or its likeness is reproduced at state expense, it must conform to subdivision 3 and section 4.04. A seal, impression, scene, or likeness which does not conform to these provisions is not official.

**EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective May 11, 2024.

Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 1.135, is amended by adding a subdivision to read:

Subd. 3a. **Official seal; May 11, 2024, and thereafter.** The Great Seal of the State of Minnesota is the design as certified in the report of the State Emblems Redesign Commission, as established by this act.

**EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective May 11, 2024.

Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 1.135, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

Subd. 4. **Additional effects; size.** Every effort shall be made to reproduce the seal with justification to the 12 o’clock position ~~and with attention to the authenticity of the illustrations used to create the scene within the seal. The description of the scene in this section does not preclude the graphic inclusion of the effects of movement, sunlight, or falling water when the~~

seal is reproduced. Nor does. This section does not prohibit the enlargement, proportioned reduction, or embossment of the seal for its use in unofficial acts.

**EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective May 11, 2024.

Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 1.135, subdivision 6, is amended to read:

Subd. 6. **State's duties.** State agencies and departments using the seal, its impression, ~~the scene within the seal~~ or its likeness shall make every effort to bring any seal, impression, ~~scene~~, or likeness currently fixed to a permanent object into accordance with this section and section 4.04. Expendable material to which the seal in effect prior to May 11, 2024, or any impression, scene, or likeness of that seal is currently affixed may be used until the supply is exhausted or until January 1, 2025, whichever occurs first. All unused dies and engravings of the Great Seal shall be given to the Minnesota Historical Society, along with all historical information available about the seal, to be retained in the society's permanent collection.

**EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective May 11, 2024.

Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 1.141, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. **Adoption.** The design of the state flag ~~proposed by the Legislative Interim Commission acting under Laws 1955, chapter 632, as certified in the report of the State Emblems Redesign Commission, as established by this act~~, is adopted as the official state flag.

## **Sec. 118. STATE EMBLEMS REDESIGN COMMISSION.**

Subdivision 1. **Establishment.** The State Emblems Redesign Commission is established. The purpose of the commission is to develop and adopt a new design for the official state flag and the official state seal no later than January 1, 2024.

Subd. 2. **Membership; meetings.** (a) The commission consists of the following members:

- (1) three members of the public, appointed by the governor;
- (2) one member appointed by the Council for Minnesotans of African Heritage;
- (3) one member appointed by the Minnesota Council on Latino Affairs;
- (4) one member appointed by the Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans;
- (5) one member representing the Dakota community and one member representing the Ojibwe community, appointed by the executive board of the Indian Affairs Council;
- (6) the secretary of state or the secretary's designee;
- (7) the executive director of the Minnesota Historical Society or the director's designee;
- (8) the chair of the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board or the chair's designee;



(9) the chair of the Minnesota Arts Board or the chair’s designee; and

(10) the executive director of Explore Minnesota Tourism or the director’s designee.

(b) The following serve as ex officio, nonvoting members of the commission: (1) two members of the house of representatives, one each appointed by the speaker of the house and the minority leader of the house; and (2) two members of the senate, one representing the majority caucus appointed by the senate majority leader and one representing the minority caucus appointed by the senate minority leader.

(c) Appointments to the commission must be made no later than August 1, 2023. The voting members of the commission shall elect a chair and vice-chair. An appointee designated by the governor shall convene the commission’s first meeting. Decisions of the commission must be made by majority vote. The Minnesota Historical Society must provide office space and administrative support to the commission.

**Subd. 3. Meetings.** Meetings of the commission are subject to Minnesota Statutes, chapter 13D.

**Subd. 4. Duties; form and style of recommended state emblems.** The commission shall develop and adopt a new design for the official state seal and a new design for the official state flag. The designs must accurately and respectfully reflect Minnesota’s shared history, resources, and diverse cultural communities. Symbols, emblems, or likenesses that represent only a single community or person, regardless of whether real or stylized, may not be included in a design. The commission may solicit and secure the voluntary service and aid of vexillologists and other persons who have either technical or artistic skill in flag construction and design, or the design of official seals, to assist in the work. The commission must also solicit public feedback and suggestions to inform its work.

**Subd. 5. Report.** The commission shall certify its adopted designs in a report to the legislature and governor no later than January 1, 2024. The commission’s report must describe the symbols and other meanings incorporated in the design.

**Subd. 6. Expiration.** The commission expires upon submission of its report.

**Sec. 133. REPEALER.**

**Subdivision 1. State emblems redesign.** Minnesota Statutes 2022, sections 1.135, subdivisions 3 and 5; and 1.141, subdivisions 3, 4, and 6, are repealed, effective May 11, 2024.

**Note:**

Repealed Sections of 1.135 can be found at: <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/1.135>

Repealed Sections of 1.141 can be found at: <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/1.141>

Appropriation to the Minnesota Historical Society:  
Laws of MN, 2023, Chapter 62, Article 1, Section 24, Subdivision 2(b)

Subd. 2 (b) \$35,000 the first year is to support the work of the State Emblems Redesign Commission established under article 2, section 118.

