



# Memorandum

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**To:** Mayor Nelson and Members of the City Council

**From:** Daniel R. Buchholtz, ICMA-CM, Administrator, Clerk/Treasurer

**Date:** February 17, 2026

**Subject:** Resolution Directing Display of Former Minnesota State Flag

At the direction of Mayor Nelson, this item has been placed on the City Council agenda for consideration. The proposed resolution would direct that the pre-2024 Minnesota state flag (1983 version) be displayed in the City Council Chambers and authorize its use at other City facilities where deemed appropriate.

In 2023, the State of Minnesota established a State Emblems Redesign Commission to develop a new design for the official state flag. The redesigned flag became effective May 11, 2024.

The prior Minnesota state flag, with origins dating to 1893 and most recently modified in 1983, served as the State's official flag for decades and remains familiar to many residents. The redesign process, which did not include a statewide vote, has generated a range of public perspectives.

Municipalities are not required by law to display a state flag at City facilities. As a result, decisions regarding whether and how a state flag is displayed are a matter of local policy and discretion. Due to the lack of consensus on this issue, the City has not displayed a Minnesota state flag in the City Council Chambers since the flag redesign. Additionally, the state flag, past or present, has not historically been flown at City Hall or other City facilities.

Several Minnesota communities have taken formal action on this issue. For example, the Cities of Champlin and Zumbrota have voted to display the pre-2024 flag, with Zumbrota limiting its display to the council chambers. Other communities, including North Branch, St. Francis, and Wadena, have also opted to continue use of the prior flag in some form.

This is a policy decision for the City Council. If the City Council wishes to proceed, adoption of the resolution as presented would be appropriate.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 763-784-6491.