A New Illinois State Flag

Illinois' current state flag has remained unchanged for over a century, but in 2023 Governor J.B. Pritzker paved the way for a new banner for the Land of Lincoln. Senate Bill 1818, appropriately named after the year Illinois became a state, created a commission to evaluate the state's current flag and decide whether or not it was time to design a new one.

Illinois' first state flag was adopted in 1915 and looked similar to today's banner. It simply used the Great Seal of the State of Illinois, which pictures a bald eagle holding a banner that reads "State Sovereignty, National Union." It was modeled after the Great Seal of the United States. The dates "1818" and "1868" on the seal represent the year Illinois was established as a state and the year that the state's seal was redesigned.

New Flag Update 2025

The Illinois Flag Commission has selected its Top 10 finalists from the nearly 5,000 submissions for the state flag redesign contest. Beginning in January 2025, the public will be able to vote for one of the ten new designs (shown below) or for one of the three former flag designs, including the current state flag, the 1918 Centennial Flag, and the 1968 Sesquicentennial Flag." This public voting period will last approximately two months. Following the conclusion of the voting period, the commission will present its findings to the Illinois General Assembly by April 1, 2025. The General Assembly will then decide whether to adopt a new flag or keep the existing one.

The 13 Designs For a Possible New State Flag

Exercise: You can help decide whether the state of Illinois gets a new state flag, keep the existing flag, or choose a previous design. In January 2025 visit the Illinois Flag Commission website at www.ilsos.gov and have your voice heard. In the spaces next to the flags below, identify your first (**1**), second (**2**), and third (**3**) choices.

Current or Previous Designs (3)

New Designs (10)

ranking

ranking

Current Illinois State Flag   *ranking*

1918 Centennial Flag

1968 Sesquicentennial Flag