

New Flag Design Competition Overview

Allen County, Indiana

Summary:

The purpose of the competition is to collect flag designs in order to select/create the best representation of Allen County, Indiana.

Designs accepted 1/1/2024 – 3/29/2024, 11:59 p.m. EST.

New Allen County Flag Competition Background:

Allen County does not have an official flag. The old seal placed on a white background is being used in the Council Chambers Courtroom in the basement of Citizens Square as well as was flown above the Rousseau Centre as a symbol of Allen County Government. While the use of a seal on a flag has been a standard design for cities, counties, and states in the last century, flags are being reimagined. Today, communities are updating their ensign to embrace the idea of a civil flag vs. a government entity flag.

In 2024, as Allen County celebrates its bicentennial, the Bicentennial Executive Board (“BEB”) determined that a new flag competition would not only help build public enthusiasm but would also be a democratic way to codify and identify the region’s unique character. The New Allen County Flag Competition will establish an official flag that is the best representation of the *people* who make up Allen County as well as the *place* that those people call home.

On October 16, 2023, the Allen County Board of Commissioners introduced the flag competition during a press conference held in the historic Allen County Courthouse. The Commissioners will rely on the BEB and their appointed selection panelists to shepherd the flag creation process.

New Allen County Flag Creation Process and Guidelines:

Anyone can submit up to three flag designs for consideration. Submissions will be accepted from Monday, January 1, 2024, through Friday, March 29, 2024, at 11:59 p.m. EST. Mailed submissions must be post-marked by 3/29/2024. When the submission window is closed, no additional designs will be considered.

All submitted designs will be evaluated by a committee of panelists appointed by the BEB. That group will help narrow and hone the designs which will then be passed on to the BEB. The Executive Board will select a top 5. Those top tier images will be shared with Allen County residents to collect a popular vote and for public comment. The Allen County Board of Commissioners will select the final image, which may or may not be the one selected by popular vote. At any point in the process, the BEB has the discretion to alter, combine, or edit the flag designs to help create the best representation of Allen County.

NOTE: The flag design(s) you submit may be taken into consideration as a part of the process to create the best representation of Allen County. However, to honor the spirit of competition those with the best designs will be recognized. Designers may also be recognized if the final flag shares great similarity to their original design or that which is the closest derivative. This is not like a photo or art competition whereby your submission is protected by copyright law. Once submitted, your flag design becomes the property of the Board of Commissioners of the County of Allen, Indiana.

Winners of the design selection process will be recognized at the official unveiling on Flag Day, June 14, 2024.

Official Rules of the New Allen County Flag Competition:

- The flag/design may be used in all media – including online, print, on merchandise and other visual items.
- All submitted work must be the original work of the entrant(s) and must not include, be based on, or derived from any pre-existing or third-party designs, trademarks, or copyrighted images.
- All entries will become the property of the Board of Commissioners of the County of Allen, Indiana.
- By submitting an entry, each entrant agrees that any and all intellectual property rights in the design are deemed assigned to the Board of Commissioners of the County of Allen, Indiana and the Bicentennial Executive Board.
- All entrants acknowledge that they will receive no compensation at any point in connection with the selection and use of their submitted work.
- The Bicentennial Executive Board reserves the right, within its sole discretion, to modify the winning design(s) to better fit the needs of the Bicentennial Executive Board or the Board of Commissioners.

Submitting Your Flag Design:

Digitally created graphic designs as well as hand-drawn and colored flags are acceptable.

Graphic Designs – Stick to a ratio of 3:5 when creating your design. Upload your flag design to the [Allen County New Flag Design Portal](#) or via email to acbcentennial@gmail.com. If you send via email, please complete and submit the Flag Design Entry Form along with your design.

Hand-drawn Designs – Please use the Flag Design Worksheet to create your design. You may drop off or mail the worksheet to Allen County Commissioners, Attn: Flag Competition, 200 E. Berry Street, Ste. 410, Fort Wayne, IN 46802. You may also scan the form and email it to acbcentennial@gmail.com or upload the scan to allencounty200.com. Make sure to send the Flag Design Entry Form along with your design.

Principles of Good Flag Design – taken from the booklet “*Good*” Flag, “*Bad*” Flag compiled by Ted Kaye, published in 2006:

1. Keep It Simple: The flag should be so simple that a child can draw it from memory.
2. Use Meaningful Symbolism: The flag's images, colors, or patterns should relate to what it symbolizes.
3. Use 2 or 3 Basic Colors: Limit the number of colors on the flag to three, which contrast well and come from the standard color set.
4. No Lettering or Seals: Never use writing of any kind or an organization's seal.
5. Be Distinctive or Be Related: Avoid duplicating other flags but use similarities to show connections.

These principles of good flag design are helpful guidelines only and not design criteria. More information about this booklet and its flag design wisdom can be found on the website for the [North American Vexillological Association](#).

Questions? Contact the Public Information Office for the Allen County Board of Commissioners at 260-449-7671.