

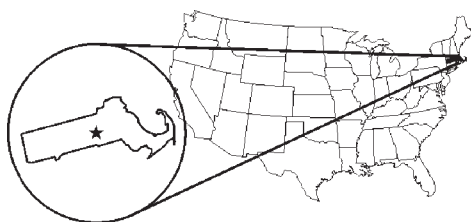
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS



Population Rank: U.S. ... # 121
Massachusetts # 2

Proportions: 10:19 (official)

Adopted: 11 December 1967 (official)



DESIGN: The flag of Worcester centers the city seal on a green field. The seal contains a white disk with a red heart encircled by a green wreath. On an outer white ring runs **WORCESTER** at the top, clockwise, and **A TOWN JUNE 14, 1722, A CITY FEB. 29, 1848** below, counterclockwise, all in gold.

As stated in a city ordinance: *The flag of the city shall bear on both sides a representation of the seal of the city upon a green field in the proportion of hoist to fly of one to one point nine. The diameter of the seal shall be one-half the hoist.*

SYMBOLISM: Worcester is the geographic center of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and often referred to as “The Heart of the Commonwealth”. This motto was first noted on 4 October 1831, on

the 100th anniversary of the incorporation of Worcester County, of which Worcester is the county seat. During the celebrations, Levi Lincoln, Worcester's first mayor and a former governor of Massachusetts, paid tribute to Chief Justice Isaac Parker of the Supreme Court, who had just died. Mr. Lincoln stated: *It was the wish of his heart that the county of Worcester should remain one and indivisible. Whatever changes may in evil times await it, in honoring his virtues there will be no division in the 'Heart of the Commonwealth'.*

HOW SELECTED: Committee.

DESIGNER: Unknown.

MORE ABOUT THE FLAG: According to a photograph and article in the *Worcester Telegram* of 11 December 1968, the city flag “was exhibited for the first time yesterday in the City Council Chambers”, apparently just one day short of a year after adoption. 10:19 are the same proportions as the United States flag.

Alderman Stephen Salisbury headed a committee to adopt a city seal on 18 December in 1848, Worcester's first year as a city. On 23 January 1849, the city council unanimously adopted the seal.

FORMER FLAG: Although not official, during the Tippecanoe convention in Worcester on 17 June 1840 a flag flew during a parade displaying a heart clasped by joined hands and below it on a scroll: **With Heart and Hand** and the dates **1674**, the first attempt to settle Worcester, and **1684**, when Worcester adopted its name. JC 