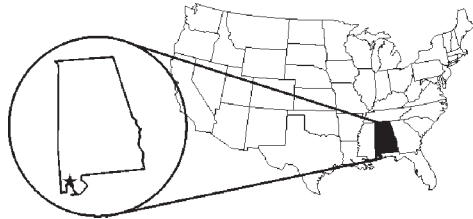


MOBILE, ALABAMA



Population Rank: U.S. # 91
Alabama # 3

Proportions: 1:2 (usage)



Adopted: 4 December 1968 (unofficial)

DESIGN: The field of Mobile's flag is white. On a width of 6.5 units, a horizontal red stripe of 1 unit runs across the top of the field, about .5 units from the top edge, and a blue horizontal stripe of 1 unit runs across the bottom, about .5 units from the bottom edge. In the center of the field is the circular seal of the city, approximately 3 units in diameter and in effect, a seal within a seal. Around its outside edge is a gold ring on which **SEAL OF THE CITY OF MOBILE, ALABAMA** appears clockwise in black letters reminiscent of a 19th-century Barnum font. The letters begin about 7 o'clock and end at 5 o'clock. In the space remaining at the bottom of the ring, between "SEAL" and "ALABAMA" are three *fleurs-de-lis*, also in black. The field of the inner portion of the seal is also white. A smaller seal of about 1 unit in diameter, all in gold with black lettering and figures, is placed centrally in the lower half of the larger seal's field so that the smaller seal's top edge is

very slightly above the field's midpoint. The smaller seal also has an outside ring on which **FROM ENCHANTING TRADITION** curves clockwise over its top and **ENDURING PROGRESS** curves counterclockwise below. In the center of this smaller seal, in its upper half, appears **MOBILE**, and slightly smaller, immediately below it, **ALABAMA**. The words fill the top half of the inner field. In the lower half are several figures: A sailing ship and seagull, upper hoist; a bale of cotton, lower hoist; a tall building, upper fly; and a mill, lower fly. Below the smaller seal is a ribbon, also gold with black letters, with **FOUNDED 1702** between the smaller seal's outer edge and the inner edge of the larger seal's ring.

Arrayed around the smaller seal in the upper portion of the larger seal's field are six partially furled flags forming a semicircle around the seal. The flags are (from the hoist): 1. France (the white *semy-de-lis* ensign, gold *fleurs-de-lis* on white, in use 1638-1790); 2. United Kingdom (national flag combining the white Cross of St. Andrew on blue with the red Cross of St. George on white, in use 1606-1801); 3. the United States of America, presumably of 1813, but generic in appearance since only four white stars of the blue canton and four red and three white stripes of the fly are visible; 4. the Confederate States of America (either the second [1863-1865] or third [after 4 March 1865] national flag, since only three white stars of the blue saltire of the red canton are shown, and a small portion of the white field at the hoist); 5. Spain, the red-yellow-red horizontal tribar (in use beginning in 1785); and 6. the Independent Republic of Alabama, after secession from the United States on January 11, 1861 (a portion of the blue field of that flag, with none of the design of it visible, in use over the capitol from January 16 to February 10, 1861). The flag of the United States is in the center and has an eagle as a finial; the other flags have spear finials.

SYMBOLISM: The flags represent the six nations that have governed Mobile: France, founding of Mobile and possession 1702-1763; Great Britain, 1763-1780; Spain, 1780-1813; the United States of America, 1813-1861 and 1865-present; the Independent Republic of Alabama, January 11 to February 10, 1861; and the Confederate States of America, 1861-1865. The figures on the smaller seal are explained by the city administration: *The sea gull and ship are significant because Mobile is*

among the nation's 10 major seaports, and the cotton bale was responsible for much of Mobile's early growth and prosperity. The tall building and mill depict the many industries which have come to Mobile in recent years.

HOW SELECTED: Approved in a conference meeting by the board of city commissioners.

DESIGNER: Commissioner Lambert C. Mims.

MORE ABOUT THE FLAG: The Republic of Alabama flag depicted in the seal is double-faced, although all that can be seen is a portion of the blue field corresponding to the canton. The front side shows Liberty in a red sleeveless gown. In her right hand, she grasps the hilt of an unsheathed sword, pointed downward. She raises her left hand, holding a small blue flag aloft that has **ALABAMA** curved across the center of the field in gold above a single gold star. Above the female figure is a motto in gold across the top of the field: **INDEPENDENT NOW AND FOREVER**. The reverse side depicts a cotton plant ready for picking except for several red flowers. At the base of the plant, issuing from the roots on the fly side is an upright rattlesnake, facing the fly. Below, in gold, is another motto, **NOLI ME TANGERE** ("Touch Me Not").

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