



August 13, 2024

Ald. Peter Burgelis  
(414) 286-3446

## Alderman Burgelis to discuss current, proposed new city flag at community events throughout August

**Alderman Peter Burgelis** will be traveling to all parts of Milwaukee throughout August to discuss the City of Milwaukee flag and collect feedback from residents. The “Flag Roadshow” will include discussion and information about the city’s current flag, as well as “*Sunrise Over the Lake*” that the Alderman has proposed be adopted as the official City flag.

“*Sunrise Over the Lake* is referred to as ‘The People’s Flag’ and has been organically adopted by Milwaukeeans since its introduction in 2016. Its widely used by Milwaukeeans on homes, businesses, and local products in every ZIP Code and neighborhood in Milwaukee, which is why I believe it would suit our city well as the official flag,” said Alderman Burgelis. “That said, I want residents to be informed on the current flag as well, and want to gather as much feedback as possible good or bad.”

Comments can also be sent to [flagcomments@milwaukee.gov](mailto:flagcomments@milwaukee.gov). The below list includes all events at which the Alderman will join his colleagues and others in the community to discuss Milwaukee’s flag.

Adoption of the new flag will be before the Steering and Rules Committee on September 9<sup>th</sup>. The entire Common Council would then vote on adoption later in September. More information can be found at <https://milwaukeeflag.com/>.

## Tentative Schedule

- **8/6: 3-7pm, MPD District 7 National Night Out, Sherman Park, 3000 N. Sherman Blvd.**
- **8/7: 3-7pm, MPD District 4 National Night Out, Evangel Assembly of God/Direct Supply, 9920 W. Good Hope Rd.**
- **8/8: 5-8pm, MPD District 6 National Night Out, Pulaski Park, 2200 W. KK River Parkway**
- **8/9: 4-7pm, MPD District 1 National Night Out, Maryland Avenue Montessori School, 2418 N. Maryland Ave.**
- **8/12: 5-7pm, Mitchell Street Library, 906 W. Historic Mitchell St.**
- **8/14: 11am- 1pm, Washington Park Senior Center, 4420 W. Vliet St.**
- **8/14: 3-7pm, MPD District 5 National Night Out, Moody Park, 2201 W. Auer Ave.**
- **8/14: 4:30pm – 8pm, Milwaukee Night Market, 411 W. Wisconsin Ave.**
- **8/17: 9am-noon, Near West Side Partners Wellness Rally, Davidson Park, 3725 W. Juneau Ave.**
- **8/27: 5 - 7pm, Chill on the Hill, Humboldt Park, 3000 S Howell Ave.**
- **8/28: 5 - 7pm, Washington Park Wednesday Concert, Washington Park Bandshell, 4600 W. Olmsted Way.**
- **8/29: noon – 2pm Resource Fair, Hamilton High School, 6215 W. Warnimont Ave.**

# Your Thoughts Matter



Please send your alderperson comments about the proposed new city flag – [flagcomments@milwaukee.gov](mailto:flagcomments@milwaukee.gov) – be sure to include your name and address.



## Current Official City Flag

- Adopted in 1955 after being designed by former Alderman Fred Steffan who was also a member of the City Art Commission.
- The design was a compilation of several entries to a city-wide competition. It is a snapshot of Milwaukee in the 1950's and much of the imagery is no longer relevant or culturally appropriate.

### SYMBOLISM IN THE FLAG

- City Hall is featured in the center, the seat of local government and one of Milwaukee's most prized architectural feats.
- Four quadrants represent the City's Indigenous origin, libraries and culture, military service, and manufacturing.
- To the right, three buildings that represent Milwaukee's churches, homes, and schools.
- The date 1846 commemorates the merger of Kilbourntown and Juneautown and our incorporation as a city.
- To the left, barley represents our best known industry.
- Next to the barley is County Stadium, which was home to the Milwaukee Braves, Brewers, and Green Bay Packers until 2001 when the stadium was demolished.
- Settled between County Stadium and City Hall is the UWM Panther Arena which was state-of-the-art at the time.



## Proposed New Official City Flag

- In 2001, an effort to design a new City flag did not result in a winning proposal.
- In 2018, the Milwaukee Arts Board declared that a new City flag design was needed.
- After being ranked 147 out of 150 city flags in North America by the North American Vexillological Association, a group that specializes in flags, work for a new flag began.
- Steve Kodis, a local graphic designer, partnered with Greater Together to receive entries for a new design and received over 1,000 entries.
- A panel made up of four Milwaukeeans who work in design and one vexillologist selected five finalists that went to an online vote.
- Over 6,000 people voted and “Sunrise Over the Lake” by Bay View resident Robert Lenz received the highest rating.
- The Common Council declined to vote on the flag design in 2018, and in the six years since it has been organically adopted and is widely used on homes, businesses, and local products in every ZIP Code and neighborhood.
- The design is timeless and will endure and remain relevant for generations to come.
- If approved by the Common Council of the City of Milwaukee this fall, “Sunrise Over the Lake” shall be adopted as the official flag of the City of Milwaukee on January 31, 2025, the City’s 179th birthday.

### SYMBOLISM IN THE FLAG

- Gold represents Milwaukee’s rich brewing history.
  - The rising sun over Lake Michigan represents a new dawn for our City, hope, and unity, and to future growth.
  - Three stripes in the sun’s reflection represents the three settlements that merged to become Milwaukee, and the blue also represents the three rivers in Milwaukee.
  - Navy at the bottom symbolizes Lake Michigan and the commerce that comes by water.
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