



# The Garden State Flag

## Proposed new flag of the State of New Jersey

*The proposed New Jersey State Flag is designed to be a simple representation of New Jersey's deep, rich history while also representing the State's official nickname and motto. The colors used are primarily Jersey Blue and Buff, the colors General Washington chose for the New Jersey Regiments during the Revolution but also the official state colors. The cross of St. George remains in red to represent New Jersey's allegiance to the American Union, the colors of the New Jersey regiment uniforms during the earliest part of the Revolution, and the lives lost and sacrificed by those defending our State, Country, and Constitution.*

1. **The 3 Horizontal Stripes:** The 2 buff and 1 white horizontal stripe represent the tri-color flag design of New Netherland which consisted of blue, white, and red. New Jersey was first settled by the Dutch in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century and this pays tribute to the Dutch history. Decedents of these early settlers still farm the land to this day.
2. **The Inner White Circle:** The inner white circle represents the Native American population, specifically the Lenape, that called this land home in early America. The circle was an important symbol in Native American culture. The circle appears in Native American art, clothing, items such as dream catchers, and medicine wheels. To Natives, the circle represented the sun, the moon, the cycles of the seasons, the cycle of life to death to rebirth, and the 4 sacred directions which is symbolized by the cross of St. George. The Native tribes still influence the region today by way of town names, lakes, municipal insignia's, and more.
3. **The Cross of St. George:** The cross of St. George is a symbol of the time New Jersey spend as a province and colony of England starting in the late 17<sup>th</sup> century leading up to the American Revolution. The cross also divides the inner white circle into 4 parts representing the 4 sacred directions.
4. **The 13 Stars in Blue Circle:** The Blue circle stands for unity and boards the outside of the inner white circle. The 13 stars represent New Jersey among the original 13 united colonies fighting for independence during the American Revolution. New Jersey played a vital role in the birth of our Nation from key battles to Declaration signers. Our state, from north to south, is covered with battlefields, buildings and architecture, and landmarks that remain today as some of the nation's oldest.
5. **The Shield with 3 plows:** Intended to be the key design element in the flag representing our rich and deep agricultural history and official nickname "The Garden State". This feature is taken from the current state seal which currently sits on the official state flag. Although not currently stated in the official design of the current flag. The number of plows, (3) in this flag, symbolize New Jersey being the 3<sup>rd</sup> state to ratify the Constitution, which occurred in 1787.
6. **The 2 Large Buff/Blue Stars:** These stars, which serve as another prominent feature of the flag represent Liberty and Prosperity, the official state motto. It is a more simplistic and distinguishing design feature to represent the motto than currently in use on the current state flag which is done in writing and with the figures of Liberty and the roman goddess Ceres. Although meaningful, they make poor design elements in a flag.
7. **1776:** A minor design element not intended to be a distinguishable feature. Although it is recommended flags contain no letters or numbers of any kind, it holds a significance in the unity ring of the colonies and serves as a reminder of our independence when viewed up close meant to inspire reflection and appreciation to those viewing.

