

Then there were 5: Mississippi group narrows flag options

Associated Press with a shield that has wavy lines representing water. Mississippi legislators voted in late June to retire the last state flag in the U.S. with the Confederate battle emblem that's broadly condemned as racist. "When the flag came down, it was one of the great days of my life," Reuben Anderson, chairman of a nine-member flag commission, said during Tuesday's meeting.

The law shelving the old flag created the commission to come up with a new design that cannot include the Confederate battle emblem and must have the phrase,

"In God We Trust." Four of the designs chosen Tuesday are mostly or entirely red, white and blue. One has a stylized white magnolia tree on a blue background. Most have stars representing Mississippi as the 20th state. Each includes one star made of five diamond shapes that reflect the state's Choctaw heritage.

The five final designs will be manufactured. Commissioners held their next meeting on Aug. 25, and those flags will be hoisted outside the Old Capitol in downtown Jackson.

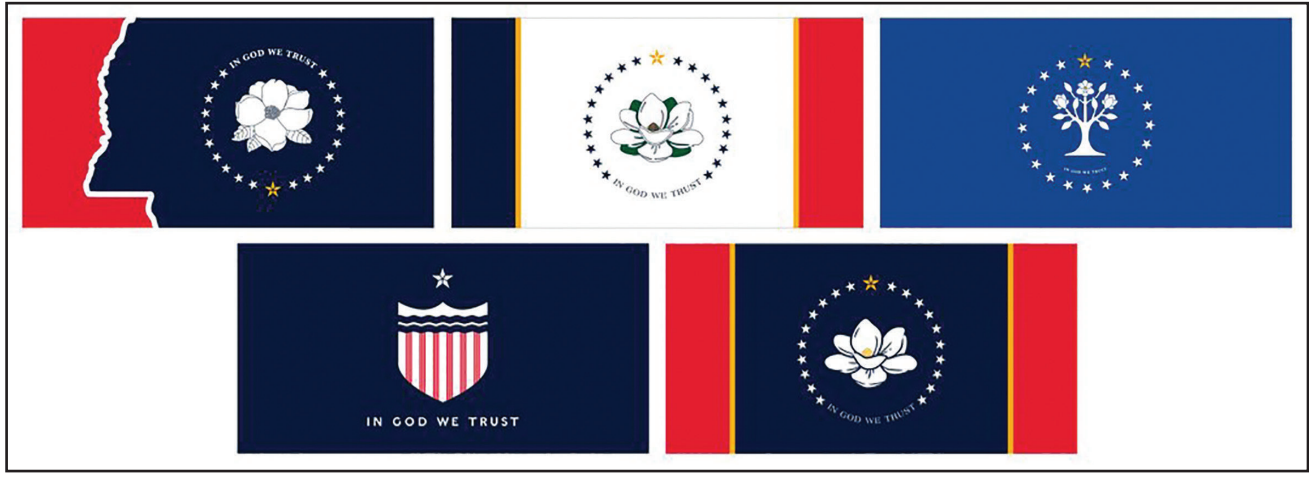
The Old Capitol is now a museum but was still the statehouse in 1894, when white supremacists in the Mississippi Legislature adopted a state flag with the Confederate battle emblem in the upper left corner. That vote reflected the backlash against political power African Americans briefly gained during Reconstruction.

The state Supreme Court ruled in 2000 that even though the flag had remained in use, it lacked official status because state laws were updated in 1906 and sections describing the flag were not

included. Mississippi residents voted in a 2001 election to keep the Confederate-themed flag, but it remained a divisive symbol in a state with a 38% Black population. All of Mississippi's public universities and many local governments stopped flying it.

Legislative leaders said for decades that they could not muster support to change the flag, but momentum shifted rapidly after Minneapolis police killed a Black man named George Floyd and protests against racial injustice happened across the U.S., including outside the Mississippi Governor's Mansion. The final push to change the flag came from business, education, religion and sports leaders.

Legislators created a nine-member commission, and that group received nearly 3,000 designs from the public. Commissioners will choose one design Sept. 2, and that will go on the Nov. 3 ballot. If voters accept the design, it will become the new Mississippi flag. If they reject it, the commission will find a new design to go on the ballot later.



This combination of images provided by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History on Tuesday, Aug. 18, 2020, shows the five proposed designs chosen by the Mississippi State Flag Commission to replace the recently retired flag that included the Confederate battle emblem. The proposals will be made into flags and be flown Aug. 25 in Jackson, Miss. Voters will decide on a new flag in the Nov. 3 election. (Mississippi Department of Archives and History via AP)

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX LEVY FOR HOLMES COUNTY NO TAX LEVY INCREASE

The Holmes County Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing on its proposed budget and proposed tax levies for fiscal year 2021 on August 28, 2020, 8:00 A.M., at the Board of Supervisors Meeting Room in Lexington, Mississippi.

The Holmes County Board of Supervisors is now operating with projected total budget revenue of \$14,190,344. 56.87%, or \$8,069,570, of such revenue is obtained through ad valorem taxes. For next fiscal year, the proposed budget has total projected revenue of \$14,995,823. Of that amount, 54.01 %, or \$8,099,730 is proposed to be financed through a total ad valorem tax levy.

For the next fiscal year, Holmes County plans to keep your county wide ad valorem millage at 131.37 mills. This means that you will pay the same in ad valorem taxes on your home, automobile, tag, utilities, business fixtures and equipment and rental real property unless your assessed value has changed.

Any citizen of Holmes County is invited to attend this public hearing on the proposed budget and tax levy and will be allowed to speak for a reasonable amount of time and offer tangible evidence before any vote is taken.

Loved with a Steadfast Love

"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is thy faithfulness."

Lamentations 3:22-23 RSV

Jeremiah was depressed, as gloomy as a giraffe with a neck ache. Jerusalem was under siege, his nation under duress. His world collapsed like a sand castle in a typhoon. He faulted God for his horrible emotional distress. He also blamed God for his physical ailments. "He [God] has made my flesh and my skin waste away, and broken my bones" (Lam. 3:4 RSV).

His body ached. His heart was sick. His faith was puny. . . . He realized how fast he was sinking, so he shifted his gaze. "But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is thy faithfulness. 'The Lord is my portion,' says my soul, 'therefore I will hope in him'" (vv. 21-24 RSV).

"But this I call to mind..." Depressed, Jeremiah altered his thoughts, shifted his attention. He turned his eyes away from his stormy world and looked into the wonder of God. He quickly recited a quintet of promises. (I can envision him tapping these out on the five fingers of his hand.)

1. The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases.
 2. His mercies never come to an end.
 3. They are new every morning.
 4. Great is thy faithfulness.
 5. The Lord is my portion. The storm didn't cease, but his discouragement did.

—Fearless

Thank you precious Savior, that your love is steadfast. Thank you that your mercies are new every morning. Thank you for your great faithfulness, not only to me but to all your people from the first day of creation. When I am tempted to become depressed and distressed, may I choose to gaze on you. May I remember that you are my portion. May I hope in your unceasing love, amen.

"Inasmuch as there is none like You, O Lord (You are great, and Your name is great in might)."

Jeremiah 10:6
 "God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord."

1 Corinthians 1:9
 "He is the living God, and steadfast forever; His kingdom is the one which shall not be destroyed, and His dominion shall endure to the end."

Daniel 6:26
 From "Lived Loved: Experiencing God's Presence in Every Day Life."

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