

# Flag Policy

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**Scope:** CITYWIDE

**Policy Contact:**

Department of Public Works

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**Supersedes:**

N/A – New

**Reviewed/Effective:**

05/23/2025

## I. Policy Statement

This policy sets forth the City of Sacramento (City) policies that apply to flag display at City facilities. The City oversees the upkeep of various facilities and infrastructure where flags such as the American (also referred to as the United States (U.S.) flag), California State, and the City Seal/Emblem flag(s) (City flag) are proudly displayed. These locations include, but are not limited to, City Hall, 300 Richards Boulevard, Corporation Yards, Meadowview City Service Complex, and Fire and Police facilities. The outlined protocols detail the procedures and criteria for raising and lowering flags for City-recognized holidays and significant occasions. All requests for flag changes and/or additions are directed to the City Manager, or designee, for review and approval.

## II. Policy

The City's flagpoles are not intended to serve as a forum for free expression by the public. Only flags designated by the policy shall be flown on flagpoles at City facilities. The City adheres to federal, state, and local guidelines regarding flag display, as outlined in the federal "Our Flag" publication of the Congress ([House Document No. 108-97](#)); California Government Codes §§ [431](#) and [436](#); and [Sacramento City Code § 1.04.070](#).

## III. Standards

The Director of Public Works, or designee, shall be responsible for enforcing these standards across all City facilities.

### A. American, California State, and City Flags

1. Outdoor flags at City facilities will be flown in the following order of precedence: 1) the American flag, 2) California State flag, 3) the City flag.
2. Weather permitting, at a minimum, flags should be displayed daily in front of or near City Hall, 300 Richards Boulevard, Corporation Yards, Meadowview City Service Complex, and Fire and Police facilities during business hours.
3. Flags should not be displayed in inclement weather. However, all-weather flags may be flown twenty-four (24) hours a day if they are illuminated from sunset to sunrise.
4. A City flag may be displayed on the same pole with, and beneath the California State flag, when the pole is of sufficient height.
5. The American, California State, and City flags shall not be flown together on a single pole of any height. If only one pole is available, only the American and California State flags shall be flown.

6. Indoor flags shall be displayed at a minimum in the City Council Chambers and in the Mayor's Office. All other locations shall be approved by the City Manager.
7. Flying Flags at Half-Staff.
  - a. The City will lower flags to half-staff, consistent with federal law, including the following circumstances:
    - 1) The death of the following individual(s):
      - i. President, former-President, or President elect.
      - ii. Vice President, current or retired Chief Justice of the U.S., or Speaker of the House.
      - iii. State Government: Governor, incumbent judge of the Superior Court, or Justice Court.
    - 2) At the direction of the President and/or Governor.
    - 3) On the following national holidays:
      - i. Peace Officers Memorial Day, May 15th (sunrise to sunset).
      - ii. Memorial Day, last Monday in May (sunrise to noon).
      - iii. Patriot Day, September 11th (sunrise to sunset).
      - iv. Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, December 7th (sunrise to sunset).
      - v. National Firefighters Memorial Day (sunrise to sunset).
  - b. Flags to be flown at half-staff shall first be raised to the top of the flagpole, then slowly lowered to half-staff until sunset, unless specified until noon. When flags are flown at half-staff until noon, they shall then be flown at full staff from noon until sunset.
  - c. The American Flag must always be flown by itself when displayed at half-staff.
  - d. Method of Notification of flags to be displayed at half-staff, following State and/or Federal announcement:
    - 1) The City Manager, or designee, verifies holiday or death.

- 2) The City Manager, or designee, notifies the Director of Public Works or their designee.
- 3) The Director of Public Works, or designee, notifies the appropriate personnel at city facilities.

#### **B. Pride Flag**

City Resolution No. 2023-0443 states that in the month of June the Pride flag shall be flown from all City facilities at which flags are regularly flown as a symbol of support for the LGBTQIA+ community, if all applicable federal, state, and local regulations are followed. The Pride flag shall be flown in the place of a City flag when flown.

#### **C. Ceremonial Flags**

Ceremonial flags shall be flown in place of a City flag. The following flags may be displayed by the City as an expression of the City's official sentiments:

1. **Flags of Sister Cities:** The flags of official Sister Cities of the City, as designated by the City Council, may be displayed in conjunction with an event involving the Sister City.
2. **Flags Displayed in Conjunction With Official Items:** Other flags may be displayed in conjunction with official actions of the City Council.
3. **Flags of Professional Sports Teams:** The City Manager may order the display of the flag of a professional sports team in commemoration of a significant achievement involving the City.



## Charter Officer Review and Acknowledgement

### FLAG POLICY

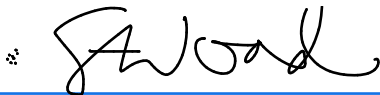
(Signature by all Charter Officers is not a requirement for policy adoption)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. Milstein".

Leyne Milstein (May 27, 2025 11:47 PDT)

City Manager

05/27/2025

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Alcala Wood".

Susana Alcala Wood (Jul 9, 2025 15:51 PDT)

City Attorney

07/09/2025

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mindy Cuppy".

City Clerk

06/03/2025

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John P. Corbett Jr.". The signature is written in a cursive style.

City Treasurer

05/23/2025

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Farishta Ahrary".

City Auditor

07/18/2025