



MEMORANDUM

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU

WWW.MILWAUKEE.GOV/LRB

To: Milwaukee Arts Board
From: Tea Norfolk, Legislative Fiscal Analyst – Lead
Date: November 16, 2018
Subject: Comments Regarding Flag Redesign

This memo is in response to your request for information related to the comments on articles regarding the City flag redesign process.

On November 14, 2018, WTMJ's Tom Durian reported on "The People's Flag of Milwaukee could be headed back to the drawing board," interviewing Steve Kodis and Ald. Michael J. Murphy. Comments on the article are as follows:

Reinhard Rittmeyer We're cutting services, but we have time and money to spend on new flags? Hm?

Parris Jinkens and trolleys

Mark Hughes Really does everything have to be a race thing it is a city flag

Adrian Duvall Mark Hughes of course it does how else you think liberals sleep at night

Nick Bolden They sleep like you eat Adrian Duvall

Gregory Gaughan Why? A lot of the city has already embraced this. The Brewers have a few shirts, a couple beer companies have the logo on beers. Downtown most bars have this flag behind the bar. I think it's simple and perfect.

Lora Maier This is a huge insult the creator of the flag also. Just because people didnt care back then doesn't mean we should change it.

Marcos Garcia Why is our flag a sunset/ sunrise? Every state has that. Who sat down and said wisconsin isnt the dairy capital anymore....it will now be known for sunsets/sunrises?

Chris Larson Marcos Garcia not much dairy farming going on in milwaukee proper.. it is the milwaukee flag

Jim Sinicki Wait... Did they really turn it into a race thing?

Andy Jacoby Yup, unreal.

Stacy Mahan Of course

Jason C. Oberg Didn't you know a city's flag (sun rise on a lake) can be racist?!

Nelson Esteves Yes this is not a flag I'll say doesn't represent the city in nothing so start over

Philip Philo Kassner Go back to the original or else just leave it. There will never ever be agreement no matter what.

Dave Gee Because this is how liberal politicians manage taxpayers' funds.

Hal Erickson We're not Japan. Besides this looks like a SETTING sun.

Ray Olsen Oh for freak sake. why are we even bothering with this. What was wrong with the old flag?. There are lots of homeless people living under the bridge that money could be used towards them instead of some stupid flag

Richard Greene For God's sake, just make the darned flag. We all had our chance to vote. Is #45 saying the Dems screwed this up too?

Porscha Burks I really like this design! Keep it!

Wanda Sabel Seems like the money it would cost could find a much more deserving place,

Loren Kapelka I agree with you.

Susan Gregor-Vanderlinden Let there be a new contest and the newer flag can be resubmitted along with other ideas and let the city vote. Done and done.

John O'Connell Why bother, what ever someone puts forward ,someone else will say there is something that they don't like.

Charles Searing It needs roots. Milwaukee has a rich history of innovations. Plus the breweries.

Joey Slaske Dump it . The old one was perfect.

Dustin Collett Get over yourselves.

Orv Breitreutz Yes! Blow through more cash!

Kev Spa Yes, I would give this an incomplete.

Robert Salmon Look like the CO flag.

Tyler Santiago Why? That flag is cool.

Jeff Ellner "People's" flag?

Joey Slaske Even Elton likes the old flag

Jim Madsen Keep the old one and maybe update it. The race thing is stupid I could care less who designs it

Gary Scheel Anti American Obama flag. Burn it.

J.V. Machai HA HA We gots a trolley. Flag.

Kim Marie I hate this flag.

But let's get input from all of our citizens instead of focusing on a specific group.

Lora Maier The vote was open to the public a few years ago. It wasn't just a specific group.

Kim Marie The majority of citizens never even knew about the vote.

Lora Maier <https://milwaukeeeflag.com/>

MILWAUKEEFLAG.COM

The People's Flag of Milwaukee — Milwaukee's symbol of...

Lora Maier It was all over the media and radio stations i saw a thing on the news about it.

Kim Marie You saw it. But many did not.

Hence this article.

Izzy Jaecks 7000 people voted for it...

Out of a half a million people living in the city of Milwaukee...

I first heard of it when it was just in the final voting. The campaign wasn't created and promoted by the city of Milwaukee, this was created by someone who hates the official flag. Creating this "people's flag" was all about marketing, and the city should not be strong-armed into accepting it.

Jeffery Held Ignore all the other issues the city is facing and waste money on a flag. Sounds about right.

Chris Oneill What is the purpose of a flag? It's not like anyone from outside of Milwaukee would even recognize what any of the symbols mean.

Lora Maier The people of Milwaukee made this. The creator won the contest in 2016.

Roberto Fernandez Rebecca Fernandez

Rebecca Fernandez Roberto Fernandez still wondering how that one got picked in the first place...?

Roberto Fernandez Still wondering why we need a flag in the first place...?



John G Williams What don't "THEY" like about it? You might as well plan a town hall meeting and invite African, European, Latino, Hmong, Italian, German, Polish, Jewish, Muslim, Indian, Hindu, Protestant, Catholic, Baptist, Atheist, Potawatomi, Japanese, Chinese, Taiwanese, Czechoslovakian... Who did I forget? Oh yeah! Gay, Straight, Bi, Transgendered...

My God People!!!! How F\$^king Ret@*4ed can you get?

OMG, I had to edit this because I spelled Atheist with a lower case "a" the first time! I would not want "THEM" to feel diminished by my original posting!

Stacy Mahan More flag outrage! 😊😊

Allan Cogan Todd Spence

Todd Spence Allan Cogan so certain ethnicities don't like sunrises over the lake?

Deborah Ann Moore Insanity.

Kenski Robert What the hell is this flag supposed to represent.
Lora Maier Research it and find out. Don't be lazy.
Kenski Robert Lora listen here horse teeth, this flag is a joke
Tom Mollica My idea.
Theresa Burnett Yes.
Chuck Fell Again!?!?
Bob Savoo Stop
Mark Crawford They seriously pulled the race card. smdh
Todd Williamsen Its fugly and dumb.

On November 14, UrbanMilwaukee's Jeramey Jannene reported on "Arts Board Wants New City Flag Search." Comments on UrbanMilwaukee's home page are as follows:

snowbeer Should put the \$100k towards alley repair. More than likely the flag most people like will come out the winner, again.
Barbara Richards Oh My, Save the money and accept that those who care have spoken. The People's Flag for me!!!!

Comments on the same article via FaceBook are as follows:

Chuck Walker Staaaaaahhhp!!! How about taking that 100k and fund a bunch of art education?
Skinner Vance This is already approved by the people. I recognize it instantly when seen on cars and windows or waving in the wind. Consider it approved and stop wasting time.
Cletus Hasslinger I support reconsideration. The beer-colored moon has got to go. The water reference need to express three rivers coming together.
Peter Burgelis What a waste of resources! The "Common Sense" Common Council doesn't have to accept what the arts board recommended. They should approve this terrific proposal ASAP and spend their energy on real problems in the city!
Marco Ortega Milwaukeeans have adopted the People's Flag as the unofficial flag of MKE. Why attempt to change something has had gotten overwhelming support from the community and created more civic pride? You can see this flag or some variation of it just about anywhere you go in the city. If people don't know about this flag yet, well shame on them.
Matt Wells Everyone likes the new one that someone came up with for free. Better waste time and money to come up with a new one.
Alice Ladrack uhh everyone does not like the new one

Jerad Andrew Not gonna please everyone. Some people aren't going to like a new one if they actually go forward with this charade.

Matt Wells Alice Ladrack I can confidently say that 100% of people will not like any new design they come up with

Jonny Lohr Matt Wells did y'all see the part about concerns that the large portions of the city population that don't really vote in online polls might want a say in it? Or do you just not consider them part of everybody?

Matt Wells Jonny Lohr this is not a debate about people's health care or anything even somewhat serious. This is about a flag. I don't think a "perceived shortcoming" is a good enough reason to spend over \$100,000 that could be used in a million more productive ways to help everybody

Jonny Lohr Just out of curiosity, given that we agree this flag thing isn't serious, did you think the entire city changing to that flag wasn't already going cost hundreds of thousands of dollars? Did you think the marketing bros were going to donate the money out of their t-shirt sales?

Matt Wells Jonny Lohr the article says it will cost \$3,000 to implement.

Jonny Lohr Matt Wells Hhahahaha that makes it all even better!

Paul Graf @Jonny Lohr came up with this in my art studio on Brady St. Obviously needs some color and shading. Can I get \$5,000 to get the project started? I would love to have someone like you help produce a better flag for Milwaukee. Bothers me when people like @Matt Wells don't take projects for the city like the flag serious. PM me and let's get started!!!

Jonny Lohr Paul Graf it's a start but I don't think the hundreds of employees who got their pensions stolen would appreciate the PBR can.

Michael Raess What should Milwaukee spend \$100,000 on

Potholes.... no

Freeway project... no

Crime prevention.... no

Education.... no

New Flag... yes... 🗳️🗳️

Ben McCarville Michael Raess The Art Board's Flag of Milwaukee

Joey Santa This may surprise you, but the city can actually spend money on more than one thing at a time. This concludes today's lesson.

Peter Zanghi this is the most Milwaukee thing ever.

Richard Hawkins You may be right, but we should definitely form and fund a committee to find out first.

Benjamin Clyde Killingsworth Richard Hawkins maybe a Task Force??

Richard Hawkins Benjamin Clyde Killingsworth we should let common council vote on whether there should be a task force (after an open hearing, of course).

Jonny Lohr Its exciting that you guys are learning how government works.

Benjamin Clyde Killingsworth Thank you for your service, Jonny

Jonny Lohr Being able to witness this civic awakening is thanks enough.

Richard Hawkins Jonny Lohr if we spent this \$100,000 on education instead, maybe I would have had a civics class in high school!!

Jonny Lohr Wow Walker really did cut education spending if they're not even getting 100k

Andy Gall When did Urban Mke start sharing articles from the onion?

Ben McCarville In other news, we have an Arts Board

Rebecca Silber Ben McCarville we are lucky to have an Arts Board. I believe they help to bring Sculpture Milwaukee to Wisconsin Ave in the summer, they sponsor Doors Open, and many other neighborhood art project, murals, etc. If anything good came of all of this, it's that residents now know about the Arts Board, and how city government and protocols work in general.

Ben McCarville Rebecca Silber I agree that it's good that we have an Arts Board, but I don't agree with this use of their time or the potential use of taxpayer dollars for this cause.

Rebecca Silber Ben McCarville I see where you are coming from. I wasn't happy that my alderman had to attend several flag meetings these last few months when this wasn't something the city had asked for in the first place, and there were issues in the district that needed his attention more. It's a potential use of tax dollars, as you said. They could very well get a grant, or private funding—time will tell.

Greg Buscher Thank god, let the people's flag die already. It's terrible.

Daul Pettmann We already had a well publicized public submission and voting. If you weren't paying attention that's no one else's fault.

Erik Endres Recommending over \$100,000 of public funds to be spent by the city, when this was completed externally at no cost to the city is asinine! Also... going from one poorly designed flag to three total flags is crazy and will cause much confusion.

Ryan Baker What's wrong with the flag in the picture I love it.

Linda Gonzales It has to be explained...otherwise no one knows what it is or what it is supposed to stand for...it's very simplistic.

Donna Brady This is just political nonsense...#keeptheflag

Liz Heck Sanders Seriously! All of that money could go to art programs or schools. Someone should find out how the consultants they plan to hire are related to the board members who recommended this silliness.

Mark Sedarski Thankfully! That "Sinking Sun" banner is the most poor excuse for a City Flag! Personally, I'm in favor of keeping the current which clearly represents our history!

Kris Gerke Komes With all due respect, Sir, a sun over the lake would be a sunrise (in the east)--not a "sinking sun."

Elliott Hill Total BS! Come on man! Like the brewers ball and mitt mb logo. It was a local person that designed it in a contest. Best logo the brewers ever had imho.

Erik Roadrash Smith Works for me, the Corona flag is complete garbage.

Alex Sansone What a waste of time and effort and money

John Lewandowski Here's another one of my ideas... for free lol

Ashley Lynn Steinberg I like it! Lol. Cropping it makes it a little more abstract. Maybe brighter colors? Could be pretty cool haha

John Lewandowski Ashley Lynn Steinberg I like the crop. That would be cool. I just did this pretty quickly but I agree it would be interesting to maybe do a couple different color versions.

Ashley Lynn Steinberg John Lewandowski I'd love to see some versions! We'll solve this issue here and now haha

John Lewandowski What colors would you like to see?

Cletus Hasslinger Round all tips. Soften it.

Cletus Hasslinger Beer-yellow M.

Water-blue W.

I like the crop. It implies rounded tips and without limits.

Cletus Hasslinger Softly flare out leading line of the M and following line of the W to imply continuous motion - wave and otherwise.

Anita Burgermeister The People's Flag is a great design with lots of support! KEEP IT!

Bridget Sharon Omfg just keep the 1954 version. I don't mind the sunrise over the lake either. Maybe if we want to spend \$100,000 on a project to make our city more inclusive, we could spend it on education, public transit, or anything that actually benefits citizens of Milwaukee instead of a stupid flag.

Sonja Nelson-Gurda Absolutely COMPLETE nonsense. #keeptheflag

Adam Burrows So.... someone designs a flag that so many (myself included) have come to love & adore; some so far as getting it tattooed on them. Only to have people say, "Let's look for something else"? *facepalm* this is the kinda ish that got us the hodgepodge of a city flag that we have now

Michael Olive Love this flag, it's simply intense. Visually self explanatory.

Andrew Nyren What does "not inclusive enough" mean? I was kind of annoyed with the whole people's flag thing and how aggressively it was pushed, but the symbol has become very widely adopted and used. And the old, official flag is still funny and quirky too. Why in the world spend the time and money to come up with yet another thing, that people aren't going to want anyway?

Peter Burgelis I don't think the arts board is qualified to determine the degree of inclusivity or exclusivity

Shaia Fahrid I love the People's Flag, just as it is!!

Jonny Lohr Shaia Fahrid you mean unofficial and primarily meant to sell merch?

Jerad Andrew It was only put on merch after many in the city adopted it as the new flag. Try again.

Daul Pettmann Jonny Lohr that's half the point. A flag with a simple design that can be incorporated into everything from merchandise to city marketing. Have you ever been to Chicago?

Jonny Lohr Daul Pettmann Never heard of it. I don't go to the burbs much.

Daul Pettmann Jonny Lohr never heard of...Chicago?

Jonny Lohr Daul Pettmann Yeah I just said that. Sorry I don't know every random town in Wisconsin.

Kathy Smith No way everyone love this one!

Scott Baker How much did it already cost them to decide they didn't like the process?

Judith Howard That's just silly. We have more important things to spend our money on.

David M Ours Taken from a previous urban Milwaukee article

"In the end, 1,006 flag entries were received, from a mixture of the public, youth, and professional designers. These were whittled down to 45 semi-finalists and five finalists by a panel of five judges (local historian John Gurda, flag expert Ted Kaye, designers Ruffin, Kodis, and Jena Sher). The five finalist flags were flown in May at City Hall, and Milwaukeeans were encouraged to vote for their favorites.

Over 6,000 votes were cast before last night's announcement, and the final winner was "Sunrise over the Lake" by Robert Lenz."

So a contest with over 1000 flags got dropped down to 45 flags and 6000 people voted between the 45 flags.... Milwaukee is about 600,000 people.... So because this one won a beauty contest we are all supposed to just accept it? This flag could have won by 1 vote over a tied field of 5 flags. Calling it "the people's flag" is just a sham and a marketing ploy to sell merchandise. Stop pretending there is overwhelming support when the people who support it are not even Milwaukeeans

Cletus Hasslinger Agreed.

Janet Nelson Ideally they should scrap the whole deal, but it looks like the flag has been adopted/shoved down our throats. This love of committee-this and committee-that makes me nauseous. I mean, how PC can they get? It's a relatively mediocre design, but I object to the heavy marketing job the design group was inflicting on the public to boost their egos. There are bigger and more important problems in the city that need addressing...let's get a move on.

Rebecca Silber They also inflicted it on the City. Think of all of the time that the City and elected officials spent dealing with this issue that they didn't even ask for in the first place. And now, some people are annoyed/angry at the City for not adopting a flag that they didn't even ask for. I don't really understand why they didn't scrap the whole deal 2-3 years ago, it was pretty generous of a government with far more pressing matters to take it this far.

Jerad Andrew There was plenty of media attention during the competition and selection process... If you didn't know about it, you likely don't pay attention to stuff going on in the city anyways, or just don't give a shit.

Spending a hundred grand in taxpayer funds for this is asinine. Arts Board should f**k off.

Jordan Davis Why not have a new Milwaukee flag EVERY YEAR?!?!?

Nolon Lawrence Leave the flag alone. It's purdeh

Alexander Allgood But what about the #posersflagofmilwaukee ??

Mary Pick Looks like a familiar brand just different colors.....

Robert Jakubiak Don't they first have to get the OK from the state government before they do anything. ??

Kory M Like one that doesn't look like the Golden State Warriors uniform?

Erich Kegel "We need something to keep our positions relevant, so we're going to waste a shitload of taxpayer money studying and looking into a matter that ultimately affects nobody, than boast about whatever insignificant changes we've made as a justification of our importance."

Abraham Carmona-Ochoa <https://chicagology.com/chicagoflag/>

Chicago's Flag – Chicagology

John Jason Chicago?

Never heard of it.

David M Ours Stop fetishising Chicago. We are not Chicago and we don't need to be like them.

Claudia Davis Don't we go through this every year?

Cletus Hasslinger Actually it's a beer-colored sky.

Jenna Marie We don't need a third flag...

Dave Blank I don't like the flag, but will not support a new contest.

John Lewandowski Here's one for free lol

Tyler Okrzesik Got one here for you

Ann Baer Like not lie

Megan Montgomery I like this flag.

John Holtz I can't wait to hear another The Disclaimer episode talking about this.

Matt Wild Tune in at noon!

Mike Jedrzejewski That's there Mayor !!!

Pat JA Brady Love the flag.

Lauren Ashley Lol!

David M Ours To the people saying the unofficial one is widely accepted, you only see them in areas with white people with money... You can't say it's loved by all when none of you go west of Eastside/ Bayview. You do realize about 600k people live here...

David M Ours The people pushing the flag on merchandise are making money on this. That's why you see it in random places. It's not for pride it's for the money. The only people who can afford it are pushing for it. This flag doesn't represent me or the city I live in. It's just a status symbol for people pretending to love the city. The same people who don't care about our lead pipes our school cuts or our need for more social programs for young and the elderly. Everytime I see that flag it's just a reminder of a special class that can ignore the real problems

Neal Steeno They don't make a penny. They donate profits to local arts. But hey, whatever you want to make up is up to you. Also, the flag is \$13.99 on Amazon. About the same price as a 12-Pack of toilet paper.

Neal Steeno I know Robert personally

David M Ours The logo is found on beer labels to merch. It's not raising funds for charity... You want to tell everyone to buy a flag on Amazon go ahead. But that's a luxury not many in Milwaukee can afford.

Jerad Andrew I'm white, don't have much money, and live in a pretty diverse neighborhood. Yet I have one flying out front of my place. How many old Milwaukee flags, or American flags, or POW flags do you see flying outside of the places you're mentioning? Maybe it's not just a Milwaukee flag thing...

Neal Steeno Well stated, Jerad. And, David... you made a ridiculous statement that somehow it was an unaffordable flag. I was simply pointing out a price & truth. It's affordable.

David M Ours Ah the riverwest hipsters. Explains why you think a \$17 flag isnt a frivolous expense

Neal Steeno Here, a little more cost friendly for you, David:

FLAGSEXPO.COM

Flagsexpo is your source of USA Flags and Flagpoles

David M Ours Uh huh so you wanna play the link game. Neal you already shown how ridiculous you are. Finding an expensive Milwaukee flag vs your cheap Amazon flag... Bravo.

Neal Steeno That wasn't the point. You went off on the idea that this has all been about money. Privilege. That those running the campaign cared less about

making a civic impact and only about profiting. So far from the truth. THAT is what's ridiculous. The more false assumptions people like you continue to make only creates contention surrounding this entire project. Take that for what you will.

David M Ours I take it you are just an over privileged white guy who fetishises Chicago. You probably went to a suburban school and never been told no so you complain and argue with people online and think it's winning when they block you

Neal Steeno David, it's far less easy to go through life as a cynic against everyone. Hope that's not the case. Best to you, my man.

David M Ours Enjoy your time visiting Milwaukee

Jack Kovnesky David M Ours dang you make a really good point. It really isn't the people's flag if it's not waved in every neighborhood. I get the argument that the designer search wasn't inclusive enough, but what I don't understand is how 100k can be justified to create a whole new flag design process. Seems to me that money could be better directed towards things that will actually help the disadvantaged. The idea of inclusivity is so loved yet Milwaukee's one of the most segregated cities in America, and really I don't see any drastic changes in Milwaukee's demographics and residential patterns. I'm all for inclusivity but I think when there's problems as big as Milwaukee's in regards to segregation something needs to get done with that first. If you have any counter points I want to hear them!

David Ryan Lane I've lived in Bay View my entire life. People love that flag here. IDK man be mad about it or whatever but I see it all over.

David M Ours The search for a new flag is ridiculous and the argument that the generic one is widely accepted is also ridiculous. You want someone thing adopted than actually try to get everyone on board not have a limited contest with little input. At least the original was a compromise.

Rebecca Silber I feel like the Arts Board will make this recommendation to the Common Council and in the end, the whole thing will be put on hold. The City never asked for the flag in the first place. There are far more pressing matters, and work to be done--work that we can all do to help the disadvantaged in this city. And, as a designer, there are better ways that I can be contributing that do not include designing a flag. There are brand new minority owned businesses that need logos and business cards, agencies that need bilingual materials designed, and I can only imagine that the list would go on and on. WWBIC is a wonderful place to start for anyone looking to make a genuine difference in this city: www.wwbic.com/help-put-dreams-to-work/volunteer/ Also, the Mitchell Street Branch of MPL and also Artists Working for Education are terrific

organizations that truly are helping to make arts inclusive for youth in Milwaukee. I'm sure that there are others too.

Rebecca Silber Note that the Department of City Development and the Milwaukee Arts Board helped to develop this new project. This is the stuff that we should all be supporting:

[://mpl.org/special.../gathering_art_stories_and_place.php](http://mpl.org/special.../gathering_art_stories_and_place.php)

Ann Baer I lie it!

Ryan Rogers Reggie Baylor

Kurtis Kaskowski Get rid of this flag that looks like a sliced hard boiled egg.

Juan Salter There are so many more important issues that should have priority and should addressed. NOW!!! F**k the flag. 🙄🙄🙄

Scott Carlsson Womp womp

Andy Reid YAY!!!!

Christine Lenske Why?

David M Ours Also all the people saying it's inclusive... A white guy made it and it flies in areas mostly populated by white people.... It's far from being inclusive

Steve Kodis <https://www.instagram.com/mkeflag/>

David M Ours Oh look Instagram that answers everyone..

Kurtis Kaskowski Just use the fucking 414 flag and be done with it.

Tom Sobczyk What do you think of this design cuz? It keeps elements of the old design but simplifies everything.

I don't know who designed it but I really like it over the old one and the current flag being used.

John Holtz I'm about as liberal, pro-government as they come, but this makes me want to rail against pointless, wasteful bureaucracy. I like the old flag. I like the new flag. I don't care if the third flag they come up with is better than both of them; it will still be an unnecessary waste of time and money

Jonna Rakowski Good its ugly

Comments on the same article from the Urban Milwaukee Arts & Entertainment Facebook page:

Tony Mayer Their description of their ideal process sounds like it's going to result in a design by committee, which resulted in the overly complicated original flag Milwaukee got in the first place.

Kimberly A. Head oy vey --maybe MKE just doesn't want nor need a flag??

Art Mann I like the one we have.

Mike Shaffer Yay !!!! Nix the crappy beer logo.

Nebi Torbica I think Drink Wisconsin should be in charge of this one . Hey Rich , show em whatcha got!

Christopher Van Gompel This is the True Peoples flag of MKE, Bob Uecker, laying one on a IL Tollway.

Nebi Torbica Bwahahaha Milwaukee you are friggin nuts!

Izzy Jaecks Nebi Torbica, why are they nuts? They didn't ask for a new flag, so they shouldn't be forced into accepting the "people's flag."

BTW— there are a half a million people who live in the city of Milwaukee, yet the "people's flag" was chosen by 7000 people through an online poll. One percent of the city. How many people even knew the vote was happening?

Creating the "people's flag" was a private venture with zero involvement or approval from the city.

Nebi Torbica Izzy Jaecks I agree that's why this city wastes soo much money in stupidity

On November 14, 2018, The Journal Sentinel's Mary Spicuzza wrote "Milwaukee Arts Board calls for new city flag search." Comments posted on FaceBook are as follows:

Tyler Okrzesik How about this one?

Jan Wilberg This is the most asinine use of public dollars that I've seen in a long time. Use the old flag - it's historic. Enough already.

Kathy Gustafson Baillargeon Jan Wilberg really. My mouth dropped open when I read this.

Flayne Wack Jan Wilberg that old flag is pure garbage. Just because it's old, doesn't make it worthy. You're very lazy...

Jess Lawinger On a roll, MKE got a trolley, & soon a new flag. Must not have any real problems to fix.

Jessica Erin We already had a trolley. We just got a streetcar. And providing and maintaining infrastructure is critical to efficient, desirable cities. It's how you keep the population here, and through growth the city will achieve progress.

Jesse Landitron You act like they have to do one thing at a time

Jess Lawinger Lots of Jess' here

Jesse Landitron Holy crap. Its like my workplace. We all have the same feckin names lol

Sara Fetter Just posting to break up the monotony. 😊

Sharon Seager Just go back to the original- at least we knew what city it represented!

Kevin Klika If you can't see the symbolism and recognize the new flag as Milwaukee, you're not from Milwaukee.

Sharon Seager Kevin Klika I do get the symbolism. It's pretty. Just hang it on another flag pole & keep the original.

Kevin Klika Wait. You're suggesting Milwaukee have TWO flags? Do you know how flags work?

Brent DeBord The official flag is hideous. The People's Flag is great. Simple and iconic.

I live in Peshtigo now and have one hanging in the front window.

Katie Elizabeth The Brewers have even incorporated this new design into team gear sold at the Pro Shop. Why are we doing this all over again?

Rick Densing I am really not sure how this flag is not inclusive. I suspect the alderman meant that he has some one in mind to include the \$100,000 to.

William Webb People hanging the flag they identify with has more say than an art board

Karyn Lemke Holzman Nothing wrong with the flag we have.

Flayne Wack Karyn Lemke Holzman except it looks like garbage...

Dave Yellick You know what would help the people in Milwaukee? A newer flag

Kevin Klika Milwaukee's New flag is, objectively, one of the best city flags in existence. It's symbolic, clean, and recognizable. Stop the shenanigans and accept it!

Michelle Scherbarth Meinholz Ridiculous. The flag is perfect. It shows Milwaukee's promise. Lake and sunshine indicated by color choices show community gathering. Think.. Southshore yacht club, BBQ, laying in the grass with your dog at the park... It's positive and simple. Don't fix what isn't broken.

Michelle Scherbarth Meinholz Plus, it has Zero text!!!

Mark Borowski Didn't we just do this a couple years ago? Seriously?

Brian Salgado Reminds me of Marquette's exhaustive search for a new nickname just to come back to Golden Eagles.

Darren Collings Only \$100,000 to come up with a new flag because some people don't like the new one? Only in Milwaukee.

Johnny Osorio Thank god! The other flag they came up with was bland and meaningless. At least put our name on it!

Kevin Klika FLAGS DON'T HAVE WORDS ON THEM YOU DOLT.

Flayne Wack Kevin Klika thank you!

Johnny Osorio Kevin Klikaa dolt? Really? this one did.

Johnny Osorio And so does Wisconsin's....

Kevin Klika Ah, yes. The "seals on a bedsheet", fantastic examples. But how could you forget this one?

Dotty Digler The current flag is perfect. Why do we even have an Art Board?

Kris Otto Because some fine arts major needs some work. Parent works at city hall.

Andee Bram What a total waste of time and money!

Ricky James Gronwall Wonder who's trying to pocket or hook one of their buddies up with \$100,000...

Margaret Williams I would lose the cog, ship and wheat. Move the 1846 under Milwaukee and make them look more watery.

Matthew D Siedschlag Our "MLB Team" is the scouting minor league team for all of MLB

Brad Taylor Tom apparently showed up for work

Jennifer Brindley Ubl I don't get it. I love the new flag. Ugh. 😞

Tamara McAllister Add a silhouette of the Calatrava in the middle and you're done

Matthew D Siedschlag Come to Milwaukee, have shitty beer, and get shot.

Keith Best This could work for either Milwaukee or Madistan.

Carl Witkowski

TENOR

Chris Schruth Hell, that could work for the entire state now with evers as gov.

Jay Urban That flag already controls the WH. We can do better.

Jay Urban Chris Schruth when is that exactly?

Keith Best Jay Urban - only is the minds of the gullible.

Alex Laurent

TENOR

Jay Urban Keith Best what you wrote makes no sense.

Keith Best Jay Urban - They say that ignorance is bliss but yours is rather troubling.

Tyler Wegner Jay Urban not sure if you're joking or truly do not understand communism and political/economic systems

Alex Laurent Tyler Wegner Just look at his profile. Pics with Walker and Ryan, a sign for Vukmir. Give this guy a break, he lost all of his political heroes in the blue wave 😊

Alex Laurent Oh wait, that's Keith Best 😊

Joshua Myers Excellent. #Socialismisthefuture #SocialistUtopia

Keith Best Alex Laurent --There was no blue wave. A few wins doesn't make a wave.

Alex Laurent How about a whole House orf Representatives with one of the unfavorable maps in history, Wisconsin senate, and Governor along with plenty of other seats that are still coming. Call it what you want, it sure feels wavy to me 😊

Keith Best Alex, In the midterm, Clinton House lost 56, Obama lost 63, Trump lost 30 something. depending on how many Democrat votes they find in car

trunks and the like. The US Senate actually gained 3 seats for Republicans. Wisconsin Assembly lost one now 63-36, WI senate gained one Republican seat 19-14. Guten Tag!

Alex Laurent Still got that house doe

Mark Leitner Keith Best sorry about your head injury

Keith Best Mark Leitner - just what we don't need, another lawyer.

Laura Lopez Ya all know Milwaukee is stuck up as hell ..good dreams, luck and hope
Jake Neibert

Scott Christopher Not Milwaukee

Jake Neibert Scott Christopher says you

Eileen Henrikson then change it to Drink Milwaukeeebly

Bridget Sharon I mean, Milwaukee basically is Wisconsin. 😊😊😊

Scott Christopher They're looking for a flag that represents Milwaukee, not the entire state

David Kretschmer Why? I love the new flag

Michael John It's got that nice Obama "O" on it... Stupid design!

Ian McCullough Michael John it's literally the sun.

David Kretschmer God, you're so offended by Barack Obama, that you've basically given him a monopoly on the usage of circles.

Oliver Patch Ian McCullough we need a new sun!!!

Ian McCullough Oliver Patch you mean a new Obama?

Jeff Ircink while a city flag has importance & relevance, MKE has more important issues to deal with, no? yes.

Patty Steffan Horvat Update the old one. Use same concept

Kyle Vetter This is a ridiculous waste of time and money. The people have spoken. Use the flag they chose. Trying to be more "inclusive" just means a more expensive waste of time. This should be the Milwaukee flag, end of story.

Nathaniel Fakler Kyle Vetter we'll just keep using it till they give up.

Liani C. Thomas Prewitt Some of the people have spoken. The rest chose the official flag we already have.

Alex Laurent But I like that one...

Casey Wisniewski Love this flag

Jack Panama A picture of an automated beer line would work

Jesse Marshall

Jesse Marshall Ryan Briskie

Ryan Briskie Yesssssssss! 🙌

Nate Hesse Such a pressing issue.

Matthew D Siedschlag Home to the UGLIEST ARENA IN THE CONTINUOUS 48'S.
"money well spent, along with that joke of a transit system"

Alex Laurent Man you don't even live in Milwaukee. What's your problem?

Matthew D Siedschlag Alex Laurent yeeeeeeeah. I just like kicking that dog 😊

Amanda Albrecht - Rotaru

Ana M. Avila Oh no!!!! Sue Ullenberg.....!!!!

Melissa Rigney Baxter Dylan Baxter

Kevin Klika To everyone who liked the old flag, and/or don't like the new flag - you are objectively completely wrong.

Tyler Okrzesik Alexander Allgood

Alexander Allgood #posersflagofmilwaukee

Betsy Heffelfinger Guilford Evan Heffelfinger Guilford

Matthew D Siedschlag Crack city?

Matthew D Siedschlag Muggingtown?

Jake Kieffer JFC...

Bryon Joseph Krueger Why

Sabrina Eder Alec James

Thomas Kiepczynski Boo!

Dylan Baxter Carl Witkowski Carl Witkowski

Carl Witkowski Waste of money. Glad that that generic rag has to face a true competition.

Cynthia Stasik Norbert Michael

Ryan Laessig Wow Nick Kurszewski

Robert Schmidt Keep the current flag please

Daul Pettmann Waste of money. We already had a well publicized competition and voted. Most people like the result and it didn't cost taxpayers a dime.

Dennis Moore I hate the "new" flag and see nothing wrong with the original. I'm not a native to Milwaukee but my view is there are much more pressing needs to fix than a flag.

Kevin Klika The original was quite literally the worst city flag in existence. It went against every tenant of good flag design.

Somewhat ironically, the old flag HAD ANOTHER FLAG IN ITS DESIGN. It was ridiculous, the new one is really great!

Dennis Moore Kevin Klika I think you missed the point. Crumbling infrastructure, massive unemployment with minority groups, lack of usable transportation to get unemployed people to work (road trolley will not do that), but hey, we have a new flag I like or I want a new one. Way to prioritize.

Flayne Wack The current Milwaukee flag is definitely the worst I've ever seen, although the WI state flag is equally awful. The People's Flag is nice

Dick Haase Flag ▶ should have the FLOP on it

George C. Holtz Ugly

Alv Don Mar Its funny how he remembered so much when he was so old

Every word he spoke brought out a vision in his stories

He'd pause a little to remember a few things

He spoke slowly and softly but you could still understand iat all

The little demonstrations he could do made it feel so real

He'd start from his folk's wedding, to the time off his birth,moving along to his days in school

He'd tell about how charming he was with all the girls

It was rather funny at that moment with some if his teeth missing and his skin so wrinkled

He'd tell you about the day he first saw his beautiful old lady who had died not so long ago

He'd tell you about his wedding

There was those funny moments when he told us about how our parents were born and the way they grew

We'd cry with him through the worst stories

The time if war, the wounds on his body, the bomb that blew with his thumb ,the bullet that left him on that wheelchair

He'd teach the songs of war, the slogan, he even remembered how to hold a gun

He showed us a couple of pictures from his younger days

It was rather funny how old he had become compared to those photos

I never really understood why he had suddenly felt like telling the story of his life

He'd cough so hard and have to go to sleep leaving us curious

We'd stay in the living and retell all the great moments

Even on his death bed old man never stopped

His last stories,how he reacted when we were born

Each with a simple but precious gift

He closed the last chapter of his life, shut his eyes and went to sleep

That was the last we ever saw of him, his last breath with a bungle if joy

Even with him six feet under the stories live on

Old man's fairy tales that never fade

Carl Witkowski "A blood black nothingness began to spin.

Began to spin.

Let's move on to system. System.

Feel that in your body. The system.

What does it feel like to be part of the system. System.

Is there anything in your body that wants to resist the system? System.

Do you get pleasure out of being a part of the system? System.
Have they created you to be a part of the system? System.
Is there security in being a part of the system? System.
Is there a sound that comes with the system? System.
We're going to go on. Cells.
They were all put together at a time. Cells.
Millions and billions of them. Cells.
Were you ever arrested? Cells.
Did you spend much time in the cell? Cells.
Have you ever been in an institution? Cells.
Do they keep you in a cell? Cells.
When you're not performing your duties do they keep you in a little box? Cells.
Interlinked.
What's it like to hold the hand of someone you love? Interlinked.
Do they teach you how to feel finger to finger? Interlinked.
Do you long for having your heart interlinked? Interlinked.
Do you dream about being interlinked?
Have they left a place for you where you can dream? Interlinked.
What's it like to hold your child in your arms? Interlinked.
What's it like to play with your dog? Interlinked.
Do you feel that there's a part of you that's missing? Interlinked.
Do you like to connect to things? Interlinked.
What happens when that linkage is broken? Interlinked.
Have they let you feel heartbreak? Interlinked.
Did you buy a present for the person you love? Within cells interlinked.
Why don't you say that three times? Within cells interlinked. Within cells
interlinked. Within cells interlinked.
Where do you go when you go within? Within.
Has anyone ever locked you out of a room? Within.
Within.
Where do you go to when you go within? Within.
Where is the place in the world you feel the safest? Within.
Do you have a heart? Within.
Stem.
Did you pick asparagus stems?
What comes from something else? Stem.
Have you been to the source of a river? Stem.
When's the first time you gave a flower to a girl? Stem.
What did she look like? Stem.

Is it a slang word for people's legs? Stem.
Have you planeted things in the ground? Stem.
Have you ever been in a legal battle? Stem.
Within one stem.
Dreadfully.
Is that an old fashioned word? Dreadfully.
Did you ever want to live in the nineteenth century? Dreadfully.
What's it like to be filled with dread? Dreadfully.
Do you think you could find out all the answers to all the questions? Dreadfully.
Distinct.
How good are your eyes? Distinct.
Do you have a particular personality? Distinct.
What separates somebody from somebody else? Distinct.
Who do you admire most in the world? Distinct.
What was your most shameful moment? Distinct.
Dreadfully distinct.
Dark.
Were you afraid of the dark when you were little? Dark.
What's it like to hide under a bed? Dark.
Did they keep you in a drawer when they were building you? Dark?
Was it dark in there? Dark.
Do you have dark thoughts? Dark?
Did they program you to have dark thoughts? Dark?
Do you think it's some kind of corruption these dark thoughts? Dark.
Maybe it's a spot of rust or something? Dark.
Who's the darkest person you know? Dark.
What is it like when someone gives you the silent treatment. Dark.
Who did you get your darkness from? Dark.
Against the dark.
What kind of power do you have against the dark. Against the dark.
Do you think there is such a thing as evil? Against the dark.
Do you think you can protect people against the dark. Against the dark.
Why are these things happening? Against the dark.
Do you prefer the day or the night? Against the dark.
When is the last time you saw a starry sky? Against the dark.
What's your favorite part of the moon? Against the dark.
Fountain.
Have you seen the Trevi fountain in Rome? Fountain.
Have you ever seen the fountain in Lincoln center? Fountain.

Have you seen fountains out in the wild? Fountain.
What's it like when you have an orgasm. Fountain.
Have you read the Fountainhead? Fountain.
White Fountain.
Is it pure white? White Fountain.
Is that a metaphor? White Fountain.
How did the white Fountain make you feel? White Fountain.
A tall white fountain played.
When you were little did you ever fall into a Fountain? A Tall White Fountain.
Do you like fire, earth, air or water. A Tall White Fountain.
Do you like skipping around in the water? A Tall White Fountain.
A blood black nothingness.
A system of cells.
Within cells interlinked.
Within one stem.
And dreadfully distinct.
Against the dark.
A tall white fountain played."
Tammy Becker REALLY??!! Write a book!

On November 15, 2018, OnMilwaukee.com's Jason McDowell published "Let's save \$100,000 and just vote on the flag already." Comments on the article are as follows:

Joseph Wilson The peoples flag flies well in zip code 53201. I don't see it flying in 53221 or 53206 or other zip codes that were not included in the process. Milwaukee does not need a new flag. Tourism does so apply it to them. What Milwaukee needs is to spread inclusion in our City. If the organizers of the People's flag want to do over the selection process and include others go for it. Live up to your motto for the People's Flag - Pride and Unity. Include all the zip codes, Alderman and neighborhoods so we can all fly it together.
It is a great moneymaker program perhaps the profits can be redirected to needy causes.

Comments on the same article from OnMilwaukee.com's FaceBook page are as follows:

Keith Moon This one works with me. Why didn't they ask me 1st?

Nate Saltzman

Nate Saltzman This flag looks like Milwaukee is the city of pollution. The ship is contaminating the water and the factory is spewing into the air..

Juston Edwards The People's flag sucks. Only hipsters like it. Maybe it should be the flag for Bayview.

Mike Walter This isn't the Middle Ages. The idea that a city NEEDS a flag for something is absurd.

David M Ours How about no because the new flag is a rip-off and we can all save money just leaving things the way they are

Scott Gondek The People's flag belongs in a bonfire, right Carl?

Ryan Hoffmann Let's save the city 100k - shut up about the sunrise flag. Or any new flag. Or the old flag! Just, don't talk about flags.

Tom Spenner Or...let's not have a flag - fugly af anyways.

Joseph Wilson All hail the People's Tourism flag. Why can't we have two flags? One for civic engagement that is left alone and one to promote our city funded by tourism dollars already in place and by private citizens.

The City of MILWAUKEE does not need to spend any more time and resources on a new flag. Why cause a few don't like it? The rest of the citizens don't care. Fix the pot holes, reduce the special event parking fees, take care of our underserved citizens, keep our city clean, those are some of things that matter.

I vote for the People's tourism flag. Fly it, wave it and drape it over where ever you feel it will do the most good to attract attention. It would be the unofficial official flag.

If you wish to make it official then start your process over at your expense and include the rest of us. See the zip code map on who you should include I don't feel one city dollar should be expended in this process. Do over with more people included please.

Bill Zalenski I agree with this. Stop trying to force it to be the official flag. It's become a flag of Milwaukee pride. Let people fly it as such.

Rebecca Silber Their biggest mistake (even worse than the contest itself) was trying to shove this into City Hall with absolutely no clue how city politics work. We are all worse off because they did that. And I get that people are complaining about the prospect of spending \$100,000, I agree that's ridiculous. But, how much time has this sucked from our elected officials already?! It's also ridiculous.

Keith Moon It's suck. There I voted.

Bradley Marschke I like it. The other one is way too busy. I just moved back here after living in Phoenix, AZ for a few years. They had an excellent flag/emblem. It was simple and really cool looking and was on all of their municipal vehicles, etc. Milwaukee needs to do something similar. This "peoples flag" is pretty nice.. I like it.

Molly Snyder I don't think just voting again is the answer. If it's agreed that the submission process guidelines did not reach far enough into the community then the already-existing submissions only represent a portion of the population. (And I agree the call for submissions should have been/should be in English and Spanish.) But \$100,000 to start over? Really? There has to be some middle ground here.

Bill Zalenski That number seems extremely random. Is that for research, design, voting AND execution? I agree tho that it was not a city vote. It was a contest, which often ends in a result that serves the municipality and its citizens properly, and with the involved parties not being properly compensated.

Rebecca Silber Molly Snyder I have so many issues with this process and how it's all gone down. I won't even go into it here. Middle ground would be for the city to say that they can't afford the \$100,000 (which does seem random), so they will keep the old flag. Remember, the city did not ask for any of this. I don't care if the People's Flag is unofficial—it already is. So is the 414 flag. That's fine. But this process has been so beyond flawed and so wrong. Middle ground is to just go back to the way things were in 2014, or whatever year it was before this quasi nightmare began.

Greg Buscher Lets spend the money and do it right. \$100k is money well spent if we can finally let the "peoples flag" die already.

Joseph Wilson The City cannot afford \$100,000. They are happy with the Official City flag. The allege People's Flag is really more to promote tourism. Let it wave and let the tourism group support it.

It can be the unofficial official flag. We can live with two flags.

Melissa Rigney Baxter Dylan Baxter

Kathy Hanlon Sampon "NO" to a \$100,000 expense!

On November 15, 2018, The Milwaukee Record published "Let's talk about the very real, very dumb possibility of a THIRD Milwaukee flag." Comments on the FaceBook post are as follows:

Taylor Rick While I am tiring of the whole thing, I still hate that design and am genuinely looking forward to finally submitting my design.

Jordan Davis How can I vote for this?

Nic Waldron Just adopt this flag and be done with it.

-Narrowly finished 2nd in the "People's Flag" voting.

-Designed by a black city native.

-Based on traditional art of the indigenous Great Lakes tribes.

-Doesn't look like Corona had sex with AT&T.

Rebecca Silber Hypothetical situation: let's say that common council just decides to adopt the flag to put an end to all of this misery? Aside from the notion of inclusiveness—what would that say to anyone in this city trying to go through the proper avenues to respond to City RFPs. Because there is a process in place for when the City decides it does need to hire outside help, and it's extremely time consuming to go through the RFP process. As a designer myself, I spent a good 40 hours over the summer putting together a branding proposal in response to a City of Milwaukee RFP.

What message would this send to those people? Because it seems to me that message would be that you can disregard these government processes, force an idea on everyone, and come out a winner.

Rebecca Silber And I would be interested to learn where exactly the merch profits are going. As I understood it, they've been going to a fairly new organization called Greater Together. I'd like to know what GT is doing with the funds, and why the funds aren't going to an organization with more of a history for making arts inclusive in Milwaukee, like Artists Working in Education, the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music, etc.

Matthew Gnas Tech bros and Bird scooter fans would call that "disruption."

Rebecca Silber Matthew Gnas it strikes me as a pretty privileged way of getting things done.

Rebecca Silber And why is this okay, but it would clearly NOT be okay if an architect decided to design a new skyscraper for downtown and tried to shove it into City Hall for approval? It would also NOT be okay if some finance person held a city budget contest and tried to shove the winning budget into City Hall. Why can't the art/design industry get the respect it deserves?

Scott Carlsson This thread hits the nail on the head. The design isn't what upset me (it isn't that great though), it is the process of trying to force it into us. Everyone else in the city pull permits, goes before committees and submits proposals. This should be no different. Otherwise, brand it as the "unofficial" People's Flag.

Regarding the charity, I never heard of it, but if they went to the United Way or Boys and Girls Club, they would have had more traction. Not some charity that they made to go with the flag; it just seems shady.

Izzy Jaecks Should "Milwaukee Home" be the new city motto because they've sold a lot of shirts?

Through the online poll, 7,000 people picked the Corona logo flag. That means only 1% of all of Milwaukee voted for it.

The city did not ask for the People's Flag, so the City should not feel any obligation to accept it.

Ben McCarville The Art Board's Flag of Milwaukee

Al Kraemer I like how this image is clearly the exact same flag repeated three times

Daniel Kaishian Somebody is good at photo shop— but not THAT good.

James Muchow I hope John Gurda is documenting the flag battles of the late 2010's. I think this divisive episode will be regarded as a key period in our Great City's history. 😊

Andrew Nyren I didn't appreciate the aggressiveness with which the people's flag was produced, but it has become extremely popular, and I cannot fathom any reason to continue and get a third flag. Just a colossal waste of money to continue to do this.

Izzy Jaecks Andrew Nyren, I don't see it as a waste of money because the city had no involvement with the People's Flag in the first place. The only people who wasted money are people who bought a flag that was officially nothing.

Kelvin Zernia Im thinking a gun would almost be acceptable.

Melissa Daniels I vote for the People's Flag flag because that's the one that I own.

James Nicky We fly one flag and one flag only

Christopher Van Gompel I am fine with it.

Christine Leffel Jacob Stanley Dziewa Jarred Matthews

Myra Hillen Oh, come on.....

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