

Maryland State Flag

Old Line State • Capital: Annapolis • Statehood: 1788

Overview

Perhaps the most dazzling of all: quartered fields of black-and-gold bars (the Calvert arms) and red-and-white crosses (the Crossland arms). It is medieval heraldry turned state flag, bold and unmistakable. Maryland's banner is sheer spectacle.

Flag specifications

Adopted: 1904-03-09
Designer: Colonial heraldry
Ratio: 2:3
Quartered flag alternating black-gold and red-white designs.

Colors

   
#FFD700 #000000 #B22234 #FFFFFF

Symbolism

Calvert black and gold	Represents colonial founder George Calvert.
Crossland red and white	Represents his maternal family.

Historical timeline

- 1788: Maryland ratified the Constitution.
- 1904: Flag officially adopted.

Notable facts

- Maryland's flag is the only U.S. state flag based on English heraldry.
- Highly distinctive and popular for branding.
- The design combines the Calvert and Crossland family coats of arms.
- The black and gold sections come from the Calvert family arms.
- The red and white cross bottony comes from the Crossland family.
- The flag's quarters symbolize unity after the Civil War.
- It is one of the most complex U.S. state flag designs.
- The current design was officially adopted in 1904.

Seal deep dive

calvertArms
Represents the Calvert family, founders of the Maryland colony.
Meaning: Authority, heritage, and proprietary rule

crosslandArms
Represents the Crossland family lineage of the Calverts.
Meaning: Faith, tradition, and family legacy

quartering
The alternating quarters combine two family coats of arms.
Meaning: Unity and reconciliation after the Civil War

Vexillology notes

Design type: Heraldic banner
Complexity: 7/10
Readability: 8/10

