



Spencer J. Cox  
Governor

**EXECUTIVE ORDER**  
**2023-04**

*Enshrining the Continued Significance and Display of the Historic State Flag*

**WHEREAS**, the historic state flag was created by the Daughters of the American Revolution in 1903 under the direction of Governor Heber M. Wells;

**WHEREAS**, the historic state flag included a blue background, an American eagle, the word “industry,” and a beehive;

**WHEREAS**, the historic state flag displayed the year 1847 to commemorate the year Utah was settled and the year 1896 to commemorate the year Utah achieved statehood;

**WHEREAS**, the Utah State Legislature adopted the historic state flag on March 9, 1911, with the features above present on the flag;

**WHEREAS**, despite minor changes over the last century, these original features remain as powerful symbols on the historic state flag;

**WHEREAS**, the historic state flag is a symbol of the faith, diligence, and strength of the people of Utah;

**WHEREAS**, the historic state flag and its rich background continue to inspire the people of Utah;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Spencer J. Cox, governor of the state of Utah, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of this state, hereby order and petition as follows:

**1. Order**

**a. Definitions.** As used in this order:

1. “Agency”

1. Includes:

a. a department, division, office, bureau, or other organization within the state executive branch, including the State Tax Commission, the National Guard, and the Board of Pardons and Parole; and

2. does not include:

a. an institution of higher education;  
b. the Utah Board of Higher Education;  
c. the State Board of Education;

- d. an independent entity as defined in Utah Code § 63E-1-102;
  - e. the Attorney General's Office;
  - f. the State Auditor's Office;
  - g. the State Treasurer's Office;
  - h. the Legislative Branch; or
  - i. the Judicial Branch.
- 11. "Historic state flag" means the Utah state flag described in Utah Code § 63G-1-501 (63G-1-503, effective March 9, 2024).
  - 111. "State flag" means the Utah state flag, which will be described in Utah Code § 63G-1-501, effective March 9, 2024.
  - 1V. "State property" means a facility or building under the care and control of an agency.

**b. Requirements for Preserving the Significance of the Historic State Flag**

- 1. All steps necessary shall be taken, including a convening of the State Capitol Preservation Board, to enable the following:
  - 1. flying the historic state flag on top of the Utah state capitol building each day of the year; and
  - 2. upon S.B. 31 (2023) taking effect, flying both the state flag and the historic state flag on separate flagpoles each day of the year on Utah state capitol grounds.
- 11. Agencies shall fly the historic state flag on state property on each legal holiday listed in Utah Code § 63G-1-301.
- 111. Agencies shall consider and adopt additional methods for maintaining the significance of the historic state flag, including flying the flag at significant agency events.


**2. Petition**

- a. I hereby petition the legislature to amend Lines 118-121 of S.B. 31 (2023), so that when displaying the historic state flag on public grounds in any location where the state flag is also displayed, the governmental entity responsible for the display of the flags shall ensure that the historic state flag is displayed above the state flag.

**THIS ORDER** is effective immediately and shall remain in effect until otherwise modified, amended, rescinded, or superseded.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Utah. Done in Salt Lake City, Utah, on this, the 21<sup>st</sup> day of March, 2023.



  
Spencer J. Cox  
Governor, State of Utah

  
Deidre M. Henderson  
Lieutenant Governor, State of Utah

ATTEST: