



**SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY
POLICY MANUAL**

No. 12-10

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EFFECTIVE DATE December 3, 2024

POLICY: DISPLAY OF FLAGS AT COUNTY FACILITIES

APPROVED

DAWN ROWE
Chair, Board of Supervisors

POLICY STATEMENT AND PURPOSE

It is the policy of the Board of Supervisors that the flag of the United States (U.S. Flag), the flag of the State of California (State Flag), and the flag of San Bernardino County (County Flag) will be displayed at and within County facilities. The purpose of this policy is to ensure consistency across all County facilities.

DEPARTMENTS AFFECTED

All County agencies, departments, and Board-Governed Special Districts.

POLICY AMPLIFICATION

- A. County flagpoles are not intended to serve as a forum for free expression by the public. The flags identified in this policy may be displayed by the County as an expression of the County’s official government speech.
- B. The United States Flag, State Flag, and the County Flag shall be displayed:
 - 1. Outside of all County owned and leased facilities that are equipped with flagpoles during regular business hours, weather permitting.
 - a. The County will make every effort to ensure flagpoles are present at leased facilities housing County offices.
 - b. Flags may be flown between dusk and dawn only if they are appropriately illuminated.
 - 2. At any meeting of the Board of Supervisors.
 - 3. Within any meeting room with a capacity of 50 or more people within County-owned and -leased facilities.
- C. Other flags that may be displayed at or within the public areas of County facilities are:
 - 1. The flags of incorporated cities and towns and other public agencies.
 - 2. The flags of the San Bernardino County Sheriff’s (Sheriff’s) Department, the San Bernardino County Probation Department, the San Bernardino County Fire Protection District, the District Attorney’s Office (“Scales of Justice Flag”), and the District Attorney Bureau of Investigation.
 - 3. The San Bernardino County Fire Protection District extreme fire danger flag.
 - 4. The POW/MIA flag (as recognized by the National POW/MIA Flag Act, 26 U.S.C. section 902).
 - 5. The flags of the branches of the United States military.
 - 6. The flags of the President and Vice President of the United States, the Governor of California, and foreign nations in conjunction with official visits to San Bernardino County.
 - 7. The Olympic flag in conjunction with the occurrence of the Olympic Games.
 - 8. The Children’s Memorial Flag during the month of April in observance of Child Abuse Prevention Month.
- D. No other flag may be displayed at or within the public areas of County facilities.
- E. Flags shall be displayed, maintained, and retired in accordance with the United States Code (4 U.S.C., Chapter 1) and California Government Code section 430 et seq.
- F. County Flag
 - 1. The County Flag was adopted by the Board of Supervisors on December 3, 2024, Agenda Item XX.
 - 2. A sample and detailed description of the County Flag can be found in Exhibit A of this policy.

3. Any revision to the County Flag must be approved by the Board of Supervisors.

G. Flying Flags at Half-Staff

1. The flying of the United States Flag and accompanying flags at half-staff is a recognized custom and practice for expressing official mourning by federal, state, and local governmental organizations. The purpose of this policy is to define the circumstances under which San Bernardino County shall fly the United States Flag and accompanying flags at half-staff.
2. United States Flags and all accompanying flags at County-owned facilities shall be flown at half-staff at the direction of the Chair of the Board of Supervisors.
3. At facilities housing County operations but not owned by the County, the County department(s) occupying the space shall request that any flags flown at such facilities be flown at half-staff to reflect the direction of the Chair of the Board of Supervisors.
4. The Chair of the Board of Supervisors may direct that flags be flown at half-staff under the following circumstances:
 - a. For 30 days from the death of the President or a former President of the United States or as otherwise required under Federal or State law.
 - b. In compliance with directives issued by the President of the United States and/or the Governor of the State of California. If such directives include a provision for returning flags to full staff following an interment, and the day of interment occurs more than 10 days following death, flags shall be returned to full staff at sunset on the 10th day unless otherwise directed by the Chair of the Board of Supervisors.
 - c. Upon the death and until sunset on the day of interment of a County or Board-Governed district employee who perishes in the line of duty. If the day of interment occurs more than 10 days following death, flags shall be returned to full staff at sunset on the 10th day unless otherwise directed by the Chair of the Board of Supervisors.
 - d. Upon the death and until sunset on the day of interment of any sworn peace officer or firefighter, regardless of agency, who perishes in the line of duty within the County's geographic boundaries. If the day of interment occurs more than 10 days following death, flags shall be returned to full staff at sunset on the 10th day unless otherwise directed by the Chair of the Board of Supervisors.
 - e. Upon the death and until sunset on the day of interment of any sworn peace officer or firefighter who is a member of any agency based in San Bernardino County and who perishes in the line of duty. If the day of interment occurs more than 10 days following death, flags shall be returned to full staff at sunset on the 10th day unless otherwise directed by the Chair of the Board of Supervisors.
 - f. Upon the death and until sunset on the day of interment of a sitting elected County official, or a sitting member of the California Legislature or United States Congress representing all or a portion of San Bernardino County. If the day of interment occurs more than 10 days following death, flags shall be returned to full staff at sunset on the 10th day unless otherwise directed by the Chair of the Board of Supervisors.
 - g. On other occasions and for the length of time deemed appropriate by the Chair of the Board of Supervisors to express official mourning by the County, or as otherwise required under Federal or State law.
5. The San Bernardino County Sheriff and the San Bernardino County Fire Protection District may fly the United States Flag and accompanying flags at half-staff at their facilities in accordance with recognized customs and practices of other public safety agencies.

San Bernardino County finds the provisions of this policy to be in full compliance with the United States Code as it pertains to flying the United States Flag.

LEAD DEPARTMENT

County Administrative Office

APPROVAL HISTORY

Adopted June 14, 2005 (Item No. 71)

Amended October 26, 2021 (Item No. 30): **Amended** December 3, 2024 (Item No. xx)

REVIEW DATES

December 2029

EXHIBIT A

The San Bernardino County flag (sample shown below) features three key colors: Navy Blue Pantone 288C, Gold Pantone 117C, and white. At the top, five gold stars on a navy-blue background represent the County's five supervisorial districts. A gold bar beneath the blue section symbolizes the desert communities. A silhouette of mountains cuts through the blue and gold areas, representing the County's mountain region. Below the mountains, a white field contains the County's stylized arrowhead logo in gold, containing "1853" to represent the year the County was established. At the bottom, a blue bar stretches across the flag, symbolizing the valley region, containing "San Bernardino County." The font used throughout the flag is Myriad Pro.

SAMPLE

