

# You can Help Change the Massachusetts Flag and Seal

An image of white supremacy since 1629. —————>

With the 400th anniversary of the Mayflower landing approaching in 2020, it is time to adopt a state flag that reflects harmony between ALL Peoples of the Commonwealth.

For the last 35 years legislation to change the Mass State Flag and Seal has been bottled up in the state legislature. The legislation has been strongly revised and reintroduced as House bill H.2776 and Senate bill S.1877.

When it passes, the legislation will set up a commission where Native leaders from Massachusetts will be invited to sit with state legislators to design a new state flag and seal. We need your help to finally get this bill passed.



The original Massachusetts seal (above) from 1629 depicts a Native American saying: "Come over and Help us"

## Take a closer look at the symbols in the current state flag and seal.

Illustrator Edmund Garrett used a **Frankenstein approach** to designing the "ideal Native American" image for the Massachusetts flag and seal. His design was formally adopted by the legislature on June 14, 1898.

"The bow is an accurate representation of one taken from an Indian shot and killed in Sudbury in 1665."  
-Edmund Garrett

Garrett patterned the belt after the red flannel belt of Metacomet (King Philip), housed in the Peabody Museum in Cambridge. Metacomet was a leader in the first Native war of resistance against English colonization. His severed head was impaled on a pike and displayed in Plymouth for more than 20 years as a war trophy.



The sword is modelled on Myles Standish's broadsword, copied from the Pilgrim Hall in Plymouth. Standish was the military commander for Plymouth Colony, known for killing Native Americans.

The face came from a photograph of Thomas Little Shell, a Chippewa chief from Montana. Garrett called him "a fine specimen of an Indian".

Proportions for the body were taken from a Native skeleton dug up in Winthrop.

The downward pointed arrow indicates a 'pacified' Native American.

The Latin motto begins: "By the sword we seek peace..."

## HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP

### 1. CALL YOUR STATE SENATOR AND REPRESENTATIVE.

Ask them to support the legislation to change the Mass Flag and Seal; the bill numbers in the House and Senate are H.2776 and S.1877.

To find their phone numbers go to: [www.malegislature.gov/Search/FindMyLegislator](http://www.malegislature.gov/Search/FindMyLegislator)

### 2. PLEASE SHARE OUR WEBSITE ACROSS YOUR STATEWIDE NETWORKS

[ChangeTheMassFlag.com](http://ChangeTheMassFlag.com)

With racism on the rise in America, isn't it time for Massachusetts to lead the way by resetting relations with the original inhabitants of the land? You can help! Tell your state legislators to support changing the state flag and seal today!