

United States Board on Geographic Names  
Foreign Names Committee  
Statement Regarding the Name of the Capital of Ukraine

At its 398th meeting on June 11, 2019, the Foreign Names Committee of the United States Board on Geographic Names (BGN) voted unanimously to retire the spelling “Kiev” as a BGN Conventional name for the capital of Ukraine. The spelling “Kyiv” has been the BGN Approved name since 2006,<sup>1</sup> and is now the only name available for standard use within the United States (U.S.) Government, per the authority of the BGN.

This action was taken upon a recommendation made to the BGN by the U.S. Department of State. The spelling “Kiev” is now a BGN Variant name, and is no longer considered official.

Congress established the BGN in its present form in 1947 with the express mandate to standardize geographic nomenclature for official U.S. Government use.

September 2019

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<sup>1</sup> The BGN based its 2006 decision on a recommendation from the U. S. Department of State that the locally used Latin alphabet rendering of the place name (Київ in Ukrainian Cyrillic) is Kyiv. The 1965 BGN/PCGN Romanization System for Ukrainian, used for other place names in Ukraine, renders this name as “Kyiv.”