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## PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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## EXCITING ELECTION NEWS IN THE VILLAGE OF SUMMIT!

The Village of Summit Administrator-Clerk/Treasurer Debbie Michael is excited to introduce the Badger Book system to the Village electors at the upcoming February 18, 2020 Primary Election.

Ms. Michael explains that this system will streamline the voter check in and voter registration process on Election Day. It will additionally reduce tasks that have been completed by her and her staff after Election Day, such as recording voter participation and entering new registrations. She offers a friendly reminder that like with any new technology today, there could be some glitches and there will definitely be a learning curve for Election Inspectors, staff and voters.

"Additionally, when a voter enters the polling place here at the Village Hall, it might look completely different than in the past and that is a result of implementing the Badger Book system as well. Since all voters can be contained within the Badger Books system, there is no longer a need to divide voters into separate lines based on Wards or Last Name like we had done in the past when using the old paper poll book system." Ms. Michael emphasized that patience and understanding on everyone's part will go a long way to make this transition pleasant for all.

In 2017, Wisconsin Elections Commission (WEC) staff developed an electronic poll book system to be used in polling places in Wisconsin on Election Day. The "Badger Book" is electronic poll book software that is specific to Wisconsin elections practices and statutes. This is the only electronic poll book software created with direct WisVote integration. Badger Books within each polling place connect securely to each other, but do not connect to the internet or any other network outside the polling place. Security is a number 1 concern of WEC and they have taken a layered defense approach to reduce risk.

The Badger Book is primarily used to check in voters, process absentee ballots, and register voters on Election Day. It maintains the voter number and count independent of poll worker input. After Election Day, a data file generated from the Badger Book is used to upload election participation and Election Day Registration information into WisVote. Only the data necessary to run the election is included in this program (no birthday's or driver's license data is on the e-poll book, with exception of Election Day Registrations).

Please feel free to reach out to Administrator-Clerk/Treasurer Michael at 262.567.2757 or [administrator@summitvillage.org](mailto:administrator@summitvillage.org) for further information or questions.

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