

Badger Book

Wisconsin has adopted an electronic poll book system, known as the Badger Book, to enhance the efficiency and security of elections. Developed by the Wisconsin Elections Commission (WEC) in 2017, the Badger Book is the only electronic poll book authorized for use in Wisconsin elections.

Benefits of Badger Books

The Badger Book is an innovative tool designed to streamline Election Day processes, offering benefits such as:

- Faster voter check-ins and registrations
- Improved polling place flow and reduced errors
- Enhanced data quality and post-election reconciliation

How Badger Books Work

Prior to Election Day, municipal clerks securely load voter information into the Badger Book system. On Election Day, the devices perform two primary functions:

- Checking in voters
- Facilitating Election Day voter registrations

After the election, participation data is uploaded into WisVote, the state's secure voter registration system. This process ensures timely and accurate voter participation updates in MyVote Wisconsin.

Security and Connectivity

The Wisconsin Elections Commission prioritizes security in all election processes, and the Badger Book system incorporates multiple safeguards:

- Badger Books are never connected to the internet.
- Data is securely transferred to devices using encrypted USB drives.
- Each device is password-protected, with individual credentials required for poll workers.
- Devices communicate only within the polling place through a secure, encrypted local network.

These measures help ensure that voter data remains protected throughout the election process.

Municipal Participation Is Optional

Use of the Badger Book system is optional. Municipalities may choose to implement it based on their individual needs. The Wisconsin Elections Commission provides the Badger Book application and ongoing support at no cost, while municipalities are responsible for obtaining the necessary hardware.

Commitment to Fair and Secure Elections

The Badger Book reflects Wisconsin's ongoing commitment to fair, efficient, and secure elections, supporting modern election administration while maintaining public trust.

For more information about the Badger Book or to ask questions, contact the Wisconsin Elections Commission at (608) 261-2028 or email epollbook@wi.gov. Additional resources are available on the Wisconsin Elections Commission website at elections.wi.gov.