

BADGER BOOKS FAQ

What are Badger Books?

Badger Books are electronic poll books used to check in voters, check in absentee ballots, and process Election Day registrations. Badger Books are the only electronic poll book system authorized for use in Wisconsin.

Do other communities use Badger Books?

Yes. The electronic poll book system was first developed in 2017 and the number of communities in Wisconsin using them has increased steadily in recent years.

Why are Badger Books being used?

- Improved wait times for voters: Poll workers no longer search through a large book to find your name and poll books are no longer divided by last name.
- Efficient voter registration on Election Day: Paper registration forms are no longer completed on Election Day; proof of residency is still required to register.
- Efficient absentee ballot processing on Election Day: Poll workers scan a bar code on the envelope containing the absentee ballot to locate the voter and assign a voter number instead of using a large book to look for each voter.
- Voter participation statistics available faster on myvote.wi.gov. The time for Clerks to record voter participation after an election is drastically reduced.

Are Badger Books connected to the internet?

Badger Books are not connected to the internet. Badger Books in each polling place have a secure connection with each other but are unable to connect to the internet or any other network outside of the polling place.

Do Badger Books contain my personal information?

If you were already registered to vote at your current address, Badger Books contain only the same data printed in a paper poll book: name, address, ward, and voter registration number. No birth dates or driver's license data is stored in the tablet with the exception of Election Day registrations.

Do Badger Books change the voting process?

No. Voters are still required to state their name and address and show photo ID to the poll worker at the Badger Book. The voter will then sign the Badger Book using their finger on the screen. The rest of the process, including voting by paper ballot and feeding the ballot into the tabulator, will not change.

What else should I know about Badger Books?

The 2023 February Primary is the first election at which Burke poll workers will use Badger Books. Please be patient with poll workers and staff learning to use them. It is our goal to have poll workers and staff trained and comfortable using Badger Books before 2024 elections for which we anticipate very high turnout.

Also of note, Burke has not yet received printers that function with Badger Books due to supply chain issues. The Badger Book will assign the voter number but poll workers will issue manual voter number slips until printers arrive and voter number slips can be printed by the Badger Book system.

Questions? Contact the Clerk's office at 608-825-8420 or info@townofburke.com or view this brief video on the WI Elections Commission web site: [Badger Book at the Polls](#)