Badger Book Purchasing Considerations

When deciding on whether Badger Books are the right fit for your municipality, it is important to consider the following items:

- **Electronic Poll Book Capabilities**
    - The main three functions of the electronic poll book include checking in voters, processing Election Day Registrations, and recording absentee ballots. All of these functions will be completed electronically (no paper EDRs or pre-numbering absentee ballots).
    - Some processes will continue to be completed on paper:
        - creating and tracking provisional ballots
        - creating and tracking challenged ballots
        - checking a voter against the Ineligible Voter List
    - Municipalities who have separate central count locations may choose to incorporate Badger Books in that process and separate server machines will be required.

- **IT Support**
    - As Badger Books are electronic poll books, it is important that you have strong IT staff that will be involved during the whole process. Invite IT staff to Badger Book training and encourage them to be a part of your team to help ensure you have technical support leading up to and on Election Day.
    - Clerk familiarity with computers and WisVote is also important. There are tasks that must be completed in WisVote (e.g. preparing the poll book and transferring it, using a USB device, to the Badger Book server).

- **Storing Badger Books**
    - Each stand-alone Badger Book device will be delivered in a box that is 26 in x 20 in x 12 in. Each integrated Badger Book device will be delivered in a box that is 17.5 in x 20 in x 12 in. In addition, there will be some smaller boxes delivered with accessories.
    - You must have a plan on where and how to securely store each Badger Book device, including during non-election times. WEC staff may provide recommendations for storage solutions, and currently there is currently no uniform storage option.
    - A plan on how to get your Badger Books to and from each polling place for Election Day will need to be created.

- **Super User for Each Polling Place**
    - WEC staff recommends that each polling place have a dedicated "Super User" who will be the "go-to" staff for any Badger Book questions that come up on Election Day (consider election inspectors other than/in addition to the Chief Inspector, who will have other responsibilities on Election Day).
    - A Super User should be a person with strong technology/computer skills.

- **Computer Skills of Election Inspectors**
    - WEC staff developed the Badger Book application to be user friendly; however, staff also recommends that election inspectors possess basic computer skills. Consider assigning inspectors that have enhanced skills, especially typing skills, to focus on Election Day Registrations.

- **Phased Implementation Plan**
  - o For municipalities with more than one polling place, a gradual implementation may be beneficial.

- **Training Time for Election Inspectors**
  - o You will need to promote Badger Book to gain the acceptance of election inspectors.
  - o Plan multiple opportunities to train election inspectors on the Badger Books.
  - o Hands on time with the Badger Books ahead of Election Day is the most effective training strategy to ensure your election inspectors are familiar, confident, and comfortable on Election Day.

- **Public Outreach**
  - o Residents may be nervous or resistant to this change. Make plans how to notify and educate the voters in your municipality about the Badger Books.
    - ▪ Invite the public to see a Badger Book demonstration ahead of an election.
    - ▪ Educate your election inspectors on how to take questions from the public.

- **The Number Election Day Registrations (EDRs) Completed at Each Polling Place**
  - o As a certain amount of data entry is required to process each EDR, this process may take longer than having voters go through the traditional paper process (the paper process will not be an option if using Badger Books).
  - o A greater number of Badger Books will likely be necessary at polling places on/near college campuses compared to your other polling places (generally, WEC staff recommends 1 Badger Book per 800 voters, plus 1 per polling place).

- **Physical Layout of Polling Places**
  - o Each Badger Book needs to be plugged in to a power source.
  - o Each polling place needs to plug in a router in the voting area, out of reach of voters, and close enough to the devices to ensure maximum performance.
  - o Consider changing the flow of the polling place based on the need for electricity and ensuring that cords do not get unplugged or create a tripping hazard.

- **Contingency Plans**
  - o Printed paper poll books are mandatory (the same number as would be required to run your polling place without the devices), in case of an emergency where the power goes out and/or the devices become inoperative. In its current state, Badger Books do not have a battery back-up. You may separately purchase your own battery back-up system.

- **Wisconsin Elections Commission & Paragon Development Services**
  - o There will be parts of this process where you will be working with staff at the Wisconsin Elections Commission, and other parts where you will be working strictly with employees of the hardware supplier, Paragon Development Services (PDS).
    - ▪ WEC staff develops and maintains the software. Staff will help train on how to use the Badger Books and how to run an election using the Badger Books, including the pre and post-election data transfer processes.
    - ▪ PDS will sell and deliver the actual Badger Book devices.