1) Briefly describe your experience with Badger Books.
   - Overall the Badgerbooks have provided improved efficiency and accuracy for our elections. There can be technology setbacks at times but WEC support is very helpful.
   - I'd be happy to discuss Badger Books, as we love them here! We got the Badger Books in early 2019 and have been using them ever since. We were one of the first 30 municipalities to get them and it's been the best thing to happen to our election process.
   - I'd love to tell you about my experience with Badger Books. They are amazing, and I count myself lucky I was able to convince our council to purchase them. I started my clerk position in August of 2020 – a week before the August election. Then the 2020 Presidential – oof. We have 21 wards and are divided by a Congressional line, so we generally have a lot of different ballot styles. Voter confusion has always been an issue, and I've had to split a majority of my poll books two or three ways. It always resulted in voters crowded around the information desk, or the maps, trying to figure out what ward they are in – with almost 5,000 registered voters, you can probably imagine the chaos. We had our first Badger Book election in November of 2022. It was a fairly large election to start out with vs. a small primary, but I had ordered the books back in 2021 and had only just gotten them (finally) so I was bound and determined to get them going. One thing I would point out, is that if you get them, your voters MUST be made aware as soon as possible. I had updates on Facebook and our website, I did an interview with our local cable company, and was on the front page of the newspaper just to get the word out. I didn't want my voters getting upset, as people are already weird about elections and using a new technology can make it even worse. Don't skip this step, I think it helped so much with our voters accepting them. We get comments all the time, "wow that was fast," "wow, that was easy," "wow, those are cool," and most recently, a repeated "those are slick!" Then you must worry about training. My initial Badger Book training had over 50 participants, including poll workers and clerks from other municipalities who wanted to learn more about them. I didn't force my clerks who were uncomfortable with computers, we still need people on the ballot tables and greeters, so no one had to do something they weren't comfortable with. I put a mock election on there and let them check in people, do absentees, and do registrations until they felt good about it. Our first election with them was amazing, but had a couple hiccups that we remedied, but you have to start somewhere. I'll cover them under number 3. Badger Books are worth every penny. You can call me anytime. I have a tendency to gush about Badger Books because I love them so much. I was tempted to sign up to become a trainer for them, but I'm just so busy, I don't want to commit. I would be happy to set up a Badger Book in my office with a fresh election if you ever want to come to Tomah and play with them. I can set up two or three if you want to bring a CI and your Deputy.
     - La Crosse Tribune Article: https://lacrossetribune.com/community/tomahjournal/news/badger-books-await-tomah-voters/article_62b5f0ae-5964-11ed-a1e5-e7383ed76b03.html
     - Press Release: https://www.tomahwi.gov/sites/default/files/fileattachments/clerk039s_office/page/3967/press_release_-_badger_book.pdf

- o Tomah Website Badger Book info Prior to 2021 Nov Election :
  https://www.tomahwi.gov/clerk/page/2022-november-general-election
- Excellent. I have become a huge advocate for getting them after seeing them in action.

2) Have you saved time in the post-election reporting & reconciliation process? About how long did it take you to reconcile the April 4th election?
- Absolutely, Badgerbooks are a time saver. Post-election, it takes me about 15 minutes to save the pollbook data from the Badgerbook and upload it to WisVote. My last reconciliation had the issue that 2 voter numbers were issued to the same voter (the system identifies the issue and corrected automatically- but during the election our count was off and I found it manually and noted on the inspector statement) I plan on fixing this issue next election by hardwiring the badgerbooks to the router, I think with our addition of a 3rd badgerbook, the wireless connection wasn't as good. We had 21 Election Day registrations and since the addresses were already in the system there is no data entry required. If it is a new address it may take me 5 minutes to verify the address pin in WisVote but the process is very smooth.
- Yes, we save lots of time on the backend. The system records EDRs automatically, flagging records to merge voter profiles when they match up. I would say that the election wrap-up maybe takes 2 hours or so. Not much work at all.
- It's insane how much time I save on the post-election reporting and reconciliation process. We had 1,929 voters and 39 EDR's in the April 4th election. I had all of my voter participation in by 10am the day after the election – and I was goofy that morning as most of us are after working a 17-hour day and getting 4 hours of sleep. Reconciliation was just a few clicks after entering the inspector statements. It's a breeze. The only thing you need to worry about is making sure to add any addresses that were added during EDRs and move the pins around.
- Absolutely. Spent about 30 minutes – if that – reconciling.

3) Were there unexpected aspects (either positive or negative) of Badger Books that you encountered after you implemented it?
- My senior election inspectors preferred them because the language and rules are built into the system. It tells them exactly what they needed to ask the voter and made sure we had all of the necessary information. They were a lot more comfortable with processing registrations and it even gives all the samples of acceptable photo ID. They also like the re-direct option if someone is at the wrong polling place, we can tell them exactly where they need to go. The process for check-in is faster. We got a 3rd to process absentees and utilize for registrations. A negative is that we can't find a pen that works to write your name with on the screen, sometimes people have difficulty if they try to write it with their finger nail instead of the pad of their finger. It is definitely more technical to setup and troubleshoot, so someone familiar with technology would be an asset if you are considering Badgerbooks. I download the data from WIsVote and upload it to the Badgerbook software on Monday. I also print the pollbooks for backup incase there is an issue with the system/power.

- I don't think anything unexpected. They were a bit slow at first but with the updates to the software it is great now. We can now scan IDs, which wasn't at first and that makes it so much easier.
- Positive, there are numerous: Much faster poll lines, eliminates voter confusion, less poll workers needed, and I cannot emphasize how nice it is for voters to get into ANY line and check in, or my absentee table being able to flip over to check people in if the lines get long or they get done processing absentees. Also, you don't pre-number your absentees, so that's another time saver. The way you process them at the election is give them voter numbers straight from the Badger book – absentee processors don't have to get in line and bug the poll book workers to put numbers in. Also poll books: It's so much more accurate, because in the old way, inevitably, someone forgets to write something in the poll book, or puts a voter number next to the wrong name, etc. You only have one person running a Badger book, not two, so you don't have that issue. Negative: one little glitch that happened to us both in Nov 21 and Feb 22 elections was the Badger Books somehow assigned two voter numbers to one person (just once each election) so my numbers were off, but now I know what to look for. The Badger Book team is aware of the glitch so hopefully they fix it. Another potential negative: we currently use the Fire Dept garage for our elections, and it's old and somewhat dirty, so finding a way to get electricity to all the books can be a pain. Not an issue if you're in a nice, clean, or new place. (I'm looking into changing to the Police Station next year). Third: not that this is a negative for Badger Books, exactly, but you still need to print and have everything available at your election in the case of an emergency and need to go to paper. So, I call that negative (and annoying) but it's a necessary evil.
- None come to mind.

4) Are there additional costs after the initial purchase and implementation?
- You can see that I purchased a utility storage container so be sure to have space for storage. I buy badgerbook paper rolls for the built-in voter number printer and batteries for my wireless mouse/keyboard.
- We found the keyboards and mice that shipped with the devices were way too small and purchased larger replacements, so that was unexpected. However, when we subsequently bought 2 more devices, they now ship with larger keyboards. Other than that, they offer an extended warranty for $100 each and we opted for that, but it wasn't until 3 years later that we had to pay for it.
- No additional costs so far. I did order a whole box of printer paper initially, but I'll need more after we run out. I spend less on tear-off voter numbers, so I'm calling that a wash. If someone breaks a mouse or keyboard, you'd have to replace it, but they are everyday corded mice and keyboards, so cheap to replace.
- No. Our staff was able to set them up. Extra cost might include the training sessions we did for the pollworkers.

5) Do your poll workers like Badger Books?

- Yes, especially the scan feature to just scan the drivers license to find the voter. Sometimes they accidentally minimize the screen or close the program but simply opening it back up is fine with no negative consequence.
- Our poll workers were naturally a bit hesitant at first, given the general demographic being retirees over 60. However, they caught on very fast. Most of them say it saves time and reduces error. I agree with them – especially in elections with multiple ballot styles.
- My poll workers LOVE the Badger books. They actually fight over who gets to do Badger Books vs. who gets to do ballots. It's worth taking the extra time training them until they felt comfortable, (some still don't, and that's ok I have over 50 poll workers). I've found I have a much more dynamic and diverse team of poll workers now. I have 19-year-old young men up to more than 80-year-old women, it's so great and I think my voters like to see the diversity. We get comments all the time.
- They love them. I ordered them here and for the Town of Merrimac (my former employer). I live in Merrimac and have been helping them transition a new clerk. The poll workers in both location objected initially but love them now that they see them in action.

6) Were you able to cut the number of poll workers you employed on Election Day?
- Yes, we are able to cut poll workers with 1 person at each computer and 1 person assisting with issuing ballots in-between. Before we had 5 people at that station.
- Yes, we were able to cut quite a few. Whereas we would normally have 2 people per ballot style, we now have 2 people per 2 ballot styles. Since the voter gets a receipt indicating the ballot style, we were comfortable with them being able to handle multiple. We also don't need multiple people per poll book since the voter is signing with their finger. On a typical (one ballot style) election we would typically have: one greeter, four at the badger books, two at the ballot table, one at the ballot box, and 2 chief floaters. We don't usually use all seven badger books we have except for in governor and presidential elections. In those elections, we use 2 badger books in a separate room specifically for EDRs and then 5 badger books to check in voters.
- Yes, I've been able to go down to half of what I normally would use for poll books only. You still need the same amount for giving out ballots. In April, I ran with 19 poll workers. (6 Badger Books used, but one was for absentees). For reference, I had 27 poll workers for Spring 2022.
- Yes we did. We don't need two people for each poll book – only one.