



Ballot Table

Observer Guide

1

Voter Slip

Voters give the poll workers at the ballot table their voter slip. This is proof that they checked in at the poll book. The voter slip is color coordinated with the poll book and a stripe of color along the top of the ballot. If a polling place has only one ward and one school district, the poll book, voter slips, and ballots will all be white.



For elections with school district offices or referenda, there will be wards that contain two or three school districts. Highlighting on the poll book tells poll workers each voter's school district. They use a highlighter to coordinate voter slips with the color stripe at the top of the ballot for that school district. Poll workers at the ballot table verify the school district with the voters.

2

Two Options for Marking Ballot

Poll workers ask if the voter would like to mark their ballot with a pen or with a touch screen. Both options have a paper trail, and are counted by the DS-200 tabulator.



Voters marking their ballot with pen may use a black or blue ballpoint pen. We ask that voters not use gel pens because the ink doesn't dry fast enough, can gum up in the scanner, and can cause the tabulator to jam.

Voters marking their ballot with a touch screen use the ExpressVote accessible voting device. This is a printer that marks the voter's ballot card with selections made using a touch screen or braille keypad. The ExpressVote offers large print, high contrast, and Spanish translation. It is compatible with sip and puff devices.

3

Poll Workers Initial Ballot

Two poll workers initial the ballot before issuing the ballot to the voter.



4

Instructions

For voters choosing to mark their ballot with pen, poll workers ask if the voter is familiar with how to mark this type of ballot. If the voter is not familiar, poll workers will use the signs on the table to explain that the voter should fill in at least half the oval by each candidate of their choice.





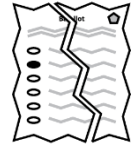
Referenda Questions

Poll workers may not explain referenda questions to voters. They may only point voters to the posted legal notice explaining the effect of a yes or no vote.



Issuing Replacement Ballots

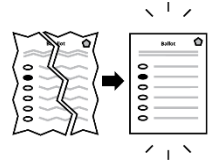
If a voter makes a mistake marking their ballot, they may get a replacement ballot from the ballot table. They will partially tear their spoiled ballot and place it in the Discarded Ballots envelope. Voters are permitted up to two replacements.



Issuing Ballots for Remaking Absentees

If the poll workers processing absentee ballots encounter a ballot that the tabulator will be unable to read, they duplicate the ballot based on voter intent. The ballot they need to remake may be torn, marked with red or green ink, marked in a manner other than filling in the ovals, or may contain an overvote.

The poll workers processing absentees bring the ballot that needs to be duplicated to the ballot table to obtain a blank ballot. The ballot table poll workers also issue a set of good ballot/bad ballot stickers to help sequentially number each pair of original and duplicated ballots. The original ballot marked by the voter is secured in a Ballots that Have Been Duplicated envelope. Both ballots will be compared side-by-side if there is a recount.



Public Test

The Public Test held 10 days before Election Day tested every DS-200 tabulator, every ward, every ballot style, and every office and question on the ballot to ensure accurate vote tallies on election night.



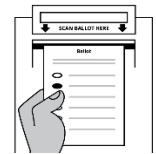
Ballot Design

The Dane County Clerk's Office designs our ballots using a standalone computer for ballot design and election coding. The computer is not connected to a network or the internet.



Optical Scan

The DS-200 tabulators used in Dane County use the same type of technology that is used for standardized tests. The DS-200 is a single-purpose voting device. Once its programming is installed, it isn't possible for a separate device to overwrite it. Security passwords cannot be bypassed or deactivated.



On election morning, poll workers verify the serial number on the tamper-evident seal that was placed on the tabulator security access door at the Public Test. The DS-200 memory stick is digitally signed for each election.



Audits

Dane County audits the results of several reporting units after results have been certified. Madison is always included in this audit. The County Clerk puts images of all ballots online. You can conduct your own audit at elections.countyofdane.com/Auditing.



The Wisconsin Elections Commission selects hundreds of reporting units for a Post-Election Voting Equipment Audit after every November election. The audit includes at least one reporting unit for each of Wisconsin's 72 counties. Madison is always included in this audit.