

Electronic Poll Book Frequently Asked Questions

Why are we changing to electronic poll books?

- We want to greatly reduce the amount of time that voters wait in line to vote on election day. During the 2024 general election at the Powell fairgrounds voters reported waiting in line for almost 2 hours to vote. In counties that use electronic pollbooks the average reported wait time for voters is 5-15 minutes. Electronic poll books also increase election security and integrity by running real time voter ID checks and updating every 2 minutes across the entire system.

What is the current system and how does it compare to electronic poll books?

- Currently on election day our polling locations are paper based for both registration and poll books. If a voter needs to make changes to their registration or register to vote in Park County, they go to the registration table and fill out the paper registration form in its entirety. Next, they go to the election judge working the registration table. This judge has to manually check the address written on the registration form and assign the voter to the correct precinct so they receive the correct ballot to vote. After the registration step is complete the voter then gets in line for the poll books. Voters who are already registered appear in the poll books, those who are not are manually entered in the back of the poll book. Election judges working the poll books work in teams of 2 and are responsible for checking in voters prior to voting and keeping track of how many voters have been checked in. After a voter has been checked in at the poll books, they are then issued a ballot to vote.
- With electronic poll books this same process will remain but it will be greatly economized. Instead of working in teams of 2 on poll books, each election judge will have their own electronic poll book station so we will be able to double the capacity to process voters. If a voter needs to register or make changes to their registration, they will be able to do that at an electronic poll book station and will be able to do the whole process start to finish without having to stand in multiple lines. Another benefit to using electronic poll books, is that when someone registers to vote their information will be run through the same system as if they were in our office. What this means is that the information will be run through real time to verify citizenship and felony status of the applicant. This helps to ensure that only eligible voters are voting in our elections. With the current system, we are unable to run those checks until after election day when our office is processing election day registrations.

Are electronic poll books safe and secure?

- Yes. There are required protocols in place to ensure security throughout the process. The county owned computers that we will use for electronic poll books are subject to strict requirements set by the Secretary of States office, such as: password protection, disabled Bluetooth, no web camera, and remove all proprietary software, just to name a few. The data necessary to run electronic poll books is encrypted and after each election all computers used are required to be wiped. The electronic poll book computers are subject to the same strict chain of custody protocols that we use for our other election equipment. There have been no instances of interference or a system breach reported from any county that uses electronic pollbooks.

Does use of electronic poll books mean that we will be using vote centers or changing how voters vote in Park County?

- No. Park County **will not** be implementing vote centers. We will use all 8 polling locations that we used during the 2024 election cycle. Electronic poll books do not impact the voting options available to Park County voters. Voters will still be able to vote using whatever method they prefer; absentee, early voting, or voting at their polling location on election day are all options available to voters.

Does use of electronic poll books mean electronic voting?

- No. Voters will continue to vote using pen & paper ballots. The use of electronic poll books is exclusive to poll books, moving from paper to electronic.

What electronic poll book system will we be using?

- We will be using the electronic poll book module of the state maintained and run Wyoming Voter Registration System (WyoReg). This is the system that we already use in the office on a daily basis and using it for electronic poll books ensures that all voter data is secure and there is no chance of third-party access.

Will there be a paper trail with electronic poll books?

- Yes. There will still be a paper trail with the use of electronic poll books. Every time a voter registers or makes changes to their registration, a registration form will be generated by the system and the voter will review and sign the form and then an election judge will also sign it. That form is then returned to the election's office. After a voter is checked in at an electronic poll book station, they will be given a system generated ticket that contains their name, ballot style (what ballot they should be given to vote), and their party. This ticket is given to the election judge working the ballot table. The judge checks the ticket to issue the correct ballot and then keeps the ticket. Lastly, the biggest component of the paper trail are the paper ballots themselves.

Are electronic poll books connected to the internet? What if connectivity is lost?

- Yes, electronic poll books are connected to the internet and can be connected using either a hard-wired internet connection or through Wi-Fi. If Wi-Fi is used as the connection method it is required to be through a static, known, and secure IP address. It is not permitted to access electronic poll books from an unauthorized or unsecure Wi-Fi network. If connectivity is lost, electronic poll books can be used offline and voters will still be able to be checked in and vote. When connectivity is restored the electronic poll book module and WyoReg will sync and update data.

How many counties use electronic poll books and for how long?

- Six counties currently use electronic poll books. Some have used electronic poll books for over a decade and others have recently switched to use electronic poll books for the first time during the 2024 election cycle.

Have there been any reported issues with the WyoReg electronic poll book system?

- During the 2022 primary election, Fremont County experienced extended lagging with the system and ran electronic poll books offline while the issue was being resolved. Working with the Secretary of States office the issue was determined to be with the data upload. In order for the electronic poll book to work in real time, every 2 minutes the data between the electronic poll book module and the main WyoReg system is refreshed and uploads what occurred since the last refresh. In the case of Fremont County, the refresh was pulling all of the data for the entire day every time instead of just the new information and was creating very large data files that greatly slowed the electronic poll book system. Once the issue was identified it was resolved within hours.

Does the Secretary of State support the use of electronic poll books?

- The Secretary of State has remained firm in his position that the use of electronic poll books is a decision that is squarely left up to each county. The Secretary of State's office continues to technologically maintain and financially support the electronic poll book module itself.