



CLERK'S OFFICE MEMO

To: **Common Council**

From: **Katie Panella, City Clerk**

Date: **November 5, 2025**

Subject: **Proposed Amendments to Ordinance 1.03, Regarding Locations of Polling Places**

A. Background/Rationale

The City currently has the following:

- Registered Voters (as of 11/5/2025): 42,624
- No. of Wards: 54
- No. of City-owned Polling Places: 8
- No. of non-City owned Polling Places: 5
- Total No. of Polling Places: 13
 - Aldermanic Districts 4 and 13 share voting location at Northview Building
 - Aldermanic Districts 6 and 12 share voting location at Bridge Church
- No. of poll workers and absentee processors: 670 (some work full days, some work half days)

The Clerk's Office proposed changes for consolidating polling locations:

- Elks Lodge, 2301 Springdale Road
 - Aldermanic District 1, Wards 1,2,3,4
- City Hall, 201 Delafield Street
 - Aldermanic District 2, Wards 5,6,7,8
 - Aldermanic District 4, Wards 16,17,18
- Schuetze Recreation Building, 1120 Baxter Street
 - Aldermanic District 3, Wards 9,10,11,12,13,14,15
 - Aldermanic District 13, Wards 46,47,48
- Expo Center, 1000 Northview Road
 - Aldermanic District 5, Wards 19,20,21
 - Aldermanic District 14, Wards 49,50,51
- Bridge Church, 1314 S. Grand Avenue
 - Aldermanic District 6, Wards 22,23,24
 - Aldermanic District 12, Wards 43,44,45
- National Guard Armory, 311 Walton Avenue
 - Aldermanic District 7, Wards 25,26,27
 - Aldermanic District 9, Wards 32,33,34
- Waukesha Public Library, 321 Wisconsin Avenue
 - Aldermanic District 8, Wards 28,29,30,31
 - Aldermanic District 11, Wards 40,41,42

- EB Shurts, 810 W. College Avenue
 - Aldermanic District 10, Wards 35,36,37,38,39
 - Aldermanic District 15, Wards 52,53,54

With the implementation of Badger Books during the 2026 Election Cycle, the City has the opportunity to consolidate our current polling location sites and move to larger City-owned buildings, providing more permanent security for polling sites.

B. Key Issues for Consideration

- Poll Workers. With the implementation of Badger Books, the City will need less poll workers as a whole, as Badger Books are only required to have one poll worker per book during the check-in process. This implementation will reduce the number of poll workers from 670 to approximately 350.
- Election Equipment and Supplies. Several departments assist in the coordination and delivery of our election supplies. Each polling location has different needs regarding ADA compliance, size and equipment. We are currently in three polling locations that are not in ADA compliance, and we provide extra equipment and supplies to be able to comply.
- Voters. With the implementation of Badger Books, voters will have the opportunity to go to any line to provide the required information to poll workers to obtain a ballot. Voters will no longer have to wait in a specific line, which will provide a smoother, quicker experience for the resident. The voter will still have to be in the correct Aldermanic District; however, they will not need to stand in a specific line based on their ward.
- Absentee Voters. Over the past few years, there has been an increase in absentee voting participation, which decreases the number of voters who physically vote on Election Day at their assigned polling location.
 - November 2022 General Election (31.97% voted absentee)
 - Total of 30,794 Voters (Absentee and Election Day)
 - Total of 9,846 Absentee Ballots Processed
 - Total of 20,948 Voters on Election Day
 - April 2024 Spring Election (33.17% voted absentee)
 - Total of 14,596 Voters (Absentee and Election Day)
 - Total of 4,842 Absentee Ballots Processed
 - Total of 9,754 Voters on Election Day
 - November 2024 General Election (51.86% voted absentee)
 - Total of 40,366 Voters (Absentee and Election Day)
 - Total of 20,933 Absentee Ballots Processed
 - Total of 19,433 Voters on Election Day
 - April 2025 Spring Election (37.60% voted absentee)
 - Total of 27,428 Voters (Absentee and Election Day)
 - Total of 10,314 Absentee Ballots Processed
 - Total of 17,114 Voters on Election Day

C. Staff Recommendation.

Staff recommends the approval of Ordinance amending Section 1.03 of the Waukesha Municipal Code, Regarding the Locations of Polling Places.