

WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA SECTION COMMITTEE

For Immediate Release

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**NEWS
RELEASE**

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AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS TO VOTE ON NEW SECTION

The ARRL, the National Amateur Radio Association, has ordered a vote on the proposed West Central Florida Section. League members in nine West Central Florida counties will be receiving an official ballot sometime in the next three weeks. Members are asked to cast their vote and return the ballot to ARRL Headquarters in Newington CT.

The ballot, according to Rick Palm, ARRL Field Services Manager, will ask each member if their county of residence should be moved to the new West Central Florida Section. A YES vote will approve the question. The more votes approving the move, the better the chances this new Section will be created.

The nine counties involved are Charlotte, DeSoto, Hardee, Highlands, Hillsborough, Manatee, Pinellas, Polk and Sarasota. Total ARRL membership in these counties exceed 2,600 members. The new Section, when formed, would rank 26th by population among 71 Sections.

The campaign for this new Section focuses on several key issues:

- Improved visibility and accessibility of Section officials with Clubs and all members
- Improved communications with Clubs and all members
- Greater attention to West Central Florida Amateur Radio issues, including proposed tower ordinances
- Section-wide ARES Emergency/Public Service Coordination
- Better support for ARRL Served Agencies including the Red Cross, the Salvation Army and the National Weather Service
- Growing ARRL membership through better service
- Improving Public Awareness of Amateur Radio through a Speaker's Bureau and a more aggressive media program
- Growing the Amateur Radio ranks through a coordinator Education effort

- Continued support for NTS and ARRL programs

Anyone wanting more information on the West Central Florida Section proposal can contact the Committee by calling toll-free 1-877-WCF-ARRL (877-923-2775) or by visiting the WCF Section Committee's website on the Internet at <http://www.qsl.net/wcfla>.

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