WHAT IS THE DIGITAL TV TRANSITION?

Currently, many over-the-air stations are broadcasting in both analog and digital television formats. After February 17, 2009, full-power TV stations will only broadcast in digital. Digital television (DTV) can provide dramatically clearer pictures, better sound quality, and more program choices. The DTV transition will also free up major portions of the airwaves for public safety communications such as police, fire and rescue, and for new broadband wireless services.

WHY ARE WE SWITCHING TO DTV?

Federal law requires the switch, which will free up frequencies for police, fire, and emergency rescue communications, allow broadcasters to offer programming with better picture and sound quality, more programming choices, and allow for commercial advanced wireless services.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR YOU?

The DTV transition will affect those who watch free over-the-air television (through a rooftop antenna or "rabbit ears"). If you watch over-the-air programs on an analog TV, you must take action before February 17, 2009.

Consumers who receive television signals with an antenna and aren't connected to a cable or satellite service will need to obtain a digital-to-analog set-top converter box to watch over-the-air TV. Without a digital-to-analog converter box, televisions with an antenna only will no longer receive a TV signal. Televisions connected to cable or satellite systems won't need a converter box to continue to work.

WHERE CAN I PURCHASE A CONVERTER BOX?

Converter boxes are available from both national and local retailers, including Best Buy, Radio Shack, and Target. Call ahead to confirm availability of coupon-eligible converter boxes on the day you plan to shop.

CONVERTER BOX COUPONS AVAILABLE NOW!

Digital-to-analog converter boxes are in stores and have a one-time cost of between $40 and $70. Between Jan. 1, 2008, and March 31, 2009, all U.S. households are eligible to request up to two coupons, worth $40 each, to be used toward the purchase of up to two, digital-to-analog converter boxes.

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), a federal agency, has responsibility for administering the coupon program. To receive a coupon(s), visit www.DTV2009.gov or call 1-888-388-2009 or 1-877-530-2634 (TTY). Operators speak multiple languages. The coupons expire 90 days after they are issued.

DTV RESOURCES

General DTV Information
1-888-225-5322 (voice)
1-888-835-5322 (TTY)
www.dtv.gov

Converter Box Coupon Program
1-888-388-2009 (voice)
1-877-530-2634 (TTY)
www.dtv2009.gov

EL MONTE
4401 Santa Anita Avenue
Suite 211
El Monte, CA 91731
(626) 448-1271
(626) 448-8062 Fax

EAST LOS ANGELES
4716 Cesar Chavez Avenue
Building A
East Los Angeles, CA 90022
(323) 307-9904
(323) 307-9906 Fax

WASHINGTON, DC
1414 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-5464
(202) 225-5467 Fax

WEBSITE: WWW.HOUSE.GOV/SOLIS

CONGRESSWOMAN HILDA L. SOLIS

Summer 2008 Update

DEAR 32ND DISTRICT CONSTITUENT:

This coming February, our nation will change the way we view television.

Virtually all television broadcasters will broadcast only a digital signal after February 17, 2009. This change could alter your ability to receive a television signal and programming. This newsletter provides information about the digital television transition and a government coupon program to help pay for the cost of a converter box. Please do not hesitate to contact my El Monte (626-448-1271) or East Los Angeles (323-307-9904) district offices for assistance or visit my website at www.house.gov./solis.

Sincerely,

Hilda L Solis

HILDA L. SOLIS

CONGRESSWOMAN HILDA L. SOLIS
United States House of Representatives
Washington D.C., 20515

Official Business

Hilda L Solis

M.C.
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