



# Congresswoman Hilda L. Solis

## Understanding the Digital Television (DTV) Transition

### Overview of the Transition from Analog to Digital Television (DTV)

On February 17, 2009, the nation's broadcast television stations will switch the way television broadcasting is transmitted over-the-air, and it may affect television viewing in your home. On that date, all television stations will terminate broadcasting analog signals and only digital signals will be transmitted.

The DTV transition will provide television viewers with clearer pictures and more program choices, and will free up major portions of the airwaves for public safety communications such as police, fire and rescue, and for new broadband wireless services.

### What This Means for Consumers

If you use any analog television set which receives television signals with an over-the-air antenna or "rabbit ears" and is not connected to a cable or satellite service, you will need to attach a small digital-to-analog converter box to your television set in order to continue receiving over-the-air television broadcasts. These converter boxes will be sold nationwide at retail stores and online. If your television set is connected to cable or satellite, those service providers will make sure that you will continue to be able to view the same television programming after the transition. Cable and satellite-connected televisions will not need a digital-to-analog converter box to continue to work.

### Federal Government Coupon Program

The federal government has established a coupon program to help offset the cost to purchase a digital-to-analog converter box. All U.S. households may request up to two \$40 coupons to help pay for up to two digital-to-analog converter boxes, which are expected to cost between \$50 and \$70 each.

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), a federal government agency, is in charge of the Digital-to-Analog Converter Box Coupon Program. Once you complete a simple application, the NTIA will mail up to two coupons to your home and a list of local retailers in the area that sell converter boxes. The converter box coupons expire 90 days after they are issued.

Visit [www.dtv2009.gov](http://www.dtv2009.gov) to download a coupon application and obtain more information about the coupon program and the DTV transition. You can also call 1-888-DTV-2009 for an application or more information. Operators speak multiple languages.

For additional information about the DTV Transition and what you may need to do to prepare for it, visit the Federal Communications Commission's website <http://www.dtv.gov> or call 1-888-225-5322.