DTV TRANSITION

In 2005, Congress set a hard deadline of February 17, 2009, for television stations to replace traditional analog broadcasts with digital broadcasts. This switch from analog to digital broadcasting is known as the "Digital Television Transition (DTV Transition) and was done to expand service and provide more options to consumers.   This transition will affect the approximately twenty-one million American households who rely exclusively on free television or over-the-air signals. Many of the households are low-income families, the elderly, minorities and individuals with disabilities who may be unaware of the switch and will need assistance making the transition. As your United States Senator, I am striving to inform every New Jerseyan of the transition.

What is DTV Transition and why are we doing it?
- Under legislation passed by Congress – The Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 -- broadcast television stations are required to turn off their analog signals, and broadcast only in digital in order to expand services for television viewers and free up spectrum for other uses.

Will I be affected by the DTV Transition?

- If you currently rely on rabbit ears or a roof top antenna AND have an analog television, after February 17, 2009, you no longer will be able to receive television programming that way.
- If your television set is attached to cable or satellite you will not be affected.
- If your set has a digital tuner you will not be affected. Most televisions produced recently are equipped with digital tuners.

What do I do if I am affected?

There are three ways for households who currently rely on an analog signal to receive a television signal after the digital transition.

1. **Purchase a DTV converter box**: Consumers can now purchase a DTV converter box that plugs into an existing analog set and allows continued free television reception. The federal government provides up to two $40 coupons to be used toward the purchase of up to two boxes per household.
2. **Purchase a new television set**: Purchase a new television set with a built-in digital tuner. All TVs with a digital tuner will be able to receive the digital signal from television stations.
3. **Subscribe to a pay TV service**: Subscribe to cable, satellite or a telephone company service provider to continue using analog sets.

How do I apply for the "TV Converter Box Coupon Program"?

Each consumer household can apply for up to two $40 coupons that can be used at participating retailers toward the purchase of coupon-eligible converter boxes that will convert digital TV broadcasts to analog signals that can be received by the older TVs. To apply for the NTIA converter box coupons:

- Apply **now** on-line at https://www.dtv2009.gov/ApplyCoupon.aspx
- Call the Coupon Program 24-hour hotline toll-free at **1-888-DTV2009 (1-888-388-2009)**.
- Mail a coupon application to: P.O. Box 2000, Portland, OR, 97208-2000.
- Fax a coupon application to 1-877-DTV-4ME2 (1-877-388-4632).
- Download the application here: https://www.dtv2009.gov/docs/**Coupon_Program_**App_en.**pdf**

New Jerseyans can redeem converter box coupons at a variety of local electronics retailers.This link has a list of participating retailers: https://www.dtv2009.gov/VendorSearch.aspx. **Each coupon will expire 90 days from the date of issuance.**

Why is America Switching to DTV?

DTV is a more efficient way to broadcast, and it will free up the airwaves for a variety of new services. DTV can provide superior quality picture and sound, a wider screen, better color, multiple video programming or a single program of high definition television (HDTV). DTV can be used to provide data services (such as enhanced closed captioning) that are not possible with analog technology.

Have More Questions?

Feel free to call my office with any questions you may have on the transition. Also, here are some websites that may be helpful.

Get answers from the following websites:
- https://www.dtv2009.gov
- www.DTVanswers.com
- www.DTVtransition.org
- www.DTV.gov
- www.ntia.doc.gov/dtvcoupon/index.html