

## Congressman Rothman Reminds Constituents, Transition to Digital Television (DTV) Will Take Place This Friday

(Washington, DC) &ndash; Today, Congressman Steve Rothman (D &ndash; NJ) took time to remind all of his constituents of the upcoming change from analog to digital television transmission, which will take place this Friday, June 12. This switch to an all-digital transmission format, called DTV, will free up valuable spectrum for use by first responders and safety personnel, as well as by the wireless industry to promote innovation and competition for consumers. In addition, the DTV transition will provide television viewers with clearer pictures and more program choices. This transition will bring important improvements to our national security and technology industries, but first we must ensure that all consumers are aware of the upcoming switch.

If you have an analog television set which is connected to cable or satellite, those service providers will make sure that your television set receives a viewable image after the transition. If you have a digital television set, your television is ready for the DTV Transition.

If you have an analog television set which receives signals by means of rabbit ears or an over-the-air antenna and you desire to keep this set in 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 are being sold nationwide at retail stores and online. In addition, the federal government has a coupon program to help offset a portion of the cost to purchase converter boxes.

What should you do? You can do one of three things to ensure a smooth transition:

1. Purchase a digital converter box, which will allow digital signals to play on your analog TV set. Each household is eligible to apply for up to TWO \$40 vouchers to be used towards the purchase of converter boxes. The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), a federal government agency, is in charge of the Digital-to-Analog Converter Box Coupon Program. Upon request, the NTIA will mail up to two coupons and a list of local retailers in the area that sell converter boxes. The converter box coupons expire 90 days after they are issued. For more information about the Coupon Program and how to apply for coupons, go to the NTIA website at [www.dtv2009.gov](http://www.dtv2009.gov) or call 1-888-DTV-2009 (1-888-388-2009).
2. Purchase a new television set equipped with a digital tuner.
3. Subscribe to cable, satellite or dish television service.

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.

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