

FEBRUARY

17TH

2009



Key things to know:

Your current **KPTS** reception will continue without interruption through February 17, 2009.

Converter boxes and rebate coupons are now available; a limited number of rebate coupons are available so apply now by calling 1.888.DTV.2009 (1.888.388.DTV.2009) or going to mydtv2009.gov

To find out more, visit the following websites:

KPTS digital information site
www.kpts.org/about-digital_tv.php

Federal Communications Commission digital site www.dtv.gov and www.dtv2009.gov

National Association of Broadcasters digital site www.dtvanswers.com

KPTS Digital Channels

(Complete schedules are available at www.kpts.org)

KPTS DT1 (8.1)

Regular **KPTS** programs, many in High Definition.

KPTS DT2 (8.2)

PBS national programs are scheduled several hours later than HD1.

KPTS DT3 (8.3)

Create delivers your favorite how-to shows. Cooking, Home Repair, Gardening and Travel.



The Channel that Changes the Viewer

320 WEST 21ST STREET, WICHITA, KS 67203

WWW.KPTS.ORG • 316-838-3090

ARE YOU READY for the SWITCH?

THE SWITCH

What is the switch to digital television?

Analog has been used to transmit TV signals since the medium was invented. Legislation passed by Congress in 2005 requires that all TV stations in the U.S. convert their broadcast signals from analog to digital by February 17, 2009. More than 90 percent of all U.S. stations, including **KPTS**, already broadcast a digital signal.

How will this affect me?

--If you watch an older analog-only TV and use an antenna or rabbit ears to receive over-the-air signals, you will need to make a change to continue watching television after February 17, 2009.

--If you already have a TV with a digital tuner, or have cable or satellite service, your television reception will continue uninterrupted.

How do I tell if my TV set is analog or digital?

If your TV is several years old, most likely it is not digital. If you're in doubt, check your owner's manual to see if it mentions a digital tuner, or look on the set for an indication of an ATSC (Advanced Television Systems Committee) or QAM tuner. If it has one, your set can process a digital signal, and you've already made the digital switch. You can also check the manufacturer's website for full details about your particular model. If there's no mention of digital or QAM or ATSC, then you have an analog set, and you have a switch to make.

What should I do?

For many **KPTS** viewers, there is a simple and inexpensive solution to make the switch. A one-time purchase of a set-top converter box will allow your analog TV to properly display an incoming digital broadcast. After a simple initial setup, your viewing will continue just as before, except you'll have three **KPTS** channels instead of one. Converter boxes are expected to cost between \$50 and \$70. The government is currently offering \$40 rebate coupons to all households bringing the actual cost to \$30 or less. These coupons can only be used towards the purchase of converter boxes. The number of rebates will be limited, so apply now.

TO DIGITAL

Do I have to buy a new TV?

No. If you buy a set-top converter box to work with your analog TV, there's no need to buy a new TV unless you choose to.

What if I decide to buy a new TV?

If you want to upgrade to a new TV set, you'll need to choose between simple digital TV (standard-definition) and high-definition TV (with a superior picture). Although prices are coming down, high-definition TV's will always be more expensive than simple digital sets. As long as you buy a digital TV with an ATSC or QAM digital tuner, you will be making the switch properly.

Is KPTS changing its broadcasts?

KPTS has been broadcasting digital channels for several years, including **KPTS HD (8.1)**, **KPTS DT2 (8.2)**, and **KPTS Create (8.3)**. After the switch to digital is complete, we will have four digital channels, offering our audience expanded program options and viewing times. You'll have three **KPTS** choices every time you turn on your TV!

Why is this switch necessary?

Is digital really better?

There are many advantages to an all-digital broadcast system. Digital television (DTV) allows multiple programs to be broadcast simultaneously within the same bandwidth previously used for a single analog program. (Imagine a congested two-lane road that overnight could carry four times the traffic, without congestion!) This means **KPTS** will be able to offer more channels, programs, schedule choices and variety to all our viewers. Digital picture quality, sound and reception are usually superior; signals are less prone to interference and reception problems; and the picture is free of snow and "ghost" images. DTV will enable stations to transmit additional data services, including significantly improved closed captioning. Bandwidth will also be freed up for use by public agencies and emergency first responders.

TELEVISION!

What's the difference between high-definition TV and digital TV?

High-definition television (HDTV) displays the highest quality digital TV picture. While a standard digital picture consists of 480 horizontal lines on the screen, full HD uses 1,080 lines to compose a much more precisely tuned and beautifully detailed TV picture. (Think of the difference between newspaper photos and those in a glossy magazine.) An HD signal also includes Dolby digital surround sound, which offers a superior sound experience as well. The 2009 switch is merely from analog to digital, however. Going all the way to HD is entirely optional.

Will my current cable or digital service continue to work?

You should be able to continue watching your existing TV with your current cable or satellite service, though some services may require the addition of, or a change in, your set-top box. Cable and satellite systems may not provide all **KPTS** channels; check with your service provider to find out their plans and the details.

Will my antenna work with digital signals?

If your antenna provides a good incoming signal now, it should continue to work with a digital signal. You'll still need to add a converter box or invest in a digital TV.

Will my existing VCR, DVD player and/or camcorder continue to work?

They should continue to function properly in analog with your converter, and in standard-definition digital, but if you're recording from high-definition digital, the resulting copy will only be in standard definition. Very few VCRs have digital tuners, so if you now use a VCR to receive your signal, you will probably still need to use a set top converter box. To be sure, check the manual for your device, or contact the manufacturer or the place of purchase.

