

Rep. Pastor urges constituents to gear up for conversion to all-digital television in 2009

Digital Television Transition: February 17, 2009

What is the DTV Transition?

Currently, many over-the-air stations are broadcasting in both analog and digital TV (DTV) formats. After Feb. 17, 2009, these stations will only broadcast in digital format. This change will improve picture and sound quality, as well as free up broadcast frequencies for police, fire and rescue communications.

However, those who watch free over-the-air television (using a rooftop antenna or “rabbit ears” rather than cable or satellite dish) may need to take action in order to continue receiving broadcast programming.



What should I do to be ready?

To receive most television broadcasts after Feb. 17, 2009, you must have one of the following:

1. **A TV with a built-in digital tuner** (look for markings with the words “Integrated Digital Tuner,” “Digital Tuner Built-In,” “Digital Receiver,” “DTV,” “ATSC” or “HDTV”). Almost all new televisions sold within the last year have built-in tuners.
2. **A digital-to-analog converter box**, which may be purchased in many stores for \$40 to \$70, will allow you to continue using TVs without a built-in digital tuner. Government coupons for purchasing converter boxes are available (two \$40 coupons per household) by calling 1-888-388-2009 (voice), 1-877-530-2634 (TTY), or visiting www.dtv2009.gov. Note: To prevent fraud, do not disclose your Social Security number when applying for the converter box coupon - this information is not required.
3. **A cable or satellite TV subscription**. If you are a cable or satellite subscriber, you will not be affected by the DTV transition.

DTV
Transition
Deadline is:
February 17, 2009

www.dtv.gov

ARE YOU READY?



Rep. Ed Pastor helps Downtown Phoenix Public Market mark 3rd anniversary

Congressman Ed Pastor recently spoke about the federal funding awarded to the Downtown Phoenix Public Market that has helped it thrive and mark a third year of operations. The market is a program of Community Food Connections, a non-profit organization. In the photo on the left, Rep. Pastor discusses the market with Dan Klocke and Cindy Gentry.

How to contact Congressman Ed Pastor

Congressman Ed Pastor's office is in your city to serve your needs. Please keep this information handy to contact his offices for assistance.

<http://www.pastor.house.gov>

Washington Office

2465 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-0302
Phone: (202) 225-4065

Phoenix District Office

411 N. Central Ave., Suite 150
Phoenix, AZ 85004
Phone: (602) 256-0551

Please send postal delivery mail to Phoenix District Office only.

Due to the threat of anthrax-contaminated mail delivered to the Capitol complex, all incoming letters to my Washington Office must be irradiated before delivery, resulting in a delay of at least three weeks. Feel free to send mail instead to my Phoenix District Office. Thanks.

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Planning for the future
March/April 2008
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Ed Pastor

WASHINGTON REPORT

Planning for the future

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Fourth Congressional District - Arizona

March/April 2008

Planning for the future

METRO Light Rail takes shape

Dear Fellow Arizonans,

As your Congressman, one of my responsibilities is to help constituents and all Arizonans achieve a healthy and safe quality of life. With that purpose, I am frequently working with the leadership in Congress to draw attention to Arizona's needs as the state continues to grow and face new challenges.

One challenge we have been addressing in Arizona is our crowded, grid-locked transportation system. As perhaps the first member of Arizona's congressional delegation to support a light rail system in the Valley, I am excited that the Metro Light Rail is taking shape and will be carrying passengers by the end of the year. The light rail system will not only help ease congestion, but reduce air pollution and fuel consumption.

As you read more inside, the theme of "planning for the future" seems to resonate. Among other issues, I've been working with the state to start to facilitate discussions with the federal government about future rail plans for Arizona.



Congressman Ed Pastor, far right, recently toured the Metro Light Rail Operations and Maintenance Center in Phoenix with Phoenix Mayor Phil Gordon, Congressman David Obey from Wisconsin and Leslie T. Rogers, Regional Administrator for the Federal Transit Administration. Rep. Obey, who is chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, visited the rail facility to discuss with Pastor and local officials the federal funding the light rail system has received.

In addition, you'll read more about next year's transition to digital television, and how to prepare for it so that your televisions won't go dark on Feb. 17, 2009.

As always, please feel free to contact my Phoenix office

should you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Ed Pastor
Member of Congress

Rep. Pastor holds foreclosures forum to gauge local impact, hear concerns

Congressman Ed Pastor hosted a housing foreclosures forum in Phoenix this month with special guest House Financial Services Committee Chairman Barney Frank. Pastor invited local practitioners and stakeholders to discuss the subprime mortgage crisis' impact on the Valley, and in particular, the Fourth Congressional District.

Speakers included representatives from the Phoenix Housing and Urban Development Office, Arizona Association of Mortgage Lenders, Arizona Counseling Collaborative, Arizona Foreclosure Prevention Task Force and the Phoenix Association of Realtors.

Rep. Frank chairs the House committee with jurisdiction on housing issues. As such, he has been a leader in Congress in addressing the subprime mortgage collapse and discussed the devastating effect abandoned, foreclosed houses have had on neighborhoods throughout the country. Pastor said he will work with Frank to support legislative initiatives such as funding for financial counseling for families facing foreclosure.



In the photo above, U.S. Reps. Barney Frank and Ed Pastor listen to presentations from Valley practitioners on the state of housing foreclosures in Arizona. Rep. Pastor held a forum on the topic on March 1 in downtown Phoenix. In the photo below, Pastor discussed proposed legislative remedies with Donald Hagan, Elaine Honnenger and Joseph Gutierrez.



Homeowner's Hope Hotline 888-995-HOPE (4673)

The Homeowner's HOPE Hotline with free foreclosure prevention counseling by HUD-approved agency counselors is available:

- To any homeowner having trouble paying their mortgage.
- Anytime - 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.



Keeping our promise to veterans

The quality of health care at the Carl T. Hayden VA Medical Center in Phoenix will continue to improve under additional appropriations funding provided by Congress, announced Rep. Ed Pastor.

An additional \$6.7 million will help complete a construction project in the basement that will allow for expanded services. It will include construction of the Ambulatory Care Clinical Addition, an MRI unit and clinic space for specialty care including medicine and surgery specialties, psychology and mental health.

Phoenix veteran Tofe Eslava was greeted by Congressman Pastor's Staff Assistant Sonia Moreno during the February National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans at the Carl T. Hayden VA Medical Center. Ms. Moreno also recognized Mr. Eslava as the First Place winner of the medical center's art show for veterans.

Meeting Valley's transportation challenges



Mark Yachmetz, Associate Administrator for Railroad Development with the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Railroad Administration, and Rep. Ed Pastor met recently in Phoenix with local officials to discuss federal grant funds Arizona may pursue to help plan for a high-speed passenger line between Phoenix and Tucson.

Rep. Pastor encourages state, key players to seek planning funds for commuter rail between Maricopa, Pima counties

Congressman Ed Pastor recently held a meeting with Arizona Department of Transportation Director Victor Mendez, local state officials and transportation stakeholders to discuss a federal grant program the state could pursue to seek planning funds for a high-speed commuter train between Maricopa and Pima counties that would help ease traffic congestion.

Mark Yachmetz, Associate Administrator for Railroad Development with the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Railroad Administration, spoke to the meeting participants about the importance of collaborating with all parties and putting together a effective proposal for the federal funds.

Pastor urged the group to organize itself and move forward soon if it plans to pursue federal planning funds for such a project.

Children, middle class and environment advocates laud Rep. Pastor's voting record

Rep. Ed Pastor is a strong voice in Congress for children, the squeezed middle class and the environment according to several organizations that recently lauded his voting record.

The nonprofit Children's Defense Fund Action Council named Pastor as one of the "best representatives for children" because he voted to pro-

tect the health and well-being of Arizona's children 100 percent of the time.

When it comes to the middle class, he received an "A" grade from the non-partisan Drum Major Institute for Public Policy, which analyzes the impact of domestic legislation on America's current and aspiring middle class.

Pastor also received a 90 percent score on the League of Conservation Voters 2007 National Environmental Scorecard, which evaluates key votes on issues including energy, global warming, environmental health and safety protections, resource conservation and spending for environmental programs.

Rep. Pastor recently met with representatives from the Grand Canyon Chapter of the Sierra Club to discuss environment-related legislation in Congress. With Pastor are Don Steuter, Jon Findley, Sandy Bahr and Rob Smith.



Bilingual nursing program funds addressing health care industry needs

The Bilingual Nursing Fellowship Program at South Mountain and GateWay community colleges will receive a funding boost, announced Rep. Ed

Pastor. Pastor was successful in securing \$335,000 for the program from the fiscal year 2008 Omnibus bill.



Pastor has been a strong supporter of this innovative program offered by the community colleges in cooperation with Banner Health. The program is intended for those fluent in Spanish and English who are interested in becoming a registered nurse. It also addresses the

critical shortage of registered nurses in Arizona, in particular those who are able to communicate with Spanish-speaking patients.

Students enrolled in the program may complete an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree in Nursing and obtain a nursing license within three years.

The BNFP provides comprehensive, hands-on training in order to improve health care for Spanish-speaking patients. Since May 2005, 38 students have graduated from the program and become RN's. General education courses, nursing instruction, lab experience, and hands-on training make up the course of study.

Mobile office locations for April, May

To assist constituents with any issues they may have with federal agencies, a representative from Congressman Pastor's office will be at the locations below the next few months. No appointments are necessary. More information is available by phoning Rep. Pastor's office at 602-256-0551.

South Mountain Community Center: April 2 and May 7, 10 a.m. to Noon

212 E. Alta Vista, Phoenix

Golden Gate Community Center: April 8, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

1625 N. 39th Ave., Phoenix

Glendale Community Center: April 16 and May 21, 10 a.m. to noon

5401 W. Ocotillo, Glendale

Guadalupe Senior Center: April 22 and May 27, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

9401 S. Avenida del Yaqui, Guadalupe

Desert West Community Center: May 13, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

6501 W. Virginia, Phoenix



Congressman, Mexican consul general discuss relations between countries

Congressman Ed Pastor and Carlos Flores Vizcarra, Consul General of Mexico, both pictured on the left, met recently to discuss relations between both countries on issues such as immigration, trade and human rights, which Congress is addressing.



**Don't let your
TV
go blank!**