



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:                      February 3, 2009

The Rhode Island Broadcasters Association announced today that its member television stations will transition to Digital TV and discontinue broadcasting analog signals at midnight on February 17, 2009. Collectively, we felt it was in the best interest of our viewers to transition to Digital TV on February 17<sup>th</sup>, the date which has been, and continues to be, in all of our public service announcements, said Jay Howell, President and General Manager of WPRI12/FOX Providence. While Congress is voting on whether or not to allow local stations to delay the digital convergence until June 12<sup>th</sup>, the Rhode Island broadcasters will keep to the original transition date. Since other stations in New England will be moving into the channel locations being vacated by some of our stations, waiting until June could cause viewers to experience signal interference. In addition, two Rhode Island stations have already made successful transitions: RI PBS/WSBE-TV Channel 36 moved to all digital on January 15 due to a catastrophic failure of its analog transmitter. CW28/WLWC made the move back in December of 2008. The transition to digital was mandated by the FCC and Federal Government. . A local DTV Phone Bank will be available for viewers to call in with questions on both February 17 & February 18. Stations participating on this date will be the following:

WJAR/NBC10      WPRI/CBS12      WNAC/FOX Providence      ABC6/WLNE

If you receive your signal over-the-air, free of charge, you still can continue to do so. Recently purchased sets are required by law to have a digital tuner in the set. If you have an older, analog set, you may require a digital to analog converter box, which will enrich your picture and offer you more station choices. Most converter boxes range in price from \$50 to \$70. A change or upgrade to your current antenna may also be required. If you receive your television signal through cable, FIOS or satellite dish, your signal will not be interrupted at all.

For more information on government issued coupons for the purchase of converter boxes and other information about the transition to digital, viewers may call 1-888-388-2009. For TTY: 1-877-530-2634 or if you have use of a computer, visit [www.DTV2009.gov](http://www.DTV2009.gov) – or mail the application to: P O Box 2000, Portland, Oregon. Seniors can contact their local Senior Centers for more information or assistance. *All television station websites offer information on the Digital Transition to guide viewers through the process.*

Rhode Island Broadcasters Association will announce the DTV PHONE BANK information on their stations over the air and on their websites prior to February 17, 2009. Education and information will be available through television broadcasters and our radio station partners. Rhode Island Broadcasters Association television and radio members are working together to provide information and assistance to their viewers and listeners to make this an easy transition for all.

We encourage all Rhode Islanders to reach out to their neighbors who may be in need of assistance, especially the elderly and disabled.