



**AARP Talking Points**  
**Meeting with Presidential Transition Team**  
**Digital Television Transition**  
**December 10, 2008**

AARP has been actively involved in DTV transition education and outreach with the over 40 million 50+ members in 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. Articles have appeared in every Bulletin published since late fall 2007 and in the December/January edition of AARP's Magazine. AARP publications are distributed to over 27 million households.

AARP's advocacy has focused on ensuring all households continue to receive broadcast television after the DTV transition, particularly the most vulnerable elderly. AARP has worked with other aging organizations to obtain assistance to help older individuals obtain and install the digital converter boxes in their homes.

As the transition dates draws near, several critical issues remain to be addressed. AARP highlights the following four issues for the consideration of the Presidential Transition Team:

- 1) Contingency Plan: There currently is no plan to accommodate households that will remain unprepared for the February 17, 2009 transition and could lose their broadcast television transmission. The FCC should work with the NTIA and stakeholders to develop a contingency plan.
- 2) Extension of Analog Broadcasting Authority Beyond the Transition Date: AARP supports the "Short-Term Analog Flash and Emergency Readiness Act," legislation introduced (Senator Rockefeller) and passed in the Senate and introduced (Representative Capps) and now pending in the House. The legislation requires the FCC to provide for a short term extension of analog television broadcasting authority beyond the digital television transition on February 17, 2009. This extension would be essential for public safety announcements and digital television transition information.
- 3) Addressing Technical Problems: Consumers will experience technical problems related to the transition. After the installation of converter boxes, some households may need to purchase additional equipment. Consumers will have technical questions related to the conversion and their equipment. The FCC should continually refine and disseminate trouble-shooting checklists for consumers.
- 4) Direct Consumer Assistance: The DTV early shut-off in Wilmington, N.C. on September 8, 2008 resulted in a significant number of calls to the FCC and local broadcasters with questions about the transition. The transition on February 17, 2009 will generate an extraordinary number of calls and the FCC will need to



expand the capabilities of the FCC Call Center, as well as consider other alternatives to respond to consumer questions.