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Ivey visits Decatur, talks taxes

By Nancy Glasscock
Staff Writer

Alabama State Treasurer and Republican gubernatorial candidate Kay Ivey brought \$151 worth of pennies Friday to the Decatur Public Library, where she signed a Tax Protection Pledge.

If voters elect her as governor, she will oppose and veto any attempts to raise taxes, she said.

The General Fund will have a projected revenue shortfall of more than a half-billion dollars when the last of the federal stimulus money runs out later this year, she said.

“There’s an old saying that goes, ‘If you watch the pennies, the dollars will take care of themselves,’ ” Ivey said. “For decades, the pennies grew into dollars, and the dollars became

millions of dollars. Because we ignored the pennies — small items hidden in every nook and cranny of state spending — we now face a very big problem.”

Ivey said that Friday was the 151st anniversary of Abraham Lincoln’s birth. Since Lincoln appears on the penny, she assembled \$151 worth of pennies to make the point that even the smallest tax increase hurts average Alabamians.



Daily photo by Nancy Glasscock

“If your taxes were raised just \$3 a week, this is almost exactly the amount that would be taken out of your paycheck in a year,” she said. “How many tanks of gas can you buy for your car or truck for \$151? How many meals can you feed your family for \$151?”

Citizens can't afford new taxes, she said.

Ivey proposes eliminating wasteful spending and telling politicians who ask for more taxes “not one penny more.”

Ivey said citizens have reacted favorably to her promise not to raise taxes.

Decatur Mayor Don Stanford asked about state employees' reactions to cutbacks.

“They'll be appreciative because they want to keep their jobs,” Ivey said.

Ivey first signed Americans for Tax Reform's Tax Protection Pledge during her first term as state treasurer.

Founded in 1985 by conservative activist Grover Norquist, Americans for Tax Reform is a Washington, D.C.-based organization that supports “simpler, flatter, more visible and lower” taxes, according to the group's Web site.