

## Political candidates visit Enterprise



Gubernatorial candidate and current State Treasurer Kay Ivey outlines her platform at a Coffee County Republican Women's meeting while President Robin Foy, left, and Rick Barber, a Republican candidate for Alabama's Second Congressional District, look on.

By [Michelle Mann](#)

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Two candidates for political office were in Enterprise Wednesday to share their platforms with the Coffee County Republican Women.

State Treasurer Kay Ivey and Rick Barber are candidates in the Republican primary election for governor and Second Congressional District congressman, respectively. Ivey is the first Republican to serve as state treasurer in Alabama since the Reconstruction. Elected in 2002 and re-elected in 2006 with more than 60 percent of the vote, Ivey is the only candidate for governor who is a long-time active member in the Alabama Federation of Republican Women and an associate member of the 28 Republican Women's Clubs in the state.

"Politics make it happen, women make it work," said Ivey. "To be effective, you've got to walk the talk."

Ivey began her career as a high school teacher before becoming an officer with Merchants National Bank in Mobile. She also served as an assistant hospital administrator and as assistant director of the Alabama Development Office, where she wrote the "Prepared Cities" Program. She also served as the director of government affairs and communications for the Alabama Commission on Higher Education. "You've got to know what to do, not just want it."

"Others can say 'I want to' or 'I'm going to,' but only I can say I have done it," Ivey said. "I'm ready to do it again as your governor." Noting that there are seven gubernatorial candidates in the Republican primary in June, Ivey said "there are six show

ponies and one workhorse.”

“It’s not enough for a candidate to say, ‘I promise you more jobs’ a governor must know how to deliver them,” said Ivey. “I helped bring jobs to Alabama before, and I know how to do it again.”

Barber is a small business owner who moved to Montgomery after four years in the Marine Corps.

“We need more military experience in Washington,” he said.

Barber has been active in the TEA party movement in 2009. Until this year, Barber never considered running for an elected office, he said. “It wasn’t on my road map.”

“One of the reasons I am running for office is that there are too few congressmen with experience in the private sector,” Barber said. “As a small business owner, I understand how Washington policy affects profitability on Main Street.”

Barber called the current tax code “oppressive and unreasonable” with nearly \$80 billion annually in compliance costs. “We’ve got to draw a line in the sand and say ‘no more,’” he said. “I fully support and will co-sponsor the Fair Tax bill which replaces all income and corporate embedded taxes with a consumption tax.”

“I have created jobs in the second congressional district and understand the pressures and burdens associated with running a business,” Barber said. “Jobs come first and foremost.”