



photo by [Brent Maze](#)

Candidate: State treasurer and gubernatorial Kay Ivey talks to the Goodwater Rotary Club Thursday at lunchtime. Ivey is also a Rotarian and a member of the Montgomery Rotary Club.

# Ivey outlines plan for state

## Candidate visits Goodwater, discusses diversifying industry, charter schools, bingo

By [Brent Maze](#) ([Contact](#)) | Alex City Outlook

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Gubernatorial candidate Kay Ivey believes Alabama state government should run efficiently and as cost effectively as possible.

That coupled with changing recruitment strategies, improving the education of the state's skilled workforce and not raising taxes could lead to more jobs.

"I want to reduce the recurring costs that our state has," Ivey told the Goodwater Rotary Club Thursday. "I've cut almost \$5 million in my department since I've been the state treasurer. I've been the one who is trying to cut state spending in my department."

Ivey also believes Alabama is "putting all of its eggs in one basket" by only recruiting the automobile industry.

"We have to diversify our portfolio," Ivey said. "We need to have small firms for small towns, medium firms for medium-sized towns and so on. Coosa County may not be able to support a large industry, but it is able to support smaller industry."

"We need to have aeronautical, biomedical and knowledge-based industries in Alabama."

But one area that Ivey believes will help improve Alabama's recruitment is to improve education.

"Many businesses want to move here because of our people and their work ethic, but when they see our education system, that turns them away," Ivey said. "We have to get students performing at a high standard."

Ivey proposed cutting “administrative overhead” in K-12 to allow more education dollars to make it to the classroom. One way to do that is to continue supporting programs like the Alabama Reading Initiative the Alabama Math, Science and Technology Initiative, and ACCESS Distance Learning.

She is also a big proponent of charter schools. Her reason for liking the schools is that it takes many of the federal restraints off of schools and allows the community to make the school the way they want it.

“It allows the community to develop the standards for students and teachers,” Ivey said. “Teachers are free to teach. They will get paid more, but more will be expected out of them.”

All Alabama has to do is to approve an act legalizing them, according to Ivey, because federal money is available to implement the program.

Also, Ivey is against electronic bingo, but she won’t stand in the way of letting the issue come to a vote.

“The gaming industry is a bad model to base tax revenue on,” Ivey said. “It’s a bad model for business. There’s no way to predict how much money it will bring in. It’s unstable.

“That being said, I think the people should have the right to decide the issue.”

Roger Brown, Goodwater Rotary Club president, said he was impressed with Ivey’s knowledge of the state’s finances. Since Ivey is a fellow Rotarian, he hopes she could take many of the ideals from Rotary, including the four-way test, and implement them in Montgomery.

“If she’s elected, I hope she can bring that sense of truth, fairness and good will to the state government,” Brown said.