

Ivey touts record as treasurer in bid for governor



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By Jason Morton Staff writer

TUSCALOOSA | Alabama gubernatorial candidate Kay Ivey gave an impassioned stump speech today to the Republican Women of Tuscaloosa County, imploring the group to elect proven candidates willing to make tough decisions to correct the state's political and financial situation.

Ivey, the current state treasurer, stood on her seven years' experience of managing the state's finances as reason she stands above all the other candidates for the Alabama governor's seat.

She told her audience it was the women in a household who typically keep the family finances in check.

“Who in the family makes the family budgets?,” Ivey said to the 50 or so in attendance at Indian Hills Country Club, most of whom were women. “I know about telling your son: ‘No, you can only have one baseball mitt. ...

“Kay Ivey does not duck and run, nor does she do what is always politically convenient.”

Ivey said a key part of her approach to reforming Alabama government would be to start with the state's budget. She told the Legislature should take a municipal government approach — that is, weighing last fiscal year's revenues in order to budget for the next year — to setting the annual spending limits.

Now, only a portion of the state budget is reviewed each year, a process Ivey called “the guess method.”

That approach, she said, is needed to break the stranglehold of the Alabama Education Association, currently the state's most powerful lobby.

“We know what to do, folks ...,” Ivey said. “You elect fine folks who won't be bought and paid for.”

Ivey is one of five main Republican contenders for Alabama governor, which current Republican Gov. Bob Riley will vacate as a result of term limits in January 2011.

The state's Republican primary is set for June 1.