

# Ivey will seek re-election in 2018

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Governor Kay Ivey announced her decision to seek re-election as governor on Thursday.

“Four months ago, I was sworn in as the 54th governor of the State of Alabama,” Ivey wrote in a statement.. “There hasn’t been a more humbling moment in my life. That so many of you have supported and prayed for me and my team means the world — and it’s our highest honor to serve you.

“I took over at one of that darkest times in our state’s memory. I’m proud to say we’ve steadied the ship. Now it’s time to steer it to continued conservative progress and prosperity.”

Since taking office on April 10, Ivey has pursued an aggressive agenda of cleaning up Montgomery. One of her first actions was to fire Jon Mason, the husband of Rebekah Caldwell Mason, who allegedly had an affair with former Gov. Robert Bentley. Bentley had appointed Jon Mason as the director of SERVE Alabama. She also dismissed Agriculture Commissioner Ron Sparks, also appointed by Bentley.

In July, she fired her press secretary, Eileen Jones, and four cabinet members. The cabinet members let go were Acting Secretary of the Office of Information Technology Joanne Hale, Commissioner of Senior Services Neal Morrison and Emergency Management Director Art Faulkner. Jim Perdue, commissioner of the Alabama Department of Mental Health, was fired a few days earlier.

Ivey said she had also focused on growing good-paying jobs, and strengthening the state’s education system. She banned lobbyists from being appointed to state boards by members of the executive branch. She said her administration made education for veterans more affordable, expanded K-12 opportunities for students throughout Alabama and helped families’ with children with special needs.

“I’m proud of the fact that over \$1 billion dollars in investments have been pledged to the state since I took office and thousands of new jobs have been created — those are families lives who have been forever changed,” Ivey wrote in a statement. “Unemployment in Alabama has dropped to 4.5 percent — over a full percentage lower than at this time last year. More people in Alabama are working today than in a decade. Folks know that Alabama is now open for business. We’re going to keep the foot on the gas and get more jobs and more investment for our state.”



Kay Ivey

Ivey also pledged to build upon her administration's successes. She pointed to the passage of the Alabama Jobs Act, which made it easier for the state to recruit new businesses and for existing businesses to expand. She also singled out the laws she has signed that make it easier to start a new business in Alabama.

Prior to becoming governor, Ivey was a school teacher, banker and a public servant. She grew up on a family farm in lower Alabama, which she credited with teaching her the values she's brought to Montgomery.

"On the farm, talk is cheap," Ivey said. "I learned the importance of a hard day's work. Of faith. Of helping our neighbors. And of keeping your word — because sometimes, that's all you've got. Those values are what took me to Auburn, then to work as a teacher. I believed then, and now, that if you work hard, have unwavering faith and fight for what's right, good things will come."