

PROMISES MADE, PROMISES KEPT

In 2002, we laid out a vision for a better Alabama and a plan to get us there. In that plan, we made promises regarding a number of issues in our state. I am proud to report that we are keeping those promises.

EDUCATION

PROMISE MADE...

In 2002, we promised to lay the foundation for a world-class education system.

PROMISE KEPT...

Alabama's education system has seen more reforms in this administration than any in recent history.

Since taking office, we have increased education funding from \$4 billion a year to \$6 billion a year, and we are putting money where it counts—in the classroom. However, powerful special interest groups and the legislators they control have often stood in the way of our students' progress. These individuals have fought our efforts to make the sweeping changes that will provide our children the opportunity they deserve.

Despite these forces, we have begun changing the face of education in Alabama. By fully funding the nationally-renowned Alabama Reading Initiative in grades K-3, children's reading scores are soaring throughout the state. We expanded the Alabama Math, Science, and Technology Initiative, and now we are seeing math and science scores significantly improving in AMSTI schools.

Perhaps one of the reforms that I am most excited about is our new distance learning program named ACCESS (Alabama Connecting Classrooms, Educators, and Students Statewide). This initiative utilizes the Internet and videoconferencing technology to give students across the state, especially in the rural and underserved school districts, opportunities they have never had in the past. ACCESS allows students to take advanced diploma courses, foreign language courses, advanced placement (AP) courses, and electives that are not currently offered by their schools.

In addition to putting record amounts of money into the classroom, we are also supporting our dedicated educators at record levels. During our administration, teacher pay has been increased by an impressive 14%, and we will continue to make sure that we have the ability to attract and retain the best and brightest educators to teach our students.

Never before has Alabama been so close to offering our children the **world-class education** they deserve. With four more years, we will continue to make the reforms and the investments that are preparing our children to compete in today's global economy.

PLAN 2010

Our Vision for Alabama

ETHICS

PROMISE MADE ...

In 2002, we promised to restore honesty and integrity to Alabama's state government.

PROMISE KEPT...

Through the past four years, our administration has operated in an ethical manner that Alabamians deserve. We recruited a world-class cabinet that came to Montgomery to serve Alabamians—not themselves and not their friends. Every one of them has signed the same **strict Code of Ethics** that I have signed. I have posted every dime spent out of the Governor's Contingency Fund on the Internet for anyone to see. Unlike previous administrations, we have **ended the abuses of no-bid contracts**. We also put an end to the often corrupt practice of pass-through pork that allowed legislators to take taxpayer money and secretly spend it on hand-picked projects that often ended up enriching their cronies or family members.

This unprecedented transparency is working. **In the most recent report by the Examiners of Public Accounts, the Governor's Office received a perfect audit.** This is the **first time in more than 30 years** that a Governor's Office had no findings against it. In fact, the audit of the previous administration ran more than 80 pages and listed \$483,935 spent by the Governor's Office for which state auditors were unable to determine a public purpose.

Despite the fact that we have proven that transparency works, the legislative leadership has blocked many of the reforms that we have proposed. These reforms would have taken major strides toward restoring trust in our state government.

The corrupt practices and personalities of Alabama's past have left many Alabamians cynical and distrustful of state government—and rightly so. But our administration today is nothing like the administration of four years ago. Today, I believe we are running the **most open, honest, and accountable administration in Alabama's history**. With four more years, we can institutionalize the reforms we have made and ensure that Alabama will never have to bear the burden of government corruption again.

ECONOMY

PROMISE MADE ...

In 2002, we promised to put Alabama's economy **on the right track**.

PROMISE KEPT...

Today, Alabama's economy is better than it has ever been. We have **historically low unemployment** due to the more than **100,000 jobs** that have been created during our administration. Our existing

PLAN 2010 ***Our Vision for Alabama***

Alabama industries are not only thriving—they are expanding. National and international companies have also made Alabama a destination state, and they are bringing good, high-paying jobs with them.

This success didn't *just* happen—our administration and dedicated people across this state have ***made it happen***. We changed the economic model this state had followed in years past and put in new leadership at the Alabama Development Office (ADO). **Now, ADO has been rated best in the nation. After we totally restructured our workforce training program, our Office of Workforce Development was also rated #1 in the nation.**

When we changed the model, Alabama began to explode with growth. Alabama has now been named “**State of the Year**” an unprecedented **four years in a row** for having the best economy in the Southeast. Recently, we also were honored for being the **best state in the nation when it comes to job creation**. This type of success was made possible by our workers, whose work ethic has earned Alabama an international reputation, by local economic developers, and by our dedicated economic development team.

We have proven to ourselves, to the nation, and now to the world that Alabamians can not only compete, we can win.