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Posted: Jan 17, 2012 6:08 PM EST

Family members of candidates take to Charleston campaign trail



Pictured from left to right are Jackie Gingrich Cushman and Anita Perry. (WCIV)

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CHARLESTON, S.C. (WCIV) -- As Republican presidential candidates continued on the campaign trail, family members also took to campaigning in Charleston.

Charleston County's Republican Women's Club held a luncheon Tuesday. They invited Texas First Lady, Anita Perry, and Newt Gingrich's daughter, Jackie Gingrich Cushman to speak to about 70 women in attendance.

Both personally gave their reasons why the two candidates, Rick Perry and Newt Gingrich were the best picks to become the Republican nominee.

"I truly believe my husband has a record of conservative governing," Perry said.

Perry told the room of Republican women that her husband would reduce spending, cut taxes, and have Americans working again.

"He thinks Washington needs a complete overhaul. How do we do this? By following the vision of our founding fathers and one of those things Rick believes is creating a part-time citizen congress," she said. "He'll cut their pay in half and send them home to live under the laws they passed."

Newt Gingrich's daughter, Cushman spoke after, giving a nod to her dad's performance at **Monday's Myrtle Beach debate**.

"He did an incredible job, clearly outperformed everybody up there."

Cushman asked the women to choose the best candidate to go toe-to-toe with President Barack Obama.

"We have to have someone who can stand the heat and take and give it back. My dad can do that."

Both women said their visit gives the women voters a chance to know the candidates as a person.

Belinda Roberts is the newly elected President of Charleston County Republican Women's Club. She said they've worked at planning this luncheon for the last seven months.

"It puts a personal touch on them when they can actually meet them, talk to them shake their hands and hear out of their own words what the candidates are thinking," Roberts said.

Roberts said everyone did a great job in telling the women what their objectives are and what they would do if elected to office.

As to the way these Republican voters will vote, Roberts said many have already made up their minds.

"A lot of people have already stressed who their favorite person is. We even had a few people today who love Rick Perry and had another appointment and changed it to come here," she said.