

# Free Iron Bowl tickets for Alabama legislators? This has to stop!

## WHAT'S GOING ON?

Every November, state representatives and senators receive two free tickets to the Auburn/Alabama football game (avg. value over \$400 each). The tickets are courtesy of the host university. This year the tickets will come from the University of Alabama. Oh, yes, they receive a parking pass so they don't have to walk too far to the stadium.

Legislators did not earn these tickets. The tickets are not part of their compensation package. Legislators receive these expensive gifts simply because of the elected office they hold. This ticket giveaway is *technically* legal as the Alabama Ethics Law considers an Iron Bowl ticket NOT a "thing of value." I bet that's news to you. They don't even have to report these tickets. The reason this continues is because we haven't said, "Stop it."

## WHO'S MAD ABOUT IT?

Huntsville Times editorial October 3: "It's impossible not to cheer Metrock on. Public officials should buy those tickets like everyone else."  
Birmingham News editorial Dec. 2, 2009: "Public servants are supposed to serve the public, not use their positions to secure special privileges for themselves. If they want to go to the Iron Bowl, they should pay their own way."

## HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP STOP FREE TICKETS FOR LEGISLATORS.

If you are tired of politicians feeding at the trough, there are two things you can do:

1. Write Dr. Robert Witt (and copy Dr. Gogue, last year's Santa Claus) and tell him to donate these tickets to charities of the University's choosing and not to public officials. These 450 tickets could raise over \$400,000.

Dr. Robert Witt, president, University of Alabama [witt@pres.ua.edu](mailto:witt@pres.ua.edu)

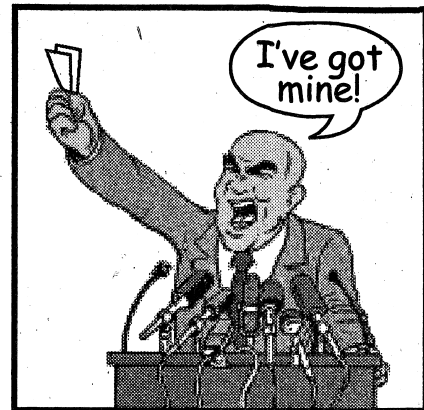
Dr. Jay Gogue, president, Auburn University [jgogue@auburn.edu](mailto:jgogue@auburn.edu)

2. Contact the legislative candidates asking for your vote and ask if they feel entitled to free Iron Bowl tickets from our state-supported universities. You'll learn a lot about their character from their answers. Some legislators tell me that they give *their* tickets to organizations of *their* choice. These politicians still don't understand. Why should they receive free tickets to give away and earn publicity, goodwill, and votes? They still feel entitled and they shouldn't. They are no better than you or me. Neither I nor Obligation, Inc. will financially benefit in any way from this effort. This effort is in no way a partisan political effort. Unfortunately, the people who have enriched themselves with these tickets have been from all parties, all races, younger and older, male and female.

Much obliged,  
**Jim Metrock**

Paid for by Obligation, Inc.,

For more: <http://www.obligation.org>  
Obligation, Inc., P. O. Box 26270, Birmingham, AL 35260 205.822.0080 [jimmetrock@obligation.org](mailto:jimmetrock@obligation.org)



Is this your legislator?