



Subscribe

2024 Sep-25 PM 12:11  
U.S. DISTRICT COURT  
N.D. OF ALABAMA

Advertisement

# OUR VIEW: Alabama Senate leadership removes Sen. Scott Beason as chairman of the powerful Rules Committee, and for good reason.

Updated: Nov. 16, 2011, 9:45 a.m. | Published: Nov. 16, 2011, 8:45 a.m.



---

By Retired: AL.com and The Birmingham News editorial board






Committee. (Special) Scott Beason removed as chairman of the Senate Rules

State Sen. Scott Beason, it seems, was more trouble than he was worth.

Republican leaders in the Senate on Tuesday announced his ouster as chairman of the powerful Senate Rules Committee. We'll find out whether Beason will continue to be trouble for them once the 2012 legislative session starts in February.

Whatever trouble Beason might cause on the Senate floor isn't worth the problems of having the Republican agenda in the Senate pushed by a lawmaker who doesn't hold the line, who is involved as a witness in a controversial bribery trial and who has been called a racist and political opportunist by a respected federal judge in a court order.

Advertisement



One might argue that Beason's ouster as Rules chairman was long overdue. But give the Senate leadership credit: Beason was cut loose well before next year's legislative session. Clearly, Republicans want to distance themselves from Beason's toxic rhetoric and awkward blunders. That's smart and, really, their only option if they want to keep their legislative momentum going.

The short press release sent from Senate President Pro Tem Del Marsh's office Tuesday morning didn't even mention Beason's name. The release was titled: "Waggoner to Serve as Rules Committee Chairman for 2012 Legislative Session," referring to Majority Leader Jabo Waggoner, R-Vestavia Hills, a solid, even-tempered Republican known as a team player.

While Marsh didn't list the "many realities" he said caused the leadership to remove Beason, It was later reported that Republicans were upset because he called black casino customers "aborigines."

As well they should be. Making matters worse, Beason took part in the racially insensitive discussion while he was recording for an FBI investigation in the bribery-for-bingo scandal.

U.S. District Judge Myron Thompson later said Beason and former state Rep. Benjamin Lewis, R-Dothan, lacked credibility as prosecution witnesses in the trial "for two reasons. First, their motive for cooperating with FBI investigators was not to clean up corruption but to increase Republican political fortunes by reducing African-American voter turnout. Second, they lack credibility because the record establishes their purposeful, racist intent."

Unless the Republican leadership purged Beason from its ranks, they, too, could have been tainted by the same "purposeful, racist intent" in every bill they put forward. That just wouldn't do.

Republicans will push an aggressive jobs agenda in the legislative session; Beason, meanwhile, may still have to testify in a retrial of the bribery-for-bingo scandal.

The Senate Committee on Assignments voted to oust Beason. Reportedly, Beason was the only no vote vs. five yes votes to remove him as Rules chairman. Beason supposedly turned down a deal to head another committee. That leaves us to wonder if he will attempt to gather his own supporters and, at the very least, keep Senate Republicans from having a sure-fire, filibuster-proof majority.

Senate leaders certainly considered the down side. To their credit, they decided Beason would be more of an embarrassment as chairman of the Rules Committee than as a renegade troublemaker in the Senate.

If you purchase a product or register for an account through a link on our site, we may receive compensation.

By using this site, you consent to our [User Agreement](#) and agree that your clicks, interactions, and personal information may be collected, recorded, and/or stored by us and social media and other third-party partners in accordance with our [Privacy Policy](#).

---

## Around the Web

### Here's What a New Gutter System Should Cost You In 2024

Leaf Filter USA | Sponsored

[Learn More](#)

### Heart Surgeon Begg Americans: "Stop Eating This For Breakfast"

The top 3 common foods that you would have never guessed were the cause of your fatigue.

Gundry MD | Sponsored

[Learn More](#)

### Workers From Around The World Share Their "I Quit" Moments

I rage quit...but it backfired on my face. BAD!

MA | Sponsored

### Four sisters learn their babies are half-siblings

Unprecedented: Quadruplet sisters pregnant simultaneously, then stunned by doctors revelation

PlayJunkie | Sponsored

[Read More](#)

**A Teaspoon On An Empty Stomach Will Slim Waist From 38 To 29**

Women over 40 may lose additional fat by doing this

Women's Health Daily | Sponsored

[Learn More](#)

**Masterpics | 3D Photo Crystals, The Perfect Mother's Day Gift**

Up to 40% OFF + Free Mother's Day Delivery

MASTERPICS 3D | Sponsored

[Shop Now](#)

**Do You Have Toe Nail Fungus? Try this Tonight (It's Genius)**

Health Shape | Sponsored

[Learn More](#)

**Katie Britt: Democrats ‘melt down’ over trial because ‘people want Donald Trump back in the White House’**

AL.com

**Trump says he has to spend Melania’s birthday at ‘a rigged trial’**

AL.com



[About Alabama Media Group](#)

[Jobs at Alabama Media Group](#)

[Advertise with us](#)

[About AL.com](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[Accessibility Statement](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Online Store](#)

---

## ▼ Subscriptions

[AL.com](#)

[The Birmingham News](#)

[The Huntsville Times](#)

[Press-Register](#)

[Newsletter](#)

---

## ▼ Already a Subscriber

[Manage your Subscription](#)

[Place a Vacation Hold](#)

[Make a Payment](#)

[Delivery Feedback](#)

---

▼ **AL.com Sections**

[News](#)

[Business](#)

[Sports](#)

[High School Sports](#)

[Alabama Life & Culture](#)

[Opinion](#)

[Archives](#)

[Obituaries](#)

[Jobs](#)

[Autos](#)

---

▼ **Your Regional News Pages**

[Anniston/Gadsden](#)

[Birmingham](#)

[Huntsville](#)

[Mobile](#)

[Montgomery](#)

[Tuscaloosa](#)

[Gulf Coast Beaches](#)

---

▼ **On the Go**

[Mobile Apps](#)

[Tablet Apps](#)

---

▼ **Follow Us**

[Pinterest](#)

[Twitter](#)

[Facebook](#)

[Instagram](#)

[RSS](#)

▼ **Customer Service**

[Send us an email](#)

[Submit a news tip](#)

[Buy newspaper front pages, posters and more](#)

---

▼ **More on AL.com**

[Videos](#)

[Weather](#)

[Site Map & search](#)

[Sponsor Content](#)

[Post a job](#)

---

# ADVANCELOCAL

Use of and/or registration on any portion of this site constitutes acceptance of our [User Agreement](#) (updated 4/18/2024), [Privacy Policy and Cookie Statement](#), and [Your Privacy Choices and Rights](#) (updated 12/31/2023).

Cookies Settings



© 2024 Advance Local Media LLC. All rights reserved ([About Us](#)).

The material on this site may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, cached or otherwise used, except with the prior written permission of Advance Local.

[Community Rules](#) apply to all content you upload or otherwise submit to this site.

**YouTube's privacy policy** is available [here](#) and **YouTube's terms of service** is available [here](#).

[Ad Choices](#)