**Yes, the best explanation the acolytes of Governor Wolf have given for the budget impasse is the opposition. Yes, the GOP most certainly obstructed the budget process when they presented to the Governor a tax neutral 30 billion dollar budget funding both school districts and human services in June of 2015 which was contemptuously vetoed. Then in September the GOP derailed the budget process again when they presented an emergency funding bill to keep schools and human services open, again this bill was vetoed by the Governor. The GOP made it even more difficult to overcome the budget impasse when they presented another budget in December. This budget was summarily vetoed by line item. The GOP seemingly has not learned its lesson when in March of 2016 another no tax increase budget was presented and Governor Wolf threatened to veto even as some his fellow Democrats have pleaded with him not to do so.**

## Yes the problem is the GOP. They must finally learn to capitulate. They must increase spending and raise revenue through unrestrained taxes and spending to finance an ever expanding government. They must continue to allow private property to be confiscated especially from those Pennsylvanians on a fixed income who must choose among medicine, food and taxes in order to keep their homes. They must allow KOZ and LERTA programs to flourish so that big businesses are tax free in order to provide minimal employment. They must allow the malfeasance to continue so that the pension deficit grows until it finally bankrupts the future of Pennsylvania. The GOP must support Governor Wolf’s 2.8 billion dollar increase in spending and a retroactive 11 per cent increase in income tax to support it.

**The GOP can stop this budget impasse now and allow Governor Wolf’s plan to drive up taxes so that more private property can be confiscated and that our local economies are squeezed to extinction allowing more Pennsylvanians to become unemployed and wards of the state. The GOP should allow Governor Wolf and his supporters to worry about the future of Pennsylvania by letting the pension deficit continue to grow unsustainably beyond the more than 55 billion dollars that it is today.**

**The Democrats’ idea that spending more tax dollars will solve Pennsylvania’s deficit problem demonstrates an unwillingness to address the core of the deficit which is uncontrolled, irresponsible and unsustainable spending. The idea that increasing sales tax or income taxes will alleviate property tax is not only ludicrous but also intellectually insulting. Governor Wolf’s budget will only continue to crush local economies, increase unemployment and result in more property confiscation**.

**The Democrat’s demagoguery, condescension and indifference is so apparent through governor Wolfe’s continual veto of a fair and responsible, tax neutral ,budget that it demonstrates his unwillingness to help families, schools ,children and seniors achieve a better quality of life. Governor Wolf’s ideological support of bigger government, more spending, unconditional support of big business, big labor and higher taxes clearly is not in the best interest of the people of Pennsylvania**.

Patrick P. Musto

Dallas