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September 29, 2025

Dear County Executive McClure,

Our offices have been made aware of your administration's efforts to blame Pennsylvania's budget impasse on Senate Republicans. Since you appear to have a misunderstanding of the facts surrounding the impasse, we, as elected officials in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, feel compelled to set the record straight.

The first and most egregious misleading allegation you continue to make is that we are facing a budget impasse due to Senate Republicans. This claim is a shameful and deliberate obfuscation of the facts for cheap political points.

Senate Republicans passed a stopgap budget on Aug. 12, 2025. The stopgap was intended to release some funding while negotiations on spending increases continued. Less than 24 hours after its passage, House Democrats called a House Appropriations Committee meeting to vote it down. In fact, it was Senate Republicans, supported by House Republicans, who advanced the plan.

Our offices recently obtained a letter from Susan Wandalowski, director of the Department of Human Services, dated Sept. 19, 2025, regarding the current budget impasse. The letter contained multiple inaccuracies and omitted the stopgap budget entirely.

Further demonstrating a misunderstanding of the state budget process is the claim that the impasse is due to an "equitable funding formula." Pennsylvania's budget is not based on a single formula. It comprises hundreds of line items distributed to agencies, the public, school districts, counties, contractors, and nonprofits through various methods, including block grants, direct payments, and, in some cases, formulas. There is no "funding formula" blocking the budget.

What is preventing a finalized budget is the unwillingness of House Democrats and the governor to compromise. The governor's proposal spends roughly \$5.5 billion more than projected revenues. The problem is not Republican opposition; the math does not add up in the proposals advanced by the governor and House Democrats. While compromise is challenging when initial proposals are unrealistic, we still have a responsibility to try.

Unfortunately, House Democrats and the governor have rejected reasonable Republican offers that could have resolved the impasse.

It is also important to note that the Sept. 19 letter contains misleading equivalencies. The county is not in danger of losing 911 center funding. As you know, 911 services are funded through the 911 fee and the funding is distributed to counties entirely separate from the General Fund budget.

We recognize that County Human Services programs are not receiving funding. Solving this requires the governor and House Democrats to face reality and act swiftly, not play political games. In the meantime, our Republican state treasurer, Stacy Garrity, is offering short-term loans to counties needing assistance with payments. We recommend exploring this program.

When you announced the cancellation of the Centenarian Luncheon, you again blamed Senate Republicans while pledging not to raise taxes on Northampton residents. Passing the governor's budget, however, would deplete reserves and likely lead to tax increases. Just as you are unwilling to raise taxes at the county level, raising taxes at the state level is equally untenable.

We urge you to stop playing politics with people's lives. Canceling events and sending letters intended to alarm constituents is not good government. We have already seen the deadly consequences of political rhetoric taken too far this month.

Finally, we encourage you to urge House Democratic leadership and Speaker Joanna McClinton to convene the House promptly to, at a minimum, pass a stopgap budget.

Respectfully,



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