

March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017 - (Fasano continued) – for local property taxpayers because how else are local municipalities going to find that money. So, he feels the governor's proposal will be rejected by the legislature.

One thing Senate Republican President Len Fasano says Governor Malloy will need to do ... and he thinks he will be able to ... is renegotiate labor concessions with the state employee unions to save money in the budget. Fasano says otherwise they will have to lay off some state employees to save money. So, he feels concessions would be best for everyone, the employees and the State of Connecticut. He hopes though that the governor can negotiate not just salary savings, but also pension and healthcare savings too that will roll out into the future.

Republican Senate President Len Fasano says he would really like to see a bipartisan budget with Republicans included in the process. He says they don't want Democrats privately negotiating a budget and then have them say to Republicans vote for it. This year though Fasano says with more Republicans in the legislature, he does feel there will be conversations between Republican and Democratic leaders about the budget. Whether or not they can come to terms on a budget he doesn't know, but says Republicans will not vote for a bad budget ... and that's what has been put in front of them the last 6-years. Fasano says the evidence that they've been bad budgets is there's constantly a budget deficit every year, despite two large tax increases on Connecticut citizens.

Senator Len Fasano did say Republican and Democrats did come together and voted on a mitigation deficit plan to fix a budget. So, they have gotten together and offered ideas, and when Democrats accepted some of the GOP's ideas they've voted for it. He hopes that is what will happen with this year's state budget.

Senate GOP Leader Fasano says they need to pass a budget that will set the state on a right course because they can't afford any longer to budget to an election. He says this budget has to have 2 major components: 1.) it's got to be balanced for the next two fiscal years, and 2.) it has to have plans years out to bear fruit, which they haven't done to this point. Fasano says if the budget this year doesn't have those aspects, then they are not doing their job.