Last August, Rep. Jeff Fortenberry encountered some angry questioning about the size of government and the accelerating pace of federal spending at a town hall meeting in Lincoln.

While some of those concerns remain the same, the political temperature seems to have moderated a year and one day later.

More than 160 constituents showed up Tuesday night at a town hall gathering with the Republican congressman in the spacious open commons at Lincoln Southwest High School to engage in a calm and respectful exchange about issues and concerns.

"I think there's a change in the wind coming," Fortenberry said, a readiness to finally move forward on debt reduction.

"There is individual eagerness to do something about this" among his colleagues on both sides of the political aisle, he said.

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