

Dealing with today's economic issues will take bold leadership, U.S. Rep. Jeff Fortenberry said.

With federal spending doubling in the past 10 years, the deficit growing to \$3.6 trillion and the federal debt reaching nearly \$16 trillion, action needs to be taken, the Republican who represents Nebraska's 1st District told those gathered Wednesday at Christensen Field.

"Both sides of the political aisle are to blame here," he said. "Both sides of the political aisle need to have the right type of solution here. It's going to take some cross-town effort in Washington.

"If we don't do this, we continue to drift and we don't make the forthright decisions that can actually help us get out of this quicker that will be better for the economy."

Fortenberry, who fielded a variety of questions from the nearly full meeting room, continually came back to the need to reduce spending, reform the tax code and take bold leadership steps.

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