**Do you think Nevada will be better off at the end of 2013 than now — and why?**

I definitely believe there are brighter days ahead for Nevada.  However, it’s imperative Washington take its responsibilities seriously in the New Year and tackle the biggest issues facing our nation. Addressing tax reform, federal spending, and housing would be a big step towards bolstering the economy and creating much-needed jobs.  Creating an environment where robust long term economic growth can take hold will provide middle class families with greater security, and allow small businesses to hire again.

**What do you see as the major challenges ahead, especially those that will affect Nevada?**

Nevadans, and all Americans, are tired of the fighting in Washington, and want both parties to work together. Nevada continues to be plagued with high unemployment and foreclosures while slow growth and an anemic economy continue to fuel uncertainty and stifle opportunity.  It’s past time to put the partisanship aside and get the millions of unemployed Americans back to work.  Tax reform, reduced federal spending and housing are just a few of the issues that will impact Nevadans in the coming months, and I look forward to working with colleagues on both sides of the aisle to find solutions.

**What does Nevada need to do/what needs to happen for things in the state to improve in the new year?**

We must keep Nevadans in their homes and find ways to put Nevada’s families and businesses back on sound financial footing.  That’s difficult to do when we just don’t know what to expect from Washington in the coming year.  Congress can play a major role in helping Nevada’s long-term economic recovery by passing a budget for the first time in almost 1,350 days.  Washington must do better for the sake of our nation and future generations.