**Question:**

What is your opinion of the final fiscal cliff deal that was reached? Do you believe it is positive, negative or a bit of both for working Nevadans? How so? Why?

Do you believe ATRA will affect Nevada's economy positively or negatively? How so? Why?

**Answer:**

“Congress has had nearly a year and a half to work out a deal, but the Senate has waited until the final hours to vote on a proposal. This entire process has been an embarrassment, and I hope that Washington finally realizes that running the clock on last-minute, high-drama crises is no way to run a country. Moving forward, Democrats and Republicans must commit to working together so that Congress can better serve the American people.

“Times are tough, especially for the Silver State, and ultimately the Senate did the right thing today by providing certainty for Nevada’s families and businesses. Today the Senate came to an agreement on a pro-growth solution that will allow Nevadans to keep more of the money they earned in their pockets. While I did not get everything that I wanted, this bipartisan compromise will allow businesses to start planning for the future and ensure that unemployment benefits are extended at a time when so many Nevadans are looking for employment.”

**Question:**

\* What does Heller think of the state's decreasing unemployment rate? Is it good news?

\* What else does he think needs to be done to help target unemployment in the state -- focus on specific demographics, etc.?

**Answer:**

"The decline in Nevada’s unemployment rate is encouraging, but more needs to be done to bolster our economy. Unemployment in the Silver State continues to far exceed the national average, which is why jobs, the economy, and getting Nevadans back to work continue to be my top priorities.  Nevadans deserve good-paying jobs so they can provide for their families and stay in their homes. This begins with Washington providing the certainty job creators need to thrive and grow jobs.  It is past time for Democrats and Republicans to come together to develop a plan to get the millions of unemployed Americans back to work.  I am confident that by working together, we can develop solutions that get our nation and Nevada moving in the right direction.”

**Question:**

I guess starting question is an obvious one: how does the Senator feel about gun control? Did what happened at Newtown change or enhance that?  What are the Senator's concerns, if any, about proposed gun control laws? Do you have any thoughts on the NRA's proposal that instead of gun bans we should put armed security guards in every school?
 **Answer:**

“I am deeply saddened by the horrific shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary. As a parent and grandparent, the loss of so many young boys and girls hits close to home and is especially heart-breaking.  I know there are no words that can be offered to ease the pain, but my thoughts and prayers continue to go out to the victims and their family members. The reality is we are living in an increasingly violent culture which, when coupled with mental illness, can create a very dangerous situation. We should look to our Constitution for the principles that will help guide us as we search for answers in these increasingly difficult and complicated times.”

**Question:**

I would like to include one or two quotes from Senator Heller on how he works with National Mining Association for Nevada.  I'm also looking for a status update on Lyon County Conservation and Economic Development Act of 2012, as well as anything he would like to add.

**Answer:**

Regarding the Lyon County Conservation and Economic Development Act:

“Lyon County has the highest unemployment rate in the state and this legislation will bring more than 800 jobs to the area. Mining is a critical component of Nevada’s economy and we are fortunate to have resources in our own backyard for economic development. This legislation is the result of the hard work of Lyon County, Yerington, and all the local residents who came together to get the deal done. There is no doubt that this bill will provide some much-needed relief at a time when Nevadans are desperate for jobs.

Regarding NMA:

“Given the economic importance of mining to Nevada’s economy, I regularly work with the National Mining Association on issues that impact that industry. “