

From his hometown of Norfolk last week, Speaker Mike Flood announced his plans to seek the 2014 Republican nomination for Governor of Nebraska.

Current Gov. Dave Heineman will leave the position in two years due to term limits.

Speaker Flood touted his conservative record in the Legislature including cutting spending and leading the charge on the Fetal Pain Bill to ban late-term abortions, and highlighted his ability to bring people together for positive outcomes on divisive issues including the Keystone XL Pipeline and CIR reform.

Speaker Flood cited four priorities as Governor:

Reduce the overall tax burden: “I am committed to reducing the overall tax burden on Nebraska families and small businesses. I would start by examining the elimination of certain tax loopholes to reduce the income tax on individuals. I have a record of reducing taxes. As Speaker, I shepherded the state’s largest tax cut in 2007. Then in 2012, I lead the way for another tax cut by reducing spending.”

Hold the line on government spending: “There is no room for wasteful government spending on my watch. In 2010 I led the charge to cut over \$500 million from the state budget and believe in fiscal restraint. The state needs tax revenue to run, but I will never lose sight of the fact that government funds are hard-earned taxpayer dollars.”

Jobs, Jobs, Jobs: “My focus as Governor would be attracting new jobs and strengthening our economy. Nebraska has a great opportunity to build on the economic success of our urban areas and revitalize our rural communities. To do this we must develop our workforce and attract new business and industry.”

Infrastructure: “Nebraska has to plan for and address our infrastructure needs. This includes enhancing and repairing our highway system, working with natural gas pipeline companies to develop a plan to expand natural gas capacity to communities statewide, and look at ways to get fiber optic to rural communities.”