

BEN WESTLUND



FOR OREGON STATE TREASURER

Contact:

Stacey Dycus

541-350-2781

Stacey@benwestlund.com

www.benwestlund.com

Westlund Gains Key Republican Endorsements for State Treasurer

BEND, Ore. (February 29, 2008) – Oregon Senator Ben Westlund (D-Bend) today announced several key Republican endorsements from across Oregon in his bid for State Treasurer including former Secretary of State Norma Paulus (Salem) and two former Speakers of the House: Lynn Lundquist (Powell Butte) and Mark Simmons (Elgin). These are in addition to sitting state legislators Senator Gary George (Newberg), Rep. Patti Smith (Corbett), Rep. Bill Garrard (Klamath) and Rep. Bob Jenson (Pendleton), former State Representatives Alan Brown (Newport), Rob Patridge (Medford) and Lane Shetterly (Dallas) and former Senator Len Hannon (Ashland).

Westlund, 58, moved to Central Oregon in 1975, and after a successful career as a business owner, was elected as a Republican state representative from rural Central Oregon in 1997 after being recruited by Lynn Lundquist, then-Speaker of the House. As a legislator, Westlund began developing relationships on both sides of the aisle and focused his time on the budget and a few key pieces of policy like creating the “Fallen Officers’ Fund”. Funded by assessments on convicted criminals who put officers at risk, it provides much-needed financial assistance to families of public safety officers killed and critically injured in the line of duty.

“Ben has always been a moderate. If he is elected as Oregon’s next State Treasurer, he will bring the best and the brightest together, regardless of party, to solve problems and get things done,” said Lynn Lundquist.

Westlund demonstrated his skill in budgeting and in 2001, [was named co-chair](#) of the budget-writing Joint Ways and Means Committee. When Oregon’s economy spiraled downward during the recession, Westlund helped lead a bipartisan coalition that was forced to cut \$1.3 billion during five special sessions, yet spared most essential core services.

“During one of the most difficult economic times in Oregon’s history, Ben’s knowledge of complex funding issues and our state budget provided steady leadership when we needed it most,” said Len Hannon, Westlund’s Senate co-chair.

A lung cancer survivor, Westlund brought many in the capitol to tears in June 2003 when he delivered his [“return from the hospital” speech](#) on the floor of the Oregon State House where he called on his colleagues to put aside partisanship and start being statesmen who put the next generation above their next election. Soon after, he was appointed to serve out a vacancy in the Senate.

In 2006, Westlund ran a campaign for Governor as an independent because he felt Oregonians needed leadership that focused on solving problems, not political gain. He became a Democrat in December of that year. He entered the race for State Treasurer in October 2007 and has been traveling around the state and [gathering support](#) on both sides of the aisle. No other candidates have announced.

Professionally, Ben works with Northwest Professional Management to develop effective, affordable health care delivery systems. He and his wife Libby, who serves on the Mount Bachelor National Ski Patrol, recently celebrated their 20th anniversary. They have two children: a son B.J. (19) and a daughter Taylor (15). They live in Tumalo, just outside Bend.

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