

# BEN WESTLUND

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FOR OREGON STATE TREASURER

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## **U.S. Senator Wyden Backs Westlund for State Treasurer**

SALEM, Ore. (March 4, 2008) – Oregon Senator Ben Westlund (D-Bend) has received the support of U.S. Senator Ron Wyden in his bid for State Treasurer. The endorsement comes in a busy week for Westlund who earlier this week received endorsements from SEIU and current State Treasurer Randall Edwards.

“From small business issues to infrastructure needs and natural resources, I know Ben Westlund will bring a fresh perspective and sure-handed sensibility to the State Treasurer’s office,” said Wyden. “Ben has been one of the best and brightest members of the legislature, and his background as a successful business owner and his experience with complex funding issues and the state budget will serve Oregon extremely well.”

As a legislator, Westlund has focused on creative approaches to improve Oregon. He is the architect of the Oregon Cultural Trust, an innovative public private partnership designed to expand Oregon’s economy through investment in the Arts. He also proposed and passed legislation to create “The Fallen Officers” fund, from assessments on convicted criminals who put officers at risk, to provide much-needed financial assistance to families of public safety officers killed and critically injured in the line of duty. He also supported the creation of the Oregon College Saving Plan.

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.

Upon recovery, he became a tireless advocate for health care reform, traveling the state to promote innovative solutions to the severe health care crisis facing the state.

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

Over the past year, Westlund co-chaired the committee that produced the Healthy Oregon Act to reform Oregon’s health system to lower costs, improve quality and cover every

Oregonian. He championed efforts to expand Oregon's use of renewable energy and worked to expand opportunities for small business. He continues to support efforts to protect Oregonians from predatory lending and identity theft and to prevent expiration dates on gift cards.

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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