

Ben Westlund for Governor  
MEDIA ADVISORY  
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**ASSN OF OREGON CORRECTIONS EMPLOYEES ENDORSES WESTLUND**  
*Public Safety Group Backs Westlund; Independent Grassroots Movement Continues to Gain Momentum*

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Bend, OR- (July 18, 2006) The Association of Oregon Corrections Employees (AOCE) have announced their endorsement of Senator Ben Westlund (I-Bend), Independent candidate for Governor for the 2006 General Election.

Bryan Goodman, President of the AOCE, explained that Ben “can see the direction Oregon needs to take in protecting public safety needs.”

Westlund was the chief sponsor for the Public Safety Memorial Fund in 1999 (HB 2391), which provides assistance to families of fallen police officers and firefighters, and was a strong advocate for workplace safety requirements for police and firefighters in 2005 (SB 321). Westlund also supports the prevention of crime through funding programs like Oregon Youth Challenge that work to change at-risk youth into productive citizens.

“This steadfast stance is what we need to further Oregon’s vision. It is our hope...that Oregon will see a more bipartisan approach to issues affecting Oregon citizens instead of the same old divided party approach,” said Goodman.

The public safety endorsement is especially meaningful for Westlund, who after being arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol in 1982 has been sober for 24 years. Westlund credits that incident as the flashpoint that inspired him to turn his life around.

The endorsement was accompanied by a generous \$25,000 contribution to assist the campaign in reaching out to voters. “We are honored to have the endorsement of the Oregon Corrections Employees, and thank them for their support,” said Stacey Dycus, campaign manager. “All across Oregon, our momentum is building. We have met our signature milestone and our aggressive statewide grassroots campaign continues to gain momentum in every community.”

Recently, Westlund announced that the campaign has gathered 18,390 signatures. To qualify for the ballot, Westlund must submit 18,368 valid signatures by the end of August. The campaign will continue to gather signatures to account for those signatures deemed invalid. Voters can sign Westlund’s petition by downloading a petition from his website at [www.westlundforgovernor.com](http://www.westlundforgovernor.com), by visiting one of his regional offices or by ordering an Action Kit from the campaign by calling toll free 877-544-9222.

A successful entrepreneur and agri-businessman, Westlund served as a Republican in the state legislature since 1997, and was elected first as state representative from rural Central Oregon. Westlund was appointed in the final days of the 2003 session to fill a vacancy in the Senate and was elected to the seat in November 2004, receiving both the Democratic and Republican nominations and over 80% of the votes cast.

Westlund's politics defy party labels. He continues to lead the fight to provide fiscal stability through comprehensive fiscal reform including changing Oregon's tax structure that depends too heavily on income taxes paid by individual earners. He also is working to reduce health care costs for individuals and businesses and believes that primary and preventative healthcare is a fundamental right. He is a champion of alternative and renewable energy technologies and believes they provide the key to Oregon's prosperity.

More information about Ben Westlund, current signature count, commercials and radio ads, and regional field offices can be found at [www.westlundforgovernor.com](http://www.westlundforgovernor.com). The toll-free number for Westlund's Bend headquarters is 1-877-544-9222.