

WASHINGTON REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST  
Form PRE 14A  
March 27, 2017

SCHEDULE 14A  
(RULE 14a-101)  
INFORMATION REQUIRED IN PROXY STATEMENT

SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION  
Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of the  
Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Filed by Registrant   
Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

- Preliminary Proxy Statement
- Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))
- Definitive Proxy Statement
- Definitive Additional Materials
- Soliciting Material Pursuant to §240.14a-12

Washington Real Estate Investment Trust  
(Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if Other Than the Registrant)

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1) Amount Previously Paid:

2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:

3) Filing Party:

4) Date Filed:

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1775 Eye Street, N.W.  
Suite 1000  
Washington, D.C. 20006  
202-774-3200  
www.washreit.com

April \_\_, 2017

Dear Shareholder,

You are cordially invited to attend the Annual Meeting of Shareholders of Washington Real Estate Investment Trust (“Washington REIT,” “we” or “us”) to be held on Thursday, June 1, 2017 at 8:30 a.m., Eastern Time, at 1775 Eye Street, N.W., Suite 1000, Washington, D.C. 20006 (the “Annual Meeting”). A formal Notice of the meeting and a Proxy Statement describing the proposals to be considered and voted upon are enclosed.

The Board of Trustees (the “Board”) has nominated three individuals for election as trustees at the Annual Meeting and recommends that shareholders vote in favor of their election. In addition to the election of the trustees, we are recommending your approval of an amendment to the Articles of Amendment and Restatement to declassify our Board, an amendment to the Articles of Amendment and Restatement to enable our shareholders to vote to amend our bylaws, our executive compensation program in a non-binding, advisory vote and the one-year frequency of the vote on the executive compensation program in a non-binding, advisory vote. We are also recommending your ratification of the appointment of Ernst & Young LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for 2017. The accompanying Notice of 2017 Annual Meeting of Shareholders describes these matters.

Regardless of the number of shares you own, your vote is important. Please read the Proxy Statement carefully, then complete, sign and return your Proxy Card in the enclosed envelope. You may also authorize a proxy to vote via telephone or the Internet if you prefer by following instructions on the Proxy Card.

The Board appreciates your continued support of Washington REIT and encourages your participation in the Annual Meeting. Whether or not you plan to attend the Annual Meeting, it is important that your shares be represented.

Accordingly, please vote your shares as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

/s/ Charles T. Nason  
Charles T. Nason  
Chairman of the Board

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Important Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials for  
the Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be held on Thursday, June 1, 2017  
This Proxy Statement and our 2016 Annual Report to Shareholders  
are available at <http://www.edocumentview.com/wre>.

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WASHINGTON REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST  
NOTICE OF 2017 ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

To the Shareholders of Washington Real Estate Investment Trust:

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of Shareholders of Washington Real Estate Investment Trust, a Maryland real estate investment trust (“Washington REIT,” “we” or “us”), will be held at the time and place below and for the following purposes:

Date: Thursday, June 1, 2017

Time: 8:30 a.m., Eastern Time

Place: 1775 Eye Street, N.W., Suite 1000, Washington, D.C. 20006

Record Date: The trustees have fixed the close of business on March 15, 2017, as the record date for determining holders of shares entitled to notice of and to vote at the Annual Meeting or at any postponement or adjournment thereof.

- Items of Business:
1. To consider and vote upon an amendment to the Articles of Amendment and Restatement to declassify the Board of Trustees (the “Board”);
  2. To consider and vote upon an amendment to the Articles of Amendment and Restatement to enable our shareholders to amend the bylaws;
  3. To elect three trustees to serve until the annual meeting of shareholders in 2020 and until their successors have been duly elected and qualify;
  4. To consider and vote on a non-binding, advisory basis upon the compensation of the named executive officers as disclosed in this Proxy Statement pursuant to Item 402 of Regulation S-K;
  5. To consider and vote on a non-binding, advisory basis upon whether the shareholder advisory vote to approve the compensation of the named executive officers should occur every one, two or three years;
  6. To consider and vote upon ratification of the appointment of Ernst & Young LLP as the our independent registered public accounting firm for 2017; and
  7. To transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

Proxy Voting: You are requested, whether or not you plan to be present at the Annual Meeting, to vote, sign and promptly return the Proxy Card. Alternatively, you may authorize a proxy to vote by telephone or the Internet, if you prefer. To do so, you should follow the instructions on the Proxy Card.

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Regardless of the number of shares you hold, as a shareholder your role is very important, and the Board strongly encourages you to exercise your right to vote. Pursuant to the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission's "notice and access" rules, our Proxy Statement and 2016 Annual Report to Shareholders are available online at [www.edocumentview.com/wre](http://www.edocumentview.com/wre).

By order of the Board of Trustees:

/s/ Kelly N. Shiflett  
Kelly N. Shiflett  
Corporate Secretary  
Washington, D.C.  
April \_\_, 2017

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1775 Eye Street, N.W.  
Suite 1000  
Washington, D.C. 20006  
202-774-3200 www.washreit.com

April \_\_, 2017

PROXY STATEMENT  
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THE ANNUAL MEETING

Why am I receiving this Proxy Statement?

This Proxy Statement is furnished by the Board of Trustees (the "Board") of Washington Real Estate Investment Trust, a Maryland real estate investment trust ("Washington REIT," "we" or "us"), in connection with its solicitation of proxies for exercise at the 2017 Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be held on Thursday, June 1, 2017, at 8:30 a.m., Eastern Time, at 1775 Eye Street, N.W., Suite 1000, Washington, D.C. 20006, and at any and all postponements or adjournments thereof (the "Annual Meeting"). On or about , 2017, we mailed a Shareholder Meeting Notice together with an Important Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials (the "Proxy Availability Notice") to shareholders of record as of the close of business on March 15, 2017 (the "Record Date"). This Proxy Statement, the form of Proxy Card and our 2016 Annual Report (the "Annual Report") are first being furnished to shareholders on or about , 2017.

The mailing address of our principal executive offices is 1775 Eye Street N.W., Suite 1000, Washington, D.C. 20006. We maintain a website at www.washreit.com. Information on or accessible through our website is not and should not be considered part of this Proxy Statement.

You should rely only on the information provided in this Proxy Statement. No person is authorized to give any information or to make any representation not contained in this Proxy Statement, and, if given or made, you should not rely on that information or representation as having been authorized by us. You should not assume that the information in this Proxy Statement is accurate as of any date other than the date of this Proxy Statement or, where information relates to another date set forth in this Proxy Statement, then as of that date.

Why didn't I automatically receive a paper copy of the Proxy Card and Annual Report?

Pursuant to rules adopted by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC"), we have elected to provide access to our proxy materials via the Internet. Accordingly, rather than paper copies of all of our proxy materials, we sent the Shareholder Meeting Notice and Proxy Availability Notice to our shareholders.

What is the purpose of the Annual Meeting?

At the Annual Meeting, shareholders will be asked to vote upon the matters set forth in the accompanying notice of annual meeting, including amendments to Washington REIT's Articles of Amendment and Restatement to declassify the board and to enable shareholders to vote to amend the bylaws, the election of trustees, an advisory resolution on named executive officer compensation, an advisory vote on the frequency of the advisory resolution on named executive officer compensation, the ratification of the appointment of our independent registered public accounting firm and such other business as may properly come before the meeting and at any postponement or adjournment thereof.

May I attend the meeting?

All shareholders of record of common shares at the close of business on the Record Date, or their designated proxies, are authorized to attend the Annual Meeting. Each shareholder and proxy will be asked to present a valid government-issued photo identification, such as a driver's license or passport, before being admitted. If you are not a shareholder of record but you hold your shares in "street name" (i.e., your shares are held in an account maintained by a bank, broker or other nominee), then you should provide proof of beneficial ownership on the Record Date, such as your most recent account statement, a copy of the voting instruction card provided by your broker, trustee or nominee, or other similar evidence of ownership.

Who is entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting?

The close of business on March 15, 2017 has been fixed as the Record Date for the determination of shareholders entitled to receive notice of and to vote at the Annual Meeting. Our voting securities consist of common shares of beneficial interest, \$0.01 par value per share ("common shares"), of which 75,053,128 common shares were outstanding at the close of business on the Record Date. Washington REIT has no other outstanding voting security. Each common share outstanding as of the close of business on the Record Date will be entitled to one vote on each matter properly submitted at the Annual Meeting.

What constitutes a quorum?

The presence, in person or by proxy, of shareholders entitled to cast a majority of all the votes entitled to be cast at the Annual Meeting on any matter will constitute a quorum at the Annual Meeting. Shareholders do not have cumulative voting rights. Abstentions and broker non-votes, if any, are counted for purposes of determining the presence or absence of a quorum for the transaction of business at the Annual Meeting. A broker non-vote occurs when a broker holding shares for a beneficial owner does not authorize a proxy to cast a vote with respect to a particular proposal because the broker does not have discretionary voting power with respect to that matter and has not received voting instructions from the beneficial owner. If that happens, the broker may vote those shares only on matters deemed "routine" by the New York Stock Exchange (the "NYSE"), the exchange on which our common shares are listed. On non-routine matters, nominees holding shares for a beneficial owner cannot vote without instructions from the beneficial owner, resulting in a so-called "broker non-vote."

Proposal 6 (Ratification of Ernst & Young LLP) is the only proposal that is considered "routine" under the NYSE rules. Accordingly, no broker non-votes will arise in the context of voting for the ratification of the appointment of Ernst & Young

LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for our fiscal year ending December 31, 2017, and the broker is permitted to vote your shares on such ratification even if the broker does not receive voting instructions from you. The treatment of abstentions and broker non-votes and the vote required to approve each proposal are set forth under the caption "Voting Matters" under each proposal below.

How do I vote?

Voting by Proxy for Shares Registered Directly in the Name of the Shareholder

If you are a "registered shareholder" and hold your common shares in your own name as a holder of record with our transfer agent, Computershare Trust Company, N.A., you may instruct the proxy holders named in the Proxy Card how to vote your common shares in one of the following ways:

**Vote by Internet.** You may vote via the Internet by following the instructions provided on your Proxy Card. The website for Internet voting is printed on your Proxy Card. Internet voting is available 24 hours per day until 11:59 p.m., Eastern Time on May 31, 2017. To vote online, you will be asked to enter your control number(s) to ensure the security of your vote. You will find your control number on your Proxy Card received with your Proxy Statement. If you vote by Internet, you do not need to return your Proxy Card.

**Vote by Telephone.** You also have the option to vote by telephone by calling the toll-free number listed on your Proxy Card. Telephone voting is available 24 hours per day until 11:59 p.m., Eastern Time, on May 31, 2017. When you call, please have your Proxy Card in hand. You will receive a series of voice instructions that will allow you to vote your common shares. You will also be given the opportunity to confirm that your instructions have been properly recorded. If you vote by telephone, you do not need to return your Proxy Card.

**Vote by Mail.** If you received printed materials, and would like to vote by mail, then please mark, sign and date your Proxy Card and return it promptly to our transfer agent, Computershare Trust Company, N.A., in the postage-paid envelope provided. If you did not receive printed materials and would like to vote by mail, you must request printed copies of the proxy materials by following the instructions on the Proxy Availability Notice.

Voting by Proxy for Shares held in "Street Name"

If your common shares are held in "street name" (i.e., through a broker, bank or other nominee), then you will receive instructions from your broker, bank or other nominee that you must follow in order to have your common shares voted. The materials from your broker, bank or other nominee will include a Voting Instruction Form or other document by which you can instruct your broker, bank or other nominee how to vote your common shares.

What am I being asked to vote on?

You are being asked to consider and vote on the following proposals:

Proposal 1 - Amendment to the Articles of Amendment and Restatement to Declassify the Board of Trustees and Provide for Annual Election of Trustees - page 6 below: To consider and vote on an amendment to our Articles of Amendment and Restatement to declassify the Board and provide for annual elections of our trustees (the "Declassification Amendment").

Proposal 2 - Amendment to the Articles of Amendment and Restatement to Enable Shareholders to Vote to Amend the Bylaws - page 8 below: To consider and vote on an amendment to our Articles of Amendment and Restatement to enable our shareholders to vote to amend our bylaws (the "Shareholder Voting Amendment").

Proposal 3 - Election of Trustees) - page 9 below: To elect three trustees to the Board to serve until the annual meeting of shareholders in 2020 and until their successors have been duly elected and qualify. If the Declassification Amendment is approved at the Annual Meeting, the trustees nominated at the Annual Meeting, and all future annual meetings, will each be elected for a one year term and, beginning with the 2019 annual meeting of shareholders when the last term in the currently classified board is scheduled to expire, all members of the Board will be elected annually and, in each case, until his or her respective successor is duly elected and qualifies.

Proposal 4 (Advisory Vote on Named Executive Officer Compensation) - page 28 below: To consider and vote on a non-binding, advisory basis upon the compensation of the named executive officers as disclosed in this Proxy Statement pursuant to Item 402 of Regulation S-K ("Say-on-Pay vote").

Proposal 5 (Advisory Vote on Frequency of Advisory Vote on Named Executive Officer Compensation) - page 60 below: To consider and vote, on a non-binding, advisory basis upon whether the shareholder advisory vote to approve the compensation of the named executive officers should occur every one, two or three years.

Proposal 6 (Ratification of Appointment of Ernst & Young LLP) - page 62 below: The ratification of the appointment of Ernst & Young LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for our fiscal year ending December 31, 2017.

We are not currently aware of any other matter to be presented at the Annual Meeting other than those described in this Proxy Statement. If any other matter not described in the Proxy Statement is properly presented at the Annual Meeting, any proxies received by us will be voted in the discretion of the proxy holders.

What are the Board's voting recommendations?

The Board recommends that you vote as follows: FOR the Declassification Amendment, FOR the Shareholder Voting Amendment, FOR the election of the trustee nominees listed on the Proxy Card, FOR approval of the compensation of our named executive officers as disclosed in this Proxy Statement pursuant to Item 402 of Regulation S-K, for holding the Say-on-Pay vote every 1 YEAR, and FOR the ratification of the appointment of Ernst & Young LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2017. All properly executed proxies will be voted in accordance with the instructions contained therein. If no instructions are specified, proxies will be voted in accordance with the Board's

recommendations above. All proxies will be voted in the discretion of the proxy holders on any other matter to come before the meeting, unless otherwise instructed on the Proxy Card.

What is householding?

If you and other residents at your mailing address own common shares in street name, your broker, bank or other nominee may have sent you a notice that your household will receive only one Annual Report, Notice of Annual Meeting and/or Proxy Statement, unless you have instructed otherwise. This procedure, known as "householding," is intended to reduce the volume of duplicate information shareholders receive and also reduce our printing and postage costs. If you wish to request extra copies, we will promptly deliver a separate copy of such documents to shareholders who write or call us at the following address or telephone number: Washington Real Estate Investment Trust, 1775 Eye Street, N.W., Suite 1000, Washington, D.C. 20006, Attention: Investor Relations; telephone 202-774-3200. Shareholders wishing to receive separate copies of our Proxy Statement and Annual Report in the future, or shareholders currently receiving multiple copies of the Proxy Statement and Annual Report at their address who would prefer that only a single copy of each be delivered there, should contact their bank, broker or other nominee record holder.

Can I change my vote after I have voted?

You may revoke your proxy at any time prior to its exercise at the Annual Meeting by (1) submitting a duly executed Proxy Card bearing a later date to the Corporate Secretary, (2) attending the Annual Meeting and voting in person, or (3) delivering a signed notice of revocation of the Proxy Card to our Corporate Secretary at the following address: c/o Corporate Secretary, Washington Real Estate Investment Trust, 1775 Eye Street, N.W., Suite 1000, Washington, D.C. 20006. If your common shares are held by a broker, bank or any other persons holding common shares on your behalf, you must contact that institution to revoke a previously authorized proxy.

Whom should I call if I have questions or need assistance voting my shares?

Please call (800) 565-9748 or email [info@washreit.com](mailto:info@washreit.com) if you have any questions in connection with voting your shares.

**PROPOSAL 1: AMENDMENT TO THE ARTICLES OF AMENDMENT AND RESTATEMENT TO DECLASSIFY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND PROVIDE FOR ANNUAL ELECTION OF TRUSTEES**

**Description of Proposal**

Our Articles of Amendment and Restatement currently provide that our Board is classified into three groups of trustees, with each class of trustees serving staggered, three-year terms so that the term of office of a single class expires each year.

The Board has proposed that Section 5.2 of the Articles of Amendment and Restatement be revised to declassify the Board. The full text of the Declassification Amendment is set forth as Appendix A to this proxy statement. The purpose of this amendment is to declassify the Board and provide that each trustee serves for a one year term in order to bring Washington REIT's governance structure into line with more shareholder-favorable market practice, thereby enhancing the rights of shareholders and improving Washington REIT's corporate governance to maximize accountability to shareholders. Specifically, under the proposed amendment to the Articles of Amendment and Restatement:

all directors elected or appointed at or after the Annual Meeting will serve for terms expiring at the next annual meeting of shareholders, so that, beginning at the 2019 annual meeting of shareholders, the Board will no longer be divided into classes and all trustees will be elected to serve for one-year terms expiring at the next annual meeting of shareholders;

all trustees currently in office whose terms are scheduled to expire at the 2018 and 2019 annual meetings of shareholders will continue to serve their remaining terms; and

any trustee chosen as a result of a newly-created trusteeship or to fill a vacancy on the Board after the Annual Meeting will hold office for a term expiring at the next annual meeting of shareholders.

The Board considered the benefits of classified boards, which include that classified boards may foster stability and continuity with respect to long-term planning and in the overall business of a company and that classified boards provide non-management directors with longer terms of office that may enhance their independence from management. Additionally, classified boards may encourage potential acquirors to initiate arms-length discussions with a board, instead of engaging in takeover attempts, as classified boards limit an acquiror's ability to replace an entire board in one election, thereby enabling the board to maximize shareholder value or strive to prevent a takeover that the board believes is not in the shareholder's best interest. However, the election of trustees is the primary means for shareholders to exercise influence over Washington REIT and its policies and to hold trustees accountable. A classified board limits the ability of shareholders to elect all trustees on an annual basis and may discourage proxy contests in which shareholders have an opportunity to vote for a competing slate of nominees.

While classified boards may increase the long-term stability and continuity of a board, the Board believes that long-term stability and continuity should result from the annual election of directors, which provides shareholders with the opportunity to evaluate the trustees' performance, both individually and collectively, on an annual basis.

The Corporate Governance/Nominating Committee recommended to the Board, and the Board is submitting, the Declassification Amendment for approval at the Annual Meeting. If this proposal is approved by the shareholders, the Declassification Amendment will be filed with the Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation.

**Voting Matters**

Under our Articles of Amendment and Restatement, an amendment to the Articles of Amendment and Restatement requires the affirmative vote of a majority of all the votes entitled to be cast on the matter. A majority of all votes entitled to be cast means that the number of votes "FOR" a proposal must exceed 50% of all the votes entitled to be cast on the matter. Abstentions and other shares not voted (whether broker non-votes, if any, or otherwise) will have the same effect as votes against the proposal.

**Recommendation**

THE BOARD UNANIMOUSLY RECOMMENDS A VOTE "FOR" THE APPROVAL OF THE DECLASSIFICATION AMENDMENT, AS DISCLOSED IN THIS PROXY STATEMENT.

**PROPOSAL 2: AMENDMENT TO THE ARTICLES OF AMENDMENT AND RESTATEMENT TO ENABLE SHAREHOLDERS TO VOTE TO AMEND THE BYLAWS**

**Description of Proposal**

We are also asking our shareholders to approve the Shareholder Voting Amendment to our Articles of Amendment and Restatement to enable shareholders to have a concurrent right, along with the right of the Board, to vote to amend our bylaws. On February 8, 2017, the Board approved, subject to approval of the Shareholder Voting Amendment by the shareholders, an amendment to Article XIV of our bylaws that will allow for the bylaws to be altered, amended or repealed by the shareholders, by the affirmative vote of a majority of all the votes entitled to be cast on the matter. The Board's existing right to amend the bylaws was not modified by this bylaw amendment. Prior to this bylaw amendment, as permitted under the Maryland General Corporate Law, our bylaws did not provide shareholders with the ability to amend the bylaws. This bylaw amendment is not required to be approved by our shareholders, but as described below, our existing Articles of Amendment and Restatement also contain a limitation on the ability of our shareholders to vote on bylaw amendments that needs to be amended to enable this bylaw amendment to become operative. As a result, the bylaw amendment will not take effect unless the Shareholder Voting Amendment is approved at the Annual Meeting.

In order for the above-referenced bylaw amendment to become operative, Section 8.2 of our Articles of Amendment and Restatement needs to be amended to enable shareholders to have the right to vote on amendments to the bylaws. The full text of the Shareholder Voting Amendment is set forth as Appendix B to this proxy statement. As described further below, the Shareholder Voting Amendment to our Articles of Amendment and Restatement requires approval of our shareholders. The Corporate Governance/Nominating Committee recommended to the Board, and the Board is submitting, the Shareholder Voting Amendment for approval at the Annual Meeting. If this proposal is approved by the shareholders, the above-referenced bylaw amendment will become effective and the Shareholder Voting Amendment will be filed with the Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation.

**Voting Matters**

Under our Articles of Amendment and Restatement, an amendment to the Articles of Amendment and Restatement requires the affirmative vote of a majority of all the votes entitled to be cast on the matter. A majority of all votes entitled to be cast means that the number of votes "FOR" a proposal must exceed 50% of all the votes entitled to be cast on the matter. Abstentions and other shares not voted (whether broker non-votes, if any, or otherwise) will have the same effect as votes against the proposal.

**Recommendation**

**THE BOARD UNANIMOUSLY RECOMMENDS A VOTE "FOR" THE APPROVAL OF THE SHAREHOLDER VOTING AMENDMENT, AS DISCLOSED IN THIS PROXY STATEMENT.**



### PROPOSAL 3: ELECTION OF TRUSTEES

#### Description of Proposal

Our Board currently consists of eight trustees (which includes one vacancy resulting from the resignation of Wendelin A. White in August 2016) and, pursuant to our Articles of Amendment and Restatement, is divided into three classes with staggered terms. At each annual meeting, pursuant to our Articles of Amendment and Restatement, our shareholders elect one class of trustees to serve until the expiration of the term associated with such class. Each trustee holds office until his or her successor has been elected and qualifies or the trustee's earlier resignation, death or removal. Benjamin S. Butcher, Edward S. Civera and Ellen M. Goitia (collectively, the "Trustee Nominees") have been nominated for election as trustees at the Annual Meeting. If Proposal 1, "Amendment to the Articles of Amendment and Restatement to Declassify the Board of Trustees and Provide for Annual Election of Trustees" is approved by our shareholders at the Annual Meeting, the Trustee Nominees will be elected to serve a one-year term and until his or her successor has been elected and qualifies. When the trustees in the other classes conclude their current term, those trustees (or their successors) will also be elected to serve one-year terms. However, if shareholders do not approve Proposal 1, the Board will remain classified and the terms of the Trustee Nominees will expire at the annual meeting of shareholders in 2020.

Messrs. Butcher and Civera are currently serving as trustees and were recommended for nomination for re-election by the members of the Corporate Governance/Nominating Committee. Ms. Goitia was recommended for nomination for election to the Board for the first time by the members of the Corporate Governance/Nominating Committee. For biographical information with respect to Messrs. Butcher and Civera and Ms. Goitia, please refer to "Corporate Governance and Board Matters - Trustees - Trustee Nominees" commencing on page 11 below.

#### Voting Matters

Under our bylaws, the uncontested election of the trustees requires the affirmative vote of a majority of the total votes cast for and against such trustee. A majority of votes cast means that the number of votes "FOR" a nominee must exceed the number of votes "AGAINST" that nominee. Abstentions and other shares not voted (whether broker non-votes, if any, or otherwise) will not be counted as votes cast and will have no effect on the result of this vote. If any of Messrs. Butcher, Civera or Ms. Goitia were to become unable or unwilling to stand for election for any reason not presently known or contemplated, the persons named in the enclosed Proxy Card will have discretionary authority to vote pursuant to the Proxy Card for a substitute nominee nominated by the Board, or the Board, on the recommendation of the Corporate Governance/Nominating Committee, may reduce the size of the Board and number of nominees.

#### Recommendation

**THE BOARD UNANIMOUSLY RECOMMENDS THAT SHAREHOLDERS VOTE "FOR" THE ELECTION OF MESSRS. BUTCHER AND CIVERA AND MS. GOITIA.**

## CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND BOARD MATTERS

## Board Composition

The Board currently consists of eight trustees (which includes one vacancy resulting from the resignation of Wendelin A. White in August 2016), divided into three classes. The current members of our Board are Benjamin S. Butcher, William G. Byrnes, Edward S. Civera, Paul T. McDermott, Charles T. Nason, Thomas H. Nolan, Jr., and Vice Adm. Anthony L. Winns (RET.). Mr. Nason serves as Chairman of the Board. This vacancy resulting from the resignation of Ms. White will be filled by the election of Ms. Goitia if she is elected at the Annual Meeting. The terms of the continuing trustees continue until the annual meetings to be held in 2018 and 2019 and until their successors are duly elected and qualify.

## Trustees

The following table sets forth the names and biographical information concerning each of our trustee nominees and our continuing trustees.

| NAME                              | PRINCIPAL OCCUPATION                                                                                 | SERVED AS TRUSTEE SINCE | AGE | TERM EXPIRES (1) |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----|------------------|
| Trustee Nominees                  |                                                                                                      |                         |     |                  |
| Benjamin S. Butcher               | Chief Executive Officer, President and Chairman of the Board of Directors of STAG Industrial, Inc.   | 2014                    | 63  | 2017             |
| Edward S. Civera                  | Retired Chairman, Catalyst Health Solutions, Inc.                                                    | 2006                    | 66  | 2017             |
| Ellen M. Goitia <sup>(2)</sup>    | Retired Partner, KPMG                                                                                | —                       | 57  | —                |
| Continuing Trustees               |                                                                                                      |                         |     |                  |
| Charles T. Nason                  | Chairman, Washington REIT; Retired Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer, The Acacia Group | 2000                    | 70  | 2018             |
| Thomas H. Nolan, Jr.              | Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of Spirit Realty Capital Inc.                      | 2015                    | 59  | 2018             |
| Vice Adm. Anthony L. Winns (RET.) | President, Middle East-Africa Region, Lockheed Martin Corporation                                    | 2011                    | 61  | 2018             |
| William G. Byrnes                 | Retired Managing Director, Alex Brown & Sons                                                         | 2010                    | 66  | 2019             |
| Paul T. McDermott                 | President and Chief Executive Officer, Washington REIT                                               | 2013                    | 55  | 2019             |

(1) If the Declassification Amendment is approved, the Trustee Nominees' terms will expire in 2018. If the Declassification Amendment is not approved, the Trustee Nominees' terms will expire in 2020.

(2) Ms. Goitia was nominated to serve on the Board of Trustees on March 16, 2017 but is not yet serving as a Trustee.

Trustee Nominees

The biographical description below for each nominee includes the specific experience, qualifications, attributes and skills that led to the conclusion by the Board that such person should serve as a trustee of Washington REIT.

Benjamin

Served as Trustee Since 2014

Butcher

Benjamin S. Butcher serves as the Chief Executive Officer, President and Chairman of the Board of Directors of STAG Industrial, Inc., a position he has held since July 2010. Prior to the formation of STAG Industrial, Inc., Mr. Butcher oversaw the growth of STAG Capital Partners, LLC and its affiliates, serving as a member of their Board of Managers and Management Committees, from 2003 to 2011. From 1999 to 2003, Mr. Butcher was engaged as a private equity investor in real estate and technology. From 1997 to 1998, Mr. Butcher served as a Director at Credit Suisse First Boston, where he sourced and executed transactions for the Principal Transactions Group (real estate debt and equity).

From \_\_\_\_\_

1993 to 1997, he served as a Director at Nomura Asset Capital, where he focused on marketing and business development for its commercial mortgage-backed securities group. Mr. Butcher brings the following experience, qualifications, attributes and skills to the Board:

- General business management and strategic planning experience from his service as chief executive of STAG Industrial, Inc. and his previous service with STAG Capital Partners, LLC and its affiliates;
- REIT industry experience from his service as chief executive of STAG Industrial, Inc. since July 2010;
- Real estate investment banking and capital markets experience from his five years as an investment banker with Credit Suisse First Boston and Nomura Asset Capital; and
-

Financial and accounting acumen from his five years in investment banking, his experience as a private equity investor and with STAG Capital Partners, LLC, and his service as a public company executive with STAG Industrial, Inc.

Edward S. Civera  
Served as Trustee Since 2006

Edward S. Civera served as the Chairman of the Board of Catalyst Health Solutions, Inc., a publicly traded pharmacy benefit management company (formerly known as HealthExtras, Inc.), from 2005 until his retirement in December 2011. In 2012, he served as a senior advisor to management and the Board of Directors of Catalyst Health Solutions in connection with the sale of the company. Mr. Civera also served as Chairman of the MedStar Health System, a multi-institutional healthcare organization until his retirement from the board in November 2013. From 1997 to 2001, Mr. Civera was the Chief Operating Officer and Co-Chief Executive Officer of United Payors & United Providers, Inc. (UP&UP), a publicly-traded healthcare company that was sold in 2000. Prior to that, Mr. Civera spent 25 years with Coopers & Lybrand (now PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP), most recently as Managing Partner, focused on financial advisory and auditing services. Mr. Civera is a Certified Public Accountant. Mr. Civera has also served as a director of The Mills Corporation, MCG Capital Corporation and Notre Dame of Maryland University. Mr. Civera brings the following experience, qualifications, attributes and skills to the Board:

- General business management and strategic planning experience from his ten years as a public company chief executive or chairman at UP&UP and Catalyst Health Solutions;

REIT industry experience from his involvement as an independent director of The Mills Corporation from 2005 to 2006 leading its reorganization and sale as Chairman of the Special Committee and Executive Committee;  
Office real estate industry experience from his involvement in real estate matters as Chairman of MedStar Health;  
Financial and accounting acumen from his 26 years in public accounting and his service as a public company chief executive; and  
General familiarity with D.C. area real estate by virtue of living and working in the Washington, D.C./Baltimore corridor for 28 years.

Ellen

Nominated in March of 2017

Goitia

Ellen M. Goitia is a Certified Public Accountant and served as the partner-in-charge for KPMG LLP's (KPMG)

Chesapeake Business Unit Audit practice and a member of the firm's audit leadership team from October 2011 until her retirement in May 2016.

As the partner-in-charge of the Chesapeake Business Unit Audit Practice, Ms. Goitia

had ultimate operational oversight for five offices in Maryland, DC and Virginia, with responsibilities including

business unit financial performance, resource

management, human resources, quality client service, and risk

management. Ms. Goitia was admitted to the KPMG

partnership in 1993 and had more than 30 years of

experience as a professional with \_\_\_\_\_

the\_firm, including

experience as lead audit partner for a variety of

publicly traded and private companies. She has served

clients on a wide range of accounting and operational

issues, public security issuances and strategic

corporate transactions. Ms.

Goitia was a speaker, panelist and moderator for KPMG's

Audit Committee Institute as well as for other governance programs external to KPMG.

In addition, Ms. Goitia served as an independent member of the Nominating Committee of KPMG's Board of Directors

from 2009 until 2011, and has served on several nonprofit organizations' boards. Ms. Goitia brings the following experience, qualifications, attributes and skills to the

Board:

- General business management and strategic planning experience from her 5 years as the partner-in-charge of the Chesapeake Business Unit Audit Practice of KPMG and over 30 years as a professional at KPMG;
- Understanding of and familiarity with public companies and public company boards from her service as lead audit engagement partner at a major accounting firm;
- Public company accounting, financial statements and corporate finance expertise from over 20 years of service as lead audit engagement partner at a major accounting firm; and
- General familiarity with D.C. area real estate by virtue of living and working in the Washington, D.C. region for over 35 years.

Continuing Trustees

The biographical description below for each continuing trustee includes the specific experience, qualifications, attributes and skills that led to the conclusion by the Board that such person should serve as a trustee of Washington REIT.

William G.  
Served as Trustee since 2010  
Byrnes

William G. Byrnes has been a private investor since 2001.

He was on the Board of Directors of CapitalSource Inc., a commercial lender operating principally through its subsidiary CapitalSource Bank from 2003 until its sale in April 2014, serving in various capacities including Presiding Independent Director and, most recently, Chairman of the Board. He founded, and was Managing Member of, Wolverine Partners, LLC, that operated MUTUALdecision, a mutual fund research business, from September 2006 to October 2012. Mr. Byrnes was co-founder of Pulpfree d/b/a BuzzMetrics, a consumer-generated media research and marketing firm, and served as its Chairman

—  
from June 1999 until its sale in September 2005. He was on the Board of Directors and chairman of the Audit

Committee of LoopNet, Inc., an information services provider to the commercial real estate industry, from September 2006 until its sale in April 2012. Mr. Byrnes spent 17 years with Alex Brown & Sons, most recently as a Managing Director and head of the investment banking financial institutions group. He has been a full-time and adjunct professor and member of the Board of Regents at Georgetown University and currently sits on its Entrepreneurship Advisory Group. Mr. Byrnes brings the following experience, qualifications, attributes and skills to the Board:

• Real estate investment banking and capital markets experience from his 17 years as an investment banker with Alex Brown & Sons;



REIT industry experience from his involvement over the last 16 years as an independent director of three publicly-traded REITs and an institutional fund focused on investing in REITs;  
Retail and residential real estate industry experience from his involvement as an independent director of Sizer Property Investors from 2002 to 2006;  
Financial and accounting acumen from his 17 years in investment banking and his service as a public company director; and  
General familiarity with D.C. area real estate by virtue of living and working in the Washington, D.C./Baltimore corridor for 41 years.

Paul T. McDermott Served as Trustee Since 2013

Paul T. McDermott was elected to the Board of Trustees and named President and Chief Executive Officer of Washington REIT in October 2013. Prior to joining Washington REIT, he was Senior Vice President and Managing Director for Rockefeller Group Investment Management Corp., a wholly owned subsidiary of Mitsubishi Estate Co., Ltd. from June 2010 to September 2013. Prior to joining The Rockefeller Group, he served from 2006 to 2010 as Principal and Chief Transaction Officer at PNC Realty Investors. Between 2002 and 2006, Mr. McDermott held two primary officer roles at Freddie Mac -- Chief Credit Officer of the Multifamily Division and Head of Multifamily Structured Finance and Affordable Housing. From 1997 to 2002, he served as Head of the Washington, D.C. Region for Lend Lease Real Estate Investments. Mr. McDermott brings the following experience, qualifications, attributes and skills to the Board:

General business management and strategic planning experience from his service as chief executive of Washington REIT and his previous service as Senior Vice President of Rockefeller Group;  
Office, retail and residential real estate industry operating and investment experience from his experience as Senior Vice President of Rockefeller Group, Principal and Chief Transaction Officer at PNC Realty Investors and Chief Credit Officer of the Multifamily Division of Freddie Mac;  
Office and residential development experience from his experience as Head of Washington, D.C. Region for Lend Lease Real Estate Investments; and  
Extensive familiarity with D.C. area real estate by virtue of living and working in the Washington, D.C. region for 55 years.

Charles T. Nason Served as Trustee Since 2000

Charles T. Nason is retired Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of The Acacia Group of Washington, D.C. (including Acacia Life, Acacia Federal Savings Bank and the Calvert Group LTD.), now a member company of the Ameritas Group as a result of the merger of the two organizations in 1999. He served Acacia from 1977 to 2005, including as Chief Executive Officer from 1988 to 2003. Mr. Nason is a past Chairman and director of The Greater Washington Board of Trade and the Federal City Council. He served as a director of MedStar Health from 2001 to 2010 and was a member of the Economic Club of Washington. He is also a member of the Board of Trustees of Washington and Jefferson College,

and served as its Chairman from 2007 to 2010. In addition, he is a past director of The American Council of Life Insurers and past Chairman of the Insurance Marketplace Standards Association. Mr. Nason brings the following experience, qualifications, attributes and skills to the Board:

General business management and strategic planning experience from his 15 years as a chief executive of The Acacia Group;

Real estate investment and lending experience from his roles in supervising as chief executive The Acacia Group's real estate purchase and sale decisions, and in supervising as Chairman Acacia Federal Savings Bank's real estate construction and acquisition lending;  
Financial and accounting acumen from his 15 years of service as a chief executive of an insurance holding company;  
Involvement in the D.C. business community, including past service as Chairman of the Greater Washington Board of Trade; and  
General familiarity with D.C. area real estate by virtue of living and working in the Washington, D.C. region for 28 years.

Thomas

H.  
Served as Trustee Since 2015  
Nolan,

Jr.

Thomas H. Nolan, Jr., serves as Chairman of the Board of Directors and Chief Executive Officer of Spirit Realty Capital, Inc. (NYSE: SRC), positions he has held since September 2011. Mr. Nolan previously worked for General Growth Properties, Inc. ("GGP"), serving as Chief Operating Officer from March 2009 to December 2010 and as President from October 2008 to December 2010. He also served as a member of the board of directors of GGP from 2005 to 2010. GGP filed for protection under Chapter 11 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code in April 2009 and emerged from bankruptcy in November 2010. Mr. Nolan was a member of the senior management team that led GGP's \_\_\_\_\_

reorganization and emergence from bankruptcy, which included the restructuring of \$15.0 billion in project-level debt, payment in full of all of GGP's pre-petition creditors and the securing of \$6.8 billion in equity commitments. From July 2004 to February 2008, Mr. Nolan served as a Principal and Chief Financial

Officer of Loreto Bay Company, the developer of the Loreto Bay master planned community in Baja, California. From October 1984 to July 2004, Mr. Nolan held various financial positions with AEW Capital Management, L.P., a national real estate investment advisor, and from 1998 to 2004, he served as Head of Equity Investing and as President and Senior Portfolio Manager of The AEW Partners Funds. Mr. Nolan brings the following experience, qualifications, attributes and skills to the Board:

- General business management and strategic planning experience from his service as chief executive of Spirit Realty Capital, Inc. and his previous service with GGP;

- REIT industry experience from his service as chief executive of Spirit Realty Capital, Inc. and his previous service with GGP;

- Real estate asset management experience in multiple asset classes from his 20 years with AEW Capital Management, L.P.; and

- Financial and accounting acumen from his 20 years with AEW Capital Management, L.P., his service as chief executive of Spirit Realty Capital, Inc. and his previous service with GGP.

Vice  
Adm.  
Anthony L.  
Served as Trustee Since 2011

Winns  
(RET.)  
Vice Adm. Anthony L. Winns  
(RET.) is President, Middle  
East-Africa Region, Lockheed  
Martin Corporation  
("Lockheed"), a position he  
has held since January 2013.  
Between October 2011 and  
January 2013, Mr. Winns was  
Vice President, International  
Maritime Programs, at  
Lockheed. Between July 2011  
and October 2011, Mr. Winns  
was a defense industry  
consultant. Mr. Winns retired  
in June 2011 after 32 years of  
service in the United States  
Navy. He served as Naval  
Inspector General from 2007  
to his retirement. From 2005 to  
2007, Mr. Winns served as  
Deputy Director, Air Warfare  
Division for the Chief of Naval  
Operations. Prior to 2003, Mr.  
Winns served in other staff and  
leadership positions

in Washington, D.C., including  
at the Bureau of Naval  
Personnel. He also served as  
commanding officer of several  
major commands, including  
the Pacific  
Patrol/Reconnaissance task  
force, the USS Essex, an  
amphibious assault carrier, and  
a naval aircraft squadron. Mr.  
Winns also serves as a director  
on the board of the Navy  
Mutual Aid Association.  
Mr. Winns brings the  
following experience,  
qualifications, attributes and  
skills to the Board:

General enterprise management and strategic planning experience from his 10 years of service as a commanding officer of various military units (including a naval vessel) and 11 years of service in senior staff positions in the Pentagon;

Government contracting experience from his three years of service managing U.S. Navy procurement programs as Deputy Director, Air Warfare Division for the Chief of Naval Operations (Washington REIT is a federal contractor and many of Washington REIT's largest tenants and potential future tenants are federal contractors);

Washington, D.C. area defense industry experience from his 16 years of service in staff positions in the Pentagon and current service as President, Middle East-Africa Region, Lockheed Martin Corporation; and

General familiarity with D.C. area real estate by virtue of living and working in the Washington, D.C. region for 22 years.

Board Governance

Leadership Structure

Our President and Chief Executive Officer is Paul T. McDermott. Charles T. Nason serves as our Chairman of the Board of Trustees and is independent under NYSE rules. The Board has concluded that Washington REIT should maintain a Board leadership structure in which either the Chairman or a lead trustee is independent under the rules of the NYSE. As a result, the Board adopted a Corporate Governance Guideline setting forth this policy. The Corporate Governance Guideline is set forth below:

The Board annually elects one of its trustees as Chairman of the Board. The current Chairman of the Board is independent under the rules of the NYSE. In the future, the Chairman of the Board may or may not be an individual who is independent under the rules of the NYSE (and may or may not be the same individual as the Chief Executive Officer). At any time that the Chairman of the Board is not an individual who is independent under the rules of the New York Stock Exchange, the Board will appoint a Lead Independent Trustee elected by the independent trustees. The Lead Independent Trustee has authority to: (i) preside at all meetings of the Board at which the Chairman of the Board is not present, including executive sessions of the independent trustees; (ii) serve as a liaison between the Chairman of the Board and the independent trustees; (iii) approve information sent to the Board; (iv) approve meeting agendas for the Board; (v) approve meeting schedules to assure that there is sufficient time for discussion of all agenda items; (vi) call meetings

of the independent trustees; and (vii) if requested by major shareholders, consult and directly communicate with such shareholders.

The Board believes the leadership structure described in this Corporate Governance Guideline is appropriate because it ensures significant independent Board leadership regardless of whether, in the future, the Chairman is independent under the rules of the NYSE.

#### Independence

Under NYSE rules, a majority of the Board must qualify as “independent.” To qualify as “independent,” the Board must affirmatively determine that the trustee has no material relationship with us (either directly or as a partner, shareholder or officer of an organization that has a relationship with us).

The Board has determined that all trustees and trustee nominees, with the exception of Mr. McDermott, are “independent,” as that term is defined in the applicable NYSE listing standards.

Washington REIT notes that Lockheed Martin Corporation was a tenant under a commercial lease with Washington REIT entered into in the ordinary course of business through June 2016 (at which time the underlying property was sold by Washington REIT). Mr. Winns serves as an employee of Lockheed Martin but is not an executive officer, board member or 1% shareholder of such company. In addition, payments from Lockheed Martin to Washington REIT under the leasing arrangements were significantly less than 1% of either Washington REIT’s or Lockheed Martin’s 2016 gross revenues. Based on the foregoing, the Board determined no material relationship exists. For the specific reasons set forth above, we believe Mr. Winns is independent under applicable NYSE standards and constitutes an “independent outsider” under applicable Institutional Shareholder Services (ISS) guidance.

#### Risk Oversight

One of the key functions of the Board is informed oversight of our risk management process. As an initial matter, the Board considers actual risk monitoring and management to be a function appropriately delegated to Washington REIT management, with the Board and its committees functioning in only an oversight role. Our Board will administer this oversight function directly, with support from its three standing committees, the Audit Committee, Compensation Committee and the Corporate Governance/Nominating Committee, each of which addresses risks specific to their respective areas of oversight. The Board has adopted a policy delineating the roles of the Board and its various committees in an ongoing risk oversight program for Washington REIT, providing that:

- the Board will coordinate all risk oversight activities of the Board and its committees, including appropriate coordination with Washington REIT's business strategy;
- the Audit Committee will oversee material financial reporting risk and risk relating to REIT non-compliance;
- the Compensation Committee will oversee financial risk, financial reporting risk and operational risk, in each case arising from Washington REIT's compensation plans;

the Corporate Governance/Nominating Committee will oversee executive succession risk and Board function risk; and the Board will oversee all other material risks applicable to Washington REIT, including operational, catastrophic and financial risks that may be relevant to Washington REIT's business. Under its policy, the Board also involves the Audit Committee in its risk oversight functions as required by applicable NYSE rules.

Meetings

The Board held ten meetings in 2016. During 2016, each incumbent trustee attended at least 75% of the aggregate of the total number of meetings of the Board (held during the period for which he has been a trustee) and the total number of meetings of all committees of the Board on which he served (during the periods that he or she served). All members of the Board attended the Annual Meeting in person in 2016. The Board does not have a formal written policy requiring trustees to attend the Annual Meeting, although trustees have traditionally attended.

Washington REIT's trustees who qualify as "non-management" within the meaning of the NYSE rules meet at regularly scheduled executive sessions without management participation. The sessions are presided over by Mr. Nason in his capacity as Chairman. In 2016, the Board met in executive session without the Chief Executive Officer five times.

Committee Governance

Our Board has three standing committees, an Audit Committee, a Compensation Committee and a Corporate Governance/Nominating Committee. The membership and the function of each of these committees are described below.

|                            | Audit | Compensation | Corporate Governance/Nominating |
|----------------------------|-------|--------------|---------------------------------|
| Benjamin S. Butcher        |       |              |                                 |
| William G. Byrnes          | Chair |              |                                 |
| Edward S. Civera           |       | Chair        |                                 |
| Thomas H. Nolan, Jr.       |       |              |                                 |
| Vice Adm. Anthony L. Winns |       |              | Chair                           |

|                                     |   |   |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Number of meetings held during 2016 | 8 | 5 | 3 |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|---|

Audit Committee

All members of the Audit Committee are, and were during 2016, "independent," under NYSE rules. The Board has determined that each member of the Audit Committee qualifies as an audit committee financial expert, as that term is defined in the rules of the SEC.

The Audit Committee operates pursuant to a charter that was approved by the Board and that is reviewed and reassessed at least annually. The Audit Committee's oversight responsibility includes oversight relating to: (i) the integrity of Washington REIT's consolidated financial statements and financial reporting process; (ii) Washington REIT's systems of disclosure controls and procedures, internal control over financial reporting and other financial information provided by Washington REIT; (iii) Washington REIT's compliance with financial, legal and regulatory requirements; (iv) the annual independent audit of Washington REIT's financial statements, the engagement and retention of the registered independent public accounting firm and the evaluation of the qualifications, independence and performance of such independent public accounting firm; (v) the performance of Washington REIT's internal audit function; and (vi) the fulfillment of the other responsibilities set forth in its charter.

The Audit Committee assists the Board in oversight of financial reporting, but the existence of the Audit Committee does not alter the responsibilities of Washington REIT's management and the independent accountant with respect to the accounting and control functions and financial statement presentation. For a more detailed description of the Audit Committee's duties and responsibilities, please refer to the "Audit Committee Report" below in this Proxy Statement. The Audit Committee's charter is available on our website, [www.washreit.com](http://www.washreit.com), under the heading "Investor" and subheading "Corporate Overview - Corporate Governance," and upon written request.

#### Compensation Committee

All members of the Compensation Committee are "independent," under NYSE rules. The Compensation Committee operates pursuant to a charter that was approved by the Board and that is reviewed and reassessed at least annually. The Compensation Committee's responsibilities include, among other duties: (i) discharging responsibilities relating to compensation of Washington REIT's Chief Executive Officer, other executive officers and trustees, taking into consideration, among other factors, any shareholder vote on compensation; (ii) implementing and administering Washington REIT's compensation plans applicable to executive officers; (iii) overseeing and assisting Washington REIT in preparing the Compensation Discussion & Analysis for inclusion in Washington REIT's proxy statement and/or annual report on Form 10-K; (iv) providing for inclusion in Washington REIT's proxy statement a description of the processes and procedures for the consideration and determination of executive officer and trustee compensation; and (v) preparing and submitting for inclusion in Washington REIT's proxy statement and/or annual report on Form 10-K a Compensation Committee Report.

The Compensation Committee's charter is available on our website, [www.washreit.com](http://www.washreit.com), under the heading "Investor" and subheading "Corporate Overview - Corporate Governance," and upon written request.

#### Corporate Governance/Nominating Committee

All members of the Corporate Governance/Nominating Committee are "independent," under NYSE rules. The Corporate Governance/Nominating Committee operates pursuant to a charter that was approved by the Board and that is reviewed and reassessed at least annually. The Corporate Governance/Nominating Committee's responsibilities include, among other duties: (i) to identify and recommend to the full Board qualified candidates for election as trustees and recommend nominees



for election as trustees at the annual meeting of shareholders consistent with criteria approved by the Board; (ii) to develop and recommend to the Board a set of corporate governance guidelines applicable to Washington REIT, and implement and monitor such guidelines as adopted by the Board; (iii) to oversee the Board's compliance with financial, legal and regulatory requirements and its ethics program as set forth in Washington REIT's Code of Business Conduct and Ethics; (iv) to review and make recommendations to the Board on matters involving the general operation of the Board, including the size and composition of the Board and the structure and composition of Board committees; (v) to recommend to the Board nominees for each Board committee; (vi) to annually facilitate the assessment of the Board's performance, as required by applicable law, regulations and NYSE corporate governance listing standards; (vii) to oversee the Board's evaluation of management; and (viii) to consider corporate governance issues that may arise from time to time and make recommendations to the Board with respect thereto.

The Corporate Governance/Nominating Committee's charter is available on our website, [www.washreit.com](http://www.washreit.com), under the heading "Investor" and subheading "Corporate Overview - Corporate Governance," and upon written request.

#### Trustee Nominee Consideration

##### Selection Process

The Corporate Governance/Nominating Committee's process for the recommendation of trustee candidates, as it exists from time to time, is described in our Corporate Governance Guidelines. Set forth below is a general summary of the process that the Corporate Governance/Nominating Committee currently utilizes for the consideration of trustee candidates. The Corporate Governance/Nominating Committee may, in the future, modify or deviate from this process in connection with the selection of a particular trustee candidate.

The Corporate Governance/Nominating Committee develops and maintains a list of potential candidates for Board membership on an ongoing basis. Corporate Governance/Nominating Committee members and other Board members may recommend potential candidates for inclusion on such list. In addition, the Corporate Governance/Nominating Committee, in its discretion, may seek potential candidates from organizations, such as the National Association of Corporate Directors, that maintain databases of potential candidates. Shareholders may also put forward potential candidates for the Corporate Governance/Nominating Committee's consideration by submitting candidates to the attention of the Corporate Governance/Nominating Committee at our executive offices in Washington, D.C. The Corporate Governance/Nominating Committee screens all potential candidates in the same manner regardless of the source of the recommendation.

The Corporate Governance/Nominating Committee reviews the attributes, skill sets and other qualifications for potential candidates (see current attributes, skill sets and other qualifications below) from time to time and may modify them based upon the Corporate Governance/Nominating Committee's assessment of the needs of the Board and the skill sets required to meet those needs.

When the Corporate Governance/Nominating Committee is required to recommend a candidate for nomination for election to the Board at an annual or special meeting of shareholders, or otherwise expects a vacancy on the Board to occur, it commences a candidate selection process by reviewing all potential candidates against

the current attributes, skill sets and other qualifications to determine whether a candidate is suitable for Board membership. This review may also include an examination of publicly available information and consideration of the NYSE independence requirements, the number of boards on which the candidate serves, the possibility of interlocks, other requirements or prohibitions imposed by applicable laws, regulations or Washington REIT policies and practices, and any actual or potential conflicts of interest. The Corporate Governance/Nominating Committee then determines whether to remove any candidate from consideration as a result of the foregoing review. Thereafter, the Corporate Governance/Nominating Committee determines a proposed interview list from among the remaining candidates and recommends such interview list to the Board.

Following the Board's approval of the interview list, the Chairman of the Corporate Governance/Nominating Committee or, at his or her discretion, other trustees interview the potential candidates on such list. After the completion of candidate interviews, the Corporate Governance/Nominating Committee determines a priority ranking of the potential candidates on the interview list and recommends such priority ranking to the Board.

Following the Board's approval of the priority ranking, the Chairman of the Corporate Governance/Nominating Committee or, at his or her discretion, other trustees contact the potential candidates based on their order in the priority ranking. When a potential candidate indicates his or her willingness to accept nomination to the Board, the recommendation process is substantially complete. Subject to a final review of eligibility under Washington REIT policies and applicable laws and regulations using information supplied directly by the candidate, the Corporate Governance/Nominating Committee then recommends the candidate for nomination.

The Corporate Governance/Nominating Committee's minimum qualifications and specific qualities and skills required for trustees, as they exist from time to time, are also set forth in our Corporate Governance Guidelines. Our Corporate Governance Guidelines currently provide that each trustee candidate, at a minimum, should possess the following attributes: integrity, trustworthiness, business judgment, credibility, collegiality, professional achievement, constructiveness and public awareness. Our Corporate Governance Guidelines also provide that, as a group, the independent trustees should possess the following skill sets and characteristics: financial acumen equivalent to the level of a public company chief financial officer or senior executive of a capital market, investment or financial services firm; operational or strategic acumen germane to the real estate industry; public and/or government affairs acumen; corporate governance acumen, gained through service as a senior officer or director of a publicly-owned corporation or comparable academic or other experience; and diversity in terms of gender, ethnicity, experience and expertise.

Ms. Goitia was nominated to the Board as a Class III Director on March 16, 2017, to fill Ms. White's open position. Potential nominees were solicited from the Board. The candidates were evaluated based on the criteria established for potential trustees, as listed above. The Board believes Ms. Goitia meets the established criteria and is the best qualified candidate for election to the Board. Ms. Goitia is a new nominee for election to the Board this year, and her nomination was recommended by the Corporate Governance/Nominating Committee and approved by the Board.

#### Diversity Policy

The Board maintains a policy with regard to consideration of diversity in identifying trustee nominees. Consistent with this policy, the Corporate Governance/Nominating Committee specifically considers diversity as a factor in the selection of trustee nominees. As noted above, the Board defines diversity in our Corporate Governance Guidelines in terms of gender, ethnicity, experience and expertise.

The Board and the Corporate Governance/Nominating Committee both assess the policy to be effective insofar as it has been actively incorporated into discussions of the Corporate Governance/Nominating Committee with respect to Board membership occurring since the policy was adopted.

#### Other Governance Matters

##### Related Party Transactions Policy

When a reportable related party transaction arises, Washington REIT requires the review and approval of the Audit Committee. The Audit Committee will approve the transaction only if the Audit Committee believes that the transaction is in the best interest of Washington REIT.

##### Communications with the Board

The Board provides a process for shareholders and other interested parties to send communications to the entire Board or to any of the trustees. Shareholders and interested parties may send these written communications c/o Corporate Secretary, Washington Real Estate Investment Trust, 1775 Eye Street, N.W., Suite 1000, Washington, D.C. 20006. All communications will be compiled by the Corporate Secretary and submitted to the Board or the trustees on a periodic basis.

##### Corporate Governance Guidelines

Washington REIT has adopted Corporate Governance Guidelines. Our Corporate Governance Guidelines, as well as the Committee Charters, are available on our website, [www.washreit.com](http://www.washreit.com), under the heading "Investor" and subheading "Corporate Overview - Corporate Governance," and upon written request.

##### Code of Ethics and Business Conduct

Washington REIT has adopted a Code of Ethics and Business Conduct that applies to all of its trustees, officers and employees. The Code of Ethics is available on our website, [www.washreit.com](http://www.washreit.com), under the heading "Investor" and subheading "Corporate Overview - Corporate Governance," and available upon written request. Washington REIT intends to post on our website any amendments to, or waivers from, the Code of Ethics and Business Conduct promptly following the date of such amendment or waiver.

## Trustee Compensation

### General

For 2016, our non-employee trustees (other than our Chairman) received an annual retainer of \$35,000 plus an additional \$1,500 per committee meeting attended. Our Chairman received an annual retainer of \$110,000, with no additional compensation for committee meetings attended. Our Chairman does not sit on any of our committees, but routinely attends committee meetings in the course of exercising his duties as Chairman. Our Committee Chairs also received additional retainers as follows: Audit Committee, \$15,000; Corporate Governance/Nominating Committee, \$11,000; and Compensation Committee, \$11,000. Audit Committee members were also paid an additional annual retainer of \$3,750.

Each of our non-employee trustees also receives an annual \$100,000 common share grant, awarded 50% on the earlier of the annual shareholder meeting date or May 15, and the remaining 50% on December 15 of each calendar year. The number of common shares is determined by the closing price of the common shares on the date of grant.

Washington REIT has adopted a non-qualified deferred compensation plan for non-employee trustees which was amended and restated effective October 21, 2015. The plan allows any non-employee trustee to defer a percentage or dollar amount of his or her cash compensation and/or all of his or her share compensation. Cash compensation deferred is credited with interest equivalent to the weighted average interest rate on Washington REIT's fixed-rate bonds as of December 31 of each calendar year. A non-employee trustee may alternatively elect to designate that all of his or her annual board retainer and/or all of his or her share compensation be converted into restricted share units at the market price of common shares as of the end of the applicable quarter. The restricted share units are credited with an amount equal to the corresponding dividends paid on Washington REIT's common shares. Following a trustee's separation from service, the deferred compensation plus earnings can be paid in either a lump sum or, in the case of deferred cash compensation only, in installments pursuant to a prior election of the trustee. Compensation deferred into restricted share units is paid in the form of shares. Upon a trustee's death, the trustee's beneficiary will receive a lump sum payout of any restricted share units in the form of shares, and any deferred cash compensation will be paid in accordance with the trustee's prior election either as a lump sum or in installments. The plan is unfunded and payments are to be made from general assets of Washington REIT.

### Trustee Ownership Policy

The Board has adopted a trustee share ownership policy for non-employee trustees. Under the policy, each trustee is required to retain an aggregate number of common shares the value of which must at least equal five times the annual cash retainer.

In order to calculate the required number of shares, the annual cash retainer at the time of a trustee's election (or, if later, the policy implementation date of July 23, 2014) is multiplied by five, with the resulting product then being divided by the average closing price for the 60 days prior to the date of election (or, if later, the policy implementation date). Each non-employee trustee is required to meet the threshold within five years after their initial election to the Board. Trustees whose initial election was more than five years before the policy implementation date were required to have met their ownership goal on the policy implementation date (and Washington REIT believes all such trustees did, in fact, meet their ownership goal on the policy implementation date).

In order to effectuate the foregoing policy, common shares received by trustees as compensation vest immediately but are restricted in transfer so long as the trustee serves on the Board pursuant to an additional Board-adopted policy. As a result of the foregoing, our Board members may only sell their common shares received as compensation for Board service after the conclusion of their service on the Board. We believe this transfer restriction strongly promotes the alignment of our Board members' interests with the interests of our shareholders.

#### Trustee Compensation Table

The following table summarizes the compensation paid by Washington REIT to our non-employee trustees who served on the Board for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016. All share awards are fully vested (but subject to the transfer restriction noted above). See "Principal and Management Shareholders - Trustee and Executive Officer Ownership" on page 25. Mr. McDermott does not receive any compensation for his service as a member of the Board.

| (a)<br>Name                       | (b)<br>Fees Earned or<br>Paid in Cash<br>(\$) | (c)<br>Stock<br>Awards<br>(1)<br>(\$) | (f)<br>Change in Pension Value<br>and Deferred<br>Compensation Earnings (2) (\$) | (j)<br>Total<br>(\$) |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Benjamin S. Butcher               | \$ 58,250                                     | \$99,968                              | \$ 57                                                                            | \$158,275            |
| William G. Byrnes                 | 66,500                                        | 99,968                                | —                                                                                | 166,468              |
| Edward S. Civera                  | 69,250                                        | 99,968                                | —                                                                                | 169,218              |
| John P. McDaniel (3)              | 23,646                                        | 49,996                                | 13,263                                                                           | 86,905               |
| Charles T. Nason                  | 110,000                                       | 99,968                                | 27,540                                                                           | 237,508              |
| Thomas H. Nolan, Jr.              | 55,250                                        | 99,968                                | —                                                                                | 155,218              |
| Wendelin A. White (4)             | 38,167                                        | 49,996                                | 6,726                                                                            | 94,889               |
| Vice Adm. Anthony L. Winns (RET.) | 49,750                                        | 99,968                                | —                                                                                | 149,718              |

(1) Column (c) represents the total grant date fair value of all equity awards computed in accordance with FASB ASC Topic 718.

(2) Represents above market earnings on deferred compensation pursuant to the deferred compensation plan.

(3) Mr. McDaniel resigned from the Board effective May 12, 2016.

(4) Ms. White resigned from the Board effective August 19, 2016.

#### Executive Officers

The following table contains information regarding our executive officers (other than our President and Chief Executive Officer, Mr. McDermott, who is listed above).

| NAME OF EXECUTIVE OFFICER | AGE | POSITION                                                                                 |
|---------------------------|-----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Thomas Q. Bakke           | 62  | Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer                                     |
| Stephen E. Riffie         | 59  | Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer                                     |
| Thomas C. Morey (1)       | 45  | Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary                           |
| Taryn D. Fielder (2)      | 39  | Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary, effective March 29, 2017 |

(1) Mr. Morey resigned on July 26, 2016.

(2) Ms. Fielder joined Washington REIT as Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary on March 29, 2017.

As of January 1, 2017, Washington REIT has three named executive officers, Mr. McDermott, Mr. Bakke and Mr. Riffie. Washington REIT has no other executive officers.

There are no family relationships between any trustee and/or executive officer. There are no reportable related-party transactions.

Thomas Q. Bakke

Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer

Thomas Q. Bakke was named Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Washington REIT in April 2014. Prior to joining Washington REIT, he was Senior Managing Director at Cushman & Wakefield where he was the Market Leader for Northern Virginia since April 2013. From January 2012 to April 2013, Mr. Bakke was a consultant and operated a non-profit organization. From February 2007 to January 2012, Mr. Bakke held the position of Market Managing Director for Boston at Equity Office Properties, a national commercial real estate owner and a subsidiary of The Blackstone Group. Over his 20 plus years at Equity Office Properties, Mr. Bakke held positions with The Staubach \_\_\_\_\_

Company and Coldwell Banker Commercial Real Estate Services (predecessor of CBRE Group, Inc.). Mr. Bakke served in the U.S. Naval Reserve for 14 years and was a former F-14 aviator, attaining more than 1000 flight hours with direct involvement in such world crisis situations as the Iranian hostage rescue effort and the Iran-Iraq war.

Stephen E. Riffie

Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

Stephen E. Riffie joined Washington REIT as Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer-elect on February 17, 2015. Mr. Riffie then was elected Chief Financial Officer on March 4, 2015. Prior to joining Washington REIT, Mr. Riffie served as Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer for Corporate Office Properties Trust (COPT), an NYSE office REIT, from 2006 to February 2015. In this role he oversaw all financial functions, including accounting, financial planning and analysis, tax, treasury, capital markets and investor relations. Additionally, Mr. Riffie oversaw the legal department and information technology at COPT. Between 2002 and 2006, he served as Executive

Vice President and Chief Financial Officer for CarrAmerica Realty Corporation, a national NYSE public office REIT.

Taryn D. Fielder

Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary

Taryn D. Fielder joined Washington REIT as Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary on March 29, 2017. Prior to joining Washington REIT, Ms. Fielder served as Senior Vice President and General Counsel of ASB Real Estate Investments ("ASB"), a division of ASB Capital Management, LLC, a U.S. real estate investment management firm, from June 2013 until March 2017. As Senior Vice President and General Counsel, Ms. Fielder served as the principal legal advisor to ASB's management team. Prior to joining ASB, Ms. Fielder served as Assistant General Counsel of DiamondRock Hospitality Company, an NYSE-traded REIT, from February 2011 until June 2013. Ms.

Fielder was an associate in the Real Estate Group at Hogan & Hartson (now Hogan Lovells) from 2004 until 2011. Prior to joining Hogan & Hartson, Ms. Fielder spent two years with Simpson, Thacher and Bartlett LLP, from 2002 until 2004.

## PRINCIPAL AND MANAGEMENT SHAREHOLDERS

## Trustee and Executive Officer Ownership

The following table sets forth certain information concerning all common shares beneficially owned as of March 15, 2017 by each trustee, by each of the NEOs (as defined in "Compensation Discussion and Analysis" below on page 30 and by all current trustees and executive officers as a group. Unless otherwise indicated, the voting and investment powers for the common shares listed are held solely by the named holder and/or the holder's spouse.

| NAME                                                               | SHARES OWNED <sup>(1)</sup> | PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| Thomas Q. Bakke                                                    | 72,091                      | *                   |
| Benjamin S. Butcher                                                | 11,526                      | *                   |
| William G. Byrnes                                                  | 50,746                      | *                   |
| Edward S. Civera                                                   | 38,541                      | *                   |
| Ellen M. Goitia (2)                                                | —                           | *                   |
| Paul T. McDermott                                                  | 140,145                     | *                   |
| Thomas C. Morey (3)                                                | 35,939                      | *                   |
| Charles T. Nason                                                   | 53,706                      | *                   |
| Thomas H. Nolan, Jr.                                               | 7,221                       | *                   |
| Stephen E. Riffie                                                  | 32,317                      | *                   |
| Vice Adm. Anthony L. Winns (RET.)                                  | 15,913                      | *                   |
| All Current Trustees and Executive Officers as a group (9 persons) | 422,206                     | *                   |
| (4)                                                                |                             |                     |

\* Less than 1%.

Includes common shares issuable, pursuant to vested restricted share units, upon the person's volitional departure from Washington REIT, as follows: Mr. Bakke, 4,151; Mr. Butcher, 11,526; Mr. Byrnes, 26,124; Mr. Nason, 17,441; Mr. Nolan, 5,278; Mr. Riffie, 3,525; Mr. Winns, 15,913; and all trustees and executive officers as a group, 83,958.

(2) Ms. Goitia is a new nominee for the Board.

(3) Mr. Morey resigned on July 26, 2016. The shares reflected in the table are as of his Section 16 exit filing.

(4) As a former Executive Officer, Mr. Morey is not included. As a trustee nominee, Ms. Goitia is also not included.

(4) As her employment did not begin until after the Record Date, Ms. Fielder is also not included.

5% Shareholder Ownership

Washington REIT, based upon Schedules 13G filed with the SEC, believes that the following persons currently beneficially own more than 5% of the outstanding common shares.

| NAME AND ADDRESS OF BENEFICIAL OWNER                                                             | AMOUNT<br>AND<br>NATURE OF BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP | PERCENTAGE OF CLASS |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| The Vanguard Group, Inc.<br>100 Vanguard Blvd.<br>Malvern, PA 19355                              | 11,403,495 (1)                                  | 15.2%               |
| Invesco Ltd.<br>1555 Peachtree Street, NE, Suite 1800<br>Atlanta, GA 30309                       | 6,983,209 (2)                                   | 9.3%                |
| BlackRock, Inc.<br>55 East 52 <sup>nd</sup> Street<br>New York, NY 10055                         | 6,502,680 (3)                                   | 8.7%                |
| Vanguard Specialized Funds - Vanguard REIT Index Fund<br>100 Vanguard Blvd.<br>Malvern, PA 19355 | 5,591,350 (4)                                   | 7.4%                |
| Thornburg Investment Management Inc.<br>2300 North Ridgetop Road<br>Santa Fe, NM 87506           | 4,646,845 (5)                                   | 6.2%                |

(1) Based upon Schedule 13G/A filed February 10, 2017. The Vanguard Group, Inc. has sole voting power with respect to 203,960 of these shares, shared voting power with respect to 87,824 of these shares, sole dispositive power with respect to 11,211,001 of these shares and shared dispositive power with respect to 192,494 of these shares. The Schedule 13G/A further indicated that Vanguard Fiduciary Trust Company, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Vanguard, as a result of serving as investment manager of collective trust accounts, beneficially owned 104,670 shares of Washington REIT, and Vanguard Investments Australia, Ltd., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Vanguard, as a result of its serving as investment manager of Australian investment offerings, is the beneficial owner of 187,114 shares of Washington REIT.

(2) Based upon Schedule 13G/A filed February 8, 2017. Invesco Ltd. has sole voting power with respect to 3,324,141 of these shares, shared voting power with respect to none of these shares, and sole dispositive power with respect to 6,983,209 of these shares. The Schedule 13G/A further indicated that the following subsidiaries of Invesco acquired the shares report of the Schedule 13G/A: Invesco Advisers, Inc., Invesco Investment Advisers, LLC and Invesco PowerShares Capital Management LLC.

(3) Based upon Schedule 13G/A filed January 27, 2017. BlackRock, Inc. has sole voting power with respect to 6,310,117 of these shares, shared voting power with respect to none of these shares, and sole dispositive power with respect to 6,502,680 of these shares. The Schedule 13G further indicated that the following subsidiaries of Blackrock acquired the shares reported on the Schedule 13G: BlackRock (Netherlands) B.V., BlackRock Advisors, LLC, BlackRock Asset Management Canada Limited, BlackRock Asset Management Ireland Limited, BlackRock Asset Management North Asia Limited, BlackRock Asset Management Schweiz AG, BlackRock Financial Management, Inc., BlackRock Fund Advisors, BlackRock Fund Managers Ltd, BlackRock Institutional Trust Company, N.A., BlackRock International Limited, BlackRock Investment Management (Australia) Limited, BlackRock Investment Management (UK) Ltd, BlackRock Investment Management, LLC, BlackRock Japan Co Ltd and BlackRock Life Limited.



Based upon Schedule 13G/A filed February 14, 2017. Vanguard Specialized Funds - Vanguard REIT Index Fund (4) has sole voting power with respect to 5,591,350 of these shares and sole and shared dispositive power with respect to none of these shares.

(5) Based upon Schedule 13G/A filed February 8, 2017. Thornburg Investment Management Inc. has sole voting power with respect to 4,646,845, and sole dispositive power with respect to 4,646,845 of these shares.

#### PROPOSAL 4: ADVISORY VOTE ON NAMED EXECUTIVE OFFICER COMPENSATION

##### Description of Proposal

Pursuant to the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act ("Dodd-Frank Act") and Section 14A of the Securities Exchange Act, we provide our shareholders, annually, with the opportunity to vote, on an advisory basis, on the compensation of our named executive officers, or NEOs, as disclosed in this Proxy Statement in accordance with the compensation disclosure rules of the SEC. This proposal is commonly known as a say-on-pay proposal.

Please review the sections of this Proxy Statement entitled "Compensation Discussion and Analysis" for additional details regarding our executive compensation program. Please note, in particular the portion entitled "CD&A Executive Summary" on page 30 which describes significant components of our executive compensation program and actions taken by the Compensation Committee during and with respect to the 2016 compensation year.

We are asking our shareholders to indicate their support for our NEO compensation as described in this Proxy Statement. This proposal gives our shareholders the opportunity to express their views on our NEO compensation. This vote is not intended to address any specific item of compensation, but rather the overall compensation of our NEOs and the philosophy, policies and practices described in this Proxy Statement. Accordingly, we will ask our shareholders to vote FOR the following resolution at the Annual Meeting:

"RESOLVED, that Washington REIT's shareholders approve, on an advisory basis, the compensation of the named executive officers, as disclosed in Washington REIT's Proxy Statement for the 2017 Annual Meeting of Shareholders, pursuant to the compensation disclosure rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission (Item 402 of Regulation S-K), including the Compensation Discussion and Analysis, the 2016 Summary Compensation Table and narrative discussions and the other related tables and disclosure."

As provided by the Dodd-Frank Act, this vote is advisory, and therefore not binding on Washington REIT, the Board or the Compensation Committee. However, the Board and Compensation Committee value the views of our shareholders and to the extent there is any significant vote against the NEO compensation as disclosed in this Proxy Statement, we will consider our shareholders' concerns and the Compensation Committee will evaluate whether any actions are necessary to address those concerns.

##### Voting Matters

Under our bylaws, approval of the say-on-pay proposal requires the affirmative vote of a majority of the votes cast. A majority of votes cast means that the number of votes "FOR" a proposal must exceed the number of votes "AGAINST" that proposal. Abstentions and other shares not voted (whether broker non-votes, if any, or otherwise) will not be counted as votes cast and will have no effect on the result of this vote.

Notwithstanding the approval requirements set forth in the previous paragraph, the vote remains advisory, and the Board and Compensation Committee value the opinions of our shareholders regardless of whether approval (as defined in the previous paragraph) is actually obtained.

Recommendation

THE BOARD UNANIMOUSLY RECOMMENDS A VOTE "FOR" THE APPROVAL OF THE COMPENSATION OF OUR NAMED EXECUTIVE OFFICERS, AS DISCLOSED IN THIS PROXY STATEMENT PURSUANT TO THE COMPENSATION DISCLOSURE RULES OF THE SEC.

COMPENSATION DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

CD&A Executive Summary

The primary goals of our executive compensation program are to attract and retain the best executive talent and to align the interests of our executives with those of our shareholders. In 2014, we enhanced our executive compensation program to further align our executives' and shareholders' interests. These enhancements, as well as a summary of some of the key attributes - what we do and what we don't do - that define our program, are set forth below.

Key Components: The following are key components of our executive compensation program:

WHAT WE DO

We pay for performance, with the vast majority of any executive officer's total compensation being based on performance

We use multiple performance metrics in our STIP – core FFO per share, core FAD per share and same-store NOI growth

We use TSR – and only TSR – in our LTIP (we started this practice in 2014)

We have implemented a clawback policy applicable to our executives

We have robust share ownership guidelines (which apply to officers and Board members)

WHAT WE DON'T DO

Our STIP and LTIP do not provide awards that are solely based on time served (we eliminated this practice from our STIP in 2014)

We do not provide tax gross ups with respect to payments made in connection with a change in control

We do not allow hedging or pledging of our shares

We do not guarantee minimum STIP or LTIP payouts or annual salary increases

We do not pay dividends on performance-based restricted shares until the performance period ends

STIP/LTIP Enhancements: We made several important modifications to our STIP and LTIP in 2014, as follows - We converted a 15% portion of our annual STIP award that was purely service-based to be performance-based, with the result that 100% of the STIP is now performance-based; We eliminated a 20% subjective goal in our STIP tied to acquisition/disposition activity, with the result that 75% of our STIP awards are now financial goals based on core FFO, core FAD and same-store NOI growth performance metrics (up from 60%), and We eliminated a 60% subjective goal in our LTIP tied to strategic plan fulfillment activity, with the result that 100% of our LTIP awards are now based on absolute and relative TSR.

Say-On-Pay Results and Consideration

Because the 2016 say-on-pay proposal received the approval of more than 97% of our shareholders who cast a vote, the Compensation Committee considered such results but did not implement changes to our executive compensation program

motivated by the shareholder advisory vote. As noted above, the Compensation Committee made significant changes to our STIP and LTIP in 2014 motivated by its desire to continually enhance the alignment of our executives to our shareholders.

After the Annual Meeting, and after reviewing the results of the advisory vote discussed in Proposal 5 below, the Board will decide how often, until the next required vote regarding the frequency of “say on pay” votes is conducted, Washington REIT will hold future “say on pay” votes.

#### Compensation Objectives and Components

We believe that the primary goal of executive compensation is to attract and retain the best executive talent and align the interests of our executive officers with those of our shareholders. We think attracting and retaining executive talent is imperative to creating long-term value for our shareholders. We believe providing salaries that fairly reward executives for their value to the organization is a critical base element of compensation. We view performance-based compensation as a means to further motivate and reward our executives for achievement of our financial objectives. As a result, a substantial portion of our executive compensation program is performance-based.

Our executive compensation program primarily consists of base salary, our short-term incentive plan (the "STIP") and our long-term incentive plan (the "LTIP"). The STIP consists of annual cash and restricted share awards. The LTIP consists of awards of unrestricted shares and restricted shares. The additional components of our executive compensation program are described below under “- Other Executive Compensation Components.”

The Compensation Committee makes compensation decisions after careful analysis of performance information and market compensation data. In developing our executive compensation program, the Compensation Committee established the following compensation guidelines:

- executive base salaries should generally approximate the median, but there should also be flexibility to address particular individual circumstances that might require a different result, and
- total direct compensation should approximate the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile of the peer group only in circumstances where management has achieved “top level performance” in operational performance and strategic initiatives.

An executive’s salary and total direct compensation are not mechanically set to be a particular percentage of the peer group average. Instead, the Compensation Committee reviews the executive’s compensation relative to the peer group to help the Compensation Committee perform its overall analysis of the compensation opportunity for each executive. Peer group data is not used as the determining factor in setting compensation because (1) the executive’s role and experience within the company may be different from the officers at the peer companies, (2) the compensation for officers at the peer companies may be the result of over- or under-performance and (3) the Compensation Committee believes that ultimately the decision as to appropriate target compensation for a particular executive should be based on its own business judgment with respect to the compensation opportunity for each executive, taking into account advice from FPL Associates L.P., as noted below.

### 2016 Omnibus Incentive Plan

At our annual meeting of shareholders in 2016, our shareholders approved our 2016 Omnibus Incentive Plan, pursuant to which we may grant equity awards in respect of up to 2,400,000 of our common shares. Effective as of the approval of our 2016 Omnibus Incentive Plan, no new awards may be granted under our 2007 Omnibus Incentive Plan, our legacy equity incentive plan.

#### Role of Compensation Consultant and Peer Group Analysis

The Compensation Committee engaged the services of FPL Associates L.P., as an independent executive compensation consultant, to provide advice and counsel in carrying out its duties. FPL Associates L.P. provided the Compensation Committee with market data on executive pay practices and levels and provided recommendations regarding the structure of the STIP and LTIP.

The Compensation Committee worked with FPL Associates L.P. to develop a comparative group of companies and conduct a market analysis of executive compensation practices and pay levels based on this group. The Compensation Committee used the 13-company peer group set forth below for this purpose. Due to Washington REIT's unique property-type diversification and geographic focus, it is difficult to build a peer group that matches Washington REIT's exact business model. FPL Associates L.P. compared the compensation of Washington REIT's NEOs listed in the Summary Compensation Table on page 53 to the compensation of similarly situated executives employed by companies in the NAREIT compensation survey and the 13-company peer group. The companies in the selected group vary in size, both smaller and larger than Washington REIT, but were recommended by FPL Associates L.P. as appropriate comparable companies based on their approximate size and the complexity of their real estate businesses. The 13-company peer group set forth below will also be utilized for the relative total shareholder return component of the LTIP for periods that commenced on January 1, 2017, as described below on page 38.

|                                   |                                     |                                    |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Brandywine Realty Trust           | Equity One, Inc.                    | Lexington Realty Trust             |
| Cedar Realty Trust                | First Potomac Realty Trust          | Liberty Property Trust             |
| Columbia Property Trust           | First Industrial Realty Trust, Inc. | Mack-Cali Realty Corporation       |
| Corporate Office Properties Trust | Highwoods Properties, Inc.          | Piedmont Office Realty Trust, Inc. |
| Cousins Properties Incorporated   |                                     |                                    |

FPL Associates L.P.'s data compared the compensation of Washington REIT officers based on base salary and total direct compensation, which included base salary, annual incentive compensation and an annualized present value of long-term incentive compensation. The Compensation Committee considers the amount and mix of base and variable compensation by referencing, for each executive level and position, the prevalence of each element and the level of compensation that are provided in the market based on the FPL Associates L.P. comparison analysis.

The Compensation Committee takes into account current financial performance in its evaluation of executive compensation. In particular, the Compensation Committee takes into account current financial performance, represented by core FFO per share, core FAD per share and same-store NOI growth, in determining payouts under the STIP. The Compensation Committee does not delegate any of its principal functions or responsibilities.

### Role of Executives

The Compensation Committee believes management input is important to the overall effectiveness of Washington REIT's executive compensation program. The Compensation Committee believes the advice of an independent consultant should be combined with management input and the business judgment of the Compensation Committee members to arrive at a proper alignment of compensation philosophy, programs and practices.

The Chief Executive Officer and the Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer are the management members who interact most closely with the Compensation Committee. These individuals work with the Compensation Committee to provide their perspective on aligning compensation strategies with our business strategy and on how well our compensation programs appear to be working.

### Base Salary

During 2016, the Compensation Committee, with assistance from FPL, undertook an extensive review of the pay levels of our NEOs and noted that, in general, the levels of base salary ranked materially below the market median of our peers. Although the base salary levels did not change between 2014 and 2015, the Compensation Committee felt that an adjustment was appropriate for 2016 in order to better align with Washington REIT's compensation philosophy in which we seek to approximate the market median across the collective NEO group. In addition, the Compensation Committee also took into account the broader risk-reward profile of the compensation program in which the majority of compensation is tied to incentive pay that may be considered to be "at-risk". The base salaries for our NEOs, as determined by our Compensation Committee for our Chief Executive Officer and our Chief Executive Officer for our Executive Vice Presidents, were as follows.

| Position (1)             | Name              | 2016<br>Base Salary<br>(2) | 2015<br>Base Salary | 2014<br>Base Salary | 2016                        | 2015                        |
|--------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
|                          |                   |                            |                     |                     | %<br>Change<br>from<br>2015 | %<br>Change<br>from<br>2014 |
| Chief Executive Officer  | Paul T. McDermott | \$ 650,000                 | \$ 500,000          | \$ 500,000          | 30 %                        | 0 %                         |
| Executive Vice President | Thomas Q. Bakke   | 425,000                    | 350,000             | 350,000             | 21 %                        | 0 %                         |
| Executive Vice President | Stephen E. Riffie | 425,000                    | 400,000             | N/A                 | 6 %                         | N/A                         |

(1) As described below, Thomas C. Morey served as Senior Vice President during a portion of 2016 at a base salary of \$288,000 per annum. Mr. Morey resigned on July 26, 2016.

(2) Base salaries of our NEOs were increased on July 1, 2016.

The Compensation Committee, acting in consultation with FPL Associates L.P., reviews and approves salary recommendations annually based on the considerations described above. The 2016 compensation for each of our NEOs was determined based on a review of publicly disclosed compensation packages of executives of other public real estate companies and were intended to ensure that executive salaries generally approximate the median of the peer group.

Based on the fair value of equity awards granted to the NEOs in 2016 and the base salary of the NEOs, salary accounted for approximately 24%.

#### Short-Term Incentive Plan (STIP)

##### Plan Summary

Under the STIP, executives are provided the opportunity to earn awards, payable 50% in cash and 50% in restricted shares, based on achieving various performance objectives within a one-year performance period. The cash component of the award is paid following completion of the one-year performance period. The restricted shares are subject to a ratable vesting schedule that runs for three years from the January 1 following completion of the one-year performance period. Each executive's total award opportunity under the STIP, stated as a percentage of base salary, for the achievement of threshold, target and high performance requirements is set forth in the table below:

|                                       | Cash Component (50%) |        |      | Restricted Share Component (50%) |        |      |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|--------|------|----------------------------------|--------|------|
|                                       | Threshold            | Target | High | Threshold                        | Target | High |
| President and Chief Executive Officer | 58%                  | 113%   | 195% | 58%                              | 113%   | 195% |
| Executive Vice President (1)          | 48%                  | 93%    | 160% | 48%                              | 93%    | 160% |
| Senior Vice President                 | 35%                  | 65%    | 115% | 35%                              | 65%    | 115% |

(1) Effective January 1, 2017, the separate award opportunities for Mr. Riffée under the STIP and LTIP were eliminated so that all Executive Vice Presidents now have the same LTIP and STIP opportunities.

Overall STIP performance is evaluated on the following performance goals and weightings:

##### Financial Goals (75%)

The financial goals component of the STIP is comprised of the following three metrics:

- Core funds from operations (FFO) per share;
- Core funds available for distribution (FAD) per share; and
- Same-store net operating income (NOI) growth.



Our performance under these metrics is judged by the Compensation Committee in the aggregate and their aggregate weighting equals 75%. The Compensation Committee establishes guideline expectations for each performance metric but does not establish specific target, threshold or high performance levels underlying the aggregate financial performance goals. These guidelines were set by the Compensation Committee within the first 90 days of the one-year performance period (taking into account input from the Board and the Chief Executive Officer).

At the completion of the one-year performance period, fulfillment of our financial performance goals is evaluated in the aggregate by the Compensation Committee in its discretion (taking into account absolute performance, performance relative to other companies in the industry, challenges faced by Washington REIT and/or positive external circumstances that may have beneficially impacted Washington REIT's performance, input from the Board and a written presentation on satisfaction of such financial performance goals provided by the Chief Executive Officer). At the conclusion of the performance period, the Compensation Committee evaluates aggregate financial goal performance on a scale of below 1 (below threshold), 1 (threshold), 2 (target) or 3 (high). If the Compensation Committee determines that achievement of the aggregate financial goal performance fell between threshold and high, the portion of the award dependent on the aggregated financial performance goal would be determined by linear interpolation (with an associated payout level in between threshold and target performance levels, or target and high performance levels, as applicable). If achievement of the aggregate financial goal performance falls below threshold level (i.e., rated by the Compensation Committee below a level of 1), the portion of the award that is dependent on aggregate financial goal performance will not be paid.

“Core FFO” is calculated by adjusting NAREIT FFO (as defined below) for the following items (which we believe are not indicative of the performance of Washington REIT's operating portfolio and affect the comparative measurement of Washington REIT's operating performance over time): (1) gains or losses on extinguishment of debt, (2) expenses related to acquisition and structuring activities, (3) executive transition costs and severance expense related to corporate reorganization and related to executive retirements or resignations, (4) property impairments, casualty gains or losses, and gains or losses on sale not already excluded from NAREIT FFO, as appropriate, and (5) relocation expense. “NAREIT FFO” is defined by The National Association of Real Estate Investment Trusts, Inc. (“NAREIT”) in an April 2002 White Paper as net income (computed in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (“GAAP”)) excluding gains (or losses) associated with sales of property, impairment of depreciable real estate and real estate depreciation and amortization.

“Core FAD” is calculated by adjusting FAD (as defined below) for the following items (which we believe are not indicative of the performance of Washington REIT's operating portfolio and affect the comparative measurement of Washington REIT's operating performance over time): (1) gains or losses on extinguishment of debt, (2) costs related to the acquisition of properties, (3) non-share-based severance expense related to corporate reorganization and related to executive retirements or resignations, (4) property impairments, casualty gains and losses, and gains or losses on sale, not already excluded from FAD, as appropriate, and (5) relocation expense. “FAD” is calculated by subtracting from NAREIT FFO (1) recurring expenditures, tenant improvements and leasing costs, that are capitalized and amortized and are necessary to maintain our properties and revenue stream (excluding items contemplated prior to acquisition or associated with development / redevelopment of a property) and (2) straight line rents, then adding (3) non-real estate depreciation and amortization, (4) non-cash fair value interest expense and (5) amortization of restricted share compensation, then adding or subtracting the (6) amortization of lease intangibles, (7)

real estate impairment and (8) non-cash gain/loss on extinguishment of debt, as appropriate. Core FFO per share and core FAD per share under the STIP are interpreted to exclude the impact of the two-class method as defined in generally accepted accounting principles when computing earnings per share.

“Same-store NOI growth” is the change in the NOI (as defined below) of the same-store (also as defined below) portfolio properties from the prior reporting period to the current reporting period. “NOI” is a non-GAAP measure defined as real estate rental revenue less real estate expenses. NOI is calculated as net income, less non-real estate revenue and the results of discontinued operations (including the gain on sale, if any), plus interest expense, depreciation and amortization, general and administrative expenses, acquisition costs, real estate impairment, and gain or loss on extinguishment of debt. “Same-store” portfolio properties include all stabilized properties that were owned for the entirety of the current and prior reporting periods, and exclude properties under redevelopment or development and properties purchased or sold at any time during the periods being compared. We define “redevelopment” properties as those for which we expect to spend significant development and construction costs on existing or acquired buildings pursuant to a formal plan which has a current impact on operating results, occupancy and the ability to lease space with the intended result of a higher economic return on the property. Redevelopment and development properties are included in the same-store pool upon completion of the redevelopment or development, and the earlier of achieving 90% occupancy or two years after completion.

#### Individual Goals (25%)

At the completion of the one-year performance period, fulfillment of individual goals is evaluated by the Compensation Committee in its discretion with respect to the Chief Executive Officer and by the Chief Executive Officer in his discretion with respect to all other executives (this carries a 25% weighting). At the conclusion of the one-year performance period, the Compensation Committee or Chief Executive Officer, as applicable, evaluates performance on a scale of 1 (threshold), 2 (target) or 3 (high). If achievement of individual goals falls below threshold level, the portion of the award that is dependent on individual goals will not be paid.

The financial and individual performance goals are re-evaluated on an annual basis as to their appropriateness for use with respect to the 2016 performance period and in subsequent annual programs under the STIP based on any potential future changes in Washington REIT business goals and strategy.

#### Vesting and Payment

With respect to the 50% of the STIP award payable in restricted shares, the restricted shares (1) vest one-third of the shares on each of the first three anniversaries of the last day of the performance period, over a three-year period commencing on the January 1 following the end of the one-year performance period, (2) consist of a number of shares determined by dividing the dollar amount payable in restricted shares by the closing price per share on January 1 following the performance period (or, if not a trading day, the first trading day thereafter), and (3) are issued within 2 1/2 months of the end of the one-year performance period. The restricted shares are awarded out of and in accordance with Washington REIT's 2016 Omnibus Incentive Plan. Washington REIT pays dividends currently on the restricted shares described in this paragraph. Because the restricted shares

under the STIP will only be issued after the one-year performance period has ended, no dividends will be paid on restricted shares until the actual performance has been achieved.

If, during the three-year vesting period for the restricted shares described in the previous paragraph, the executive's employment is terminated by Washington REIT without Cause, or the executive resigns for Good Reason, Retires, dies or becomes subject to a Disability while employed by Washington REIT, or a Change in Control occurs, the restricted shares awarded under the STIP will immediately vest. "Cause," "Good Reason," "Retire", "Disability" and "Change in Control" have the meanings set forth in the STIP. With respect to the 50% of the award payable in cash under the STIP, 100% of such cash portion is payable within 2 1/2 months of the end of the performance period. The executive can elect to defer 100% of the cash portion pursuant to Washington REIT's Deferred Compensation Plan for Officers. If the executive made such election, the cash is converted to restricted share units and Washington REIT will match 25% of deferred amounts in restricted share units. The executive is required to be employed on the last day of the performance period to receive an STIP award, subject to the following exceptions. If during the performance year, the executive's employment is terminated by Washington REIT without Cause, or the executive resigns for Good Reason, Retires, dies or becomes subject to a Disability while employed by Washington REIT, the executive will receive an award under the STIP calculated based upon actual results for the full one-year performance period, but the award will be prorated based on the period of employment during the one-year performance period through the date of such event and the portion of the award paid in restricted shares will immediately vest. If a Change in Control occurs during the one-year performance period, the performance goals under the STIP will be prorated based on the period of time during the one-year performance period through the date of the Change in Control, the executive will receive an award under the STIP that is prorated based on the period of employment during the one-year performance period through the date of the Change in Control and the portion of the award paid in restricted shares will immediately vest.

**STIP Determinations by Compensation Committee**

In the case of core FFO per share, core FAD per share and same-store NOI growth objectives, management proposed guidelines for measuring threshold, target and high performance levels based on Washington REIT's business projection and budget materials. These guidelines were then extensively reviewed by the Compensation Committee (together with the Board) and subsequently approved. The resulting approved guidelines for each of the financial goals across threshold, target, and high performance levels under the STIP are presented in the table below, along with the 2016 actual results recognized by the Compensation Committee:

|                               | Threshold | Target | High   | Final Results Recognized by the Committee |
|-------------------------------|-----------|--------|--------|-------------------------------------------|
| Core FFO per share            | \$1.70    | \$1.73 | \$1.77 | \$1.76                                    |
| Core FAD per share            | \$1.38    | \$1.41 | \$1.45 | \$1.41                                    |
| Same-store NOI growth (0.50)% | 0.25%     | 1.25%  | 1.22%  |                                           |

In making its assessment of the performance of financial goals, the Compensation Committee noted that actual performance with respect to core FFO per share was almost at the guideline high performance level, actual performance with respect to core FAD per share was at the guideline target performance level, and actual performance with respect to same-

store NOI growth was slightly below the guideline high performance level. In recognition of this overall performance, the Compensation Committee determined a combined score of 2.57 for the financial goals (75% weighting) portion of the STIP (on a scale of 1 to 3, with 3 being the highest level of achievement). In determining such combined score, the Compensation Committee made no subjective adjustments to its scoring of core FFO per share, core FAD per share and same-store NOI growth.

In the case of the individual objectives (25% weighting) portion of the STIP, the Compensation Committee reviewed and determined the performance of Mr. McDermott and Mr. McDermott reviewed and determined the performance of each of the other executives. With respect to the Compensation Committee's determination of Mr. McDermott's performance, the Compensation Committee took into account Mr. McDermott's successful execution of the sale of the Maryland office portfolio, recycling part of the proceeds into the acquisition of Riverside Apartments (a 1,222 unit multifamily asset located in Alexandria, Virginia with potential onsite density to develop additional units), strengthening the balance sheet by raising equity and paying down \$270 million of secured debt and continuing operational improvements within Washington REIT. With respect to Mr. McDermott's determination of the performance of the other executives, Mr. McDermott took into account the performance in 2016 of each executive in leading his or her respective department and Washington REIT as a whole and in contributing to the financial and operational accomplishments of Washington REIT. The final determinations of the Compensation Committee and Mr. McDermott with respect to individual performance are reflected in the actual payout amounts for 2016 under the STIP as presented in the Summary Compensation Table and related footnotes within this Proxy Statement.

At the request of the Compensation Committee, an internal audit was performed to review management's calculations for the STIP to confirm that they comply with the STIP. This internal audit was then presented to the Compensation Committee for its review and acceptance.

#### Long-Term Incentive Plan (LTIP)

##### Plan Summary

Under the LTIP, executives are provided the opportunity to earn awards, payable 75% in unrestricted shares and 25% in restricted shares, based on achieving TSR performance objectives within a three-year performance period. The LTIP is a "rolling" plan, with a new three-year performance period commencing on January 1 of each year. Each executive's total award opportunity under the LTIP, stated as a percentage of base salary, for the achievement of threshold, target and high performance requirements is set forth in the table below:

|                                       | Threshold | Target | High |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|--------|------|
| President and Chief Executive Officer | 80%       | 150%   | 270% |
| Executive Vice President (1)          | 50%       | 95%    | 170% |
| Senior Vice President                 | 40%       | 80%    | 140% |

(1) Effective January 1, 2017, the separate award opportunities for Mr. Riffiee under the STIP and LTIP were eliminated so that all Executive Vice Presidents now have the same LTIP and STIP opportunities.

For purposes of calculating award payouts at the conclusion of each three-year performance period, the level of salary is determined for each executive as of the beginning of the applicable performance period. Each TSR goal is measured over a

three-year performance period based on a share price determination made at the beginning and end of the performance period and dividends paid with respect to the common shares during the performance period. For purposes of calculating total shareholder return metrics, the “starting price” equals the average closing price for the 20-trading day period beginning on the first trading day of the performance period. The “ending price” equals the average closing price for the 20-trading day period beginning on the first trading day after the end of the performance period for performance periods that commenced before January 1, 2016, and the average closing price for the last 20 trading days of the performance period for performance periods commencing on or after January 1, 2016. Overall LTIP performance is evaluated on both of the following TSR performance goals and weightings:

**Absolute TSR (50%)**

For absolute TSR, threshold, target and high performance levels are 6%, 8% and 10%, respectively, total shareholder return over the performance period (calculated on a compounded, annualized basis). If absolute TSR falls between 6% and 8% or between 8% and 10%, absolute TSR will be rounded to the closest TSR percentage in increments of 0.5% (e.g., 8.3% will be rounded to 8.5%) and the portion of the LTIP award that is dependent upon TSR will be determined by linear interpolation. If absolute TSR falls below the applicable threshold level, the portion of the award that is dependent on such goal will not be paid.

**Relative TSR (50%)**

For relative TSR, Washington REIT’s TSR performance will be measured over the applicable performance period against a peer group of companies selected by the Compensation Committee at the beginning of the performance period. Prior to determining performance for an applicable period, the Compensation Committee will remove companies from the peer group for such period that cease to be peer group companies as a result of acquisitions, divestitures and other similar actions.

For the performance period that commenced on January 1, 2016, Washington REIT's relative TSR performance will be measured over the performance period against the 13-company peer group set forth below.

|                                   |                            |                                    |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| American Assets Trust, Inc.       | Equity One, Inc.           | Piedmont Office Realty Trust, Inc. |
| Brandywine Realty Trust           | First Potomac Realty Trust | Post Properties, Inc.              |
| Columbia Property Trust           | Highwoods Properties, Inc. | Saul Centers, Inc.                 |
| Corporate Office Properties Trust | Liberty Property Trust     | Weingarten Realty Investors        |
| Cousins Properties Incorporated   |                            |                                    |

For the performance periods that commenced before January 1, 2016, Washington REIT's relative TSR performance will be measured over the performance period against the 15-company peer group set forth below.

|                                   |                                 |                              |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| American Assets Trust, Inc.       | Cousins Properties Incorporated | Mack-Cali Realty Corporation |
| Brandywine Realty Trust           | Federal Realty Investment Trust | Post Properties, Inc.        |
| Corporate Office Properties Trust | First Potomac Realty Trust      | Regency Centers Corporation  |
| Camden Property Trust             | Home Properties, Inc.           | Saul Centers, Inc.           |
| Columbia Property Trust           | Liberty Property Trust          | Weingarten Realty Investors  |

For performance periods that commenced on or after January 1, 2017, the peer group set forth above under “Role of Compensation Consultant and Peer Group Analysis” will be utilized to measure Washington REIT’s relative TSR performance.

Threshold, target and high performance levels for relative TSR are the 33<sup>rd</sup>, the 51<sup>st</sup> and the 76<sup>th</sup> percentiles, respectively. If relative TSR falls between the these percentiles, the actual relative TSR performance level is to be determined by linear interpolation (with an associated payout level in between threshold and target performance levels, or target and high performance levels, as applicable). If relative TSR falls below the applicable threshold level, the portion of the award that is dependent on such goal will not be paid.

#### Vesting and Payment

The LTIP awards are payable 75% in unrestricted shares and 25% in restricted shares, and are awarded out of and in accordance with Washington REIT's 2016 Omnibus Incentive Plan. These unrestricted shares and restricted shares are to (1) in the case of the restricted shares only, vest over a one-year period commencing on the January 1 following the end of the three-year performance period, (2) consist of an aggregate number of shares determined by dividing the dollar amount payable in unrestricted shares and restricted shares by the closing price per share on such January 1 and (3) be issued within 2 1/2 months of the end of the three-year performance period. Washington REIT must pay dividends currently on the restricted shares described above in this paragraph. Because restricted shares under the LTIP will only be issued after the three-year performance period has ended, no dividends will be paid on restricted shares until the actual performance has been achieved.

If, during the one-year vesting period for the restricted shares described in the previous paragraph, the executive's employment is terminated by Washington REIT without Cause, or the executive resigns for Good Reason, Retires, dies or becomes subject to a Disability while employed by Washington REIT, or a Change in Control occurs, the restricted shares awarded under the LTIP will immediately vest. “Cause,” “Good Reason,” “Retire,” “Disability” and “Change in Control” have the meanings set forth in the LTIP. The executive is required to be employed on the last day of the performance period to receive an LTIP award, subject to the following exceptions. If during the three-year performance period, the executive's employment is terminated by Washington REIT without Cause, or the executive resigns with Good Reason, Retires, dies or becomes subject to a Disability while employed by Washington REIT, the executive will receive an award under the LTIP calculated based on actual levels of achievement as of the date of such event, but the award will be prorated based on the period of employment during the three-year performance period through the date of such event and the award will immediately vest. If a Change in Control occurs while the executive was employed by Washington REIT during the three-year performance period, the executive will receive an award calculated in a similar manner as described in the immediately preceding sentence (provided, however, that the award would not be prorated based on the period of employment during the performance period through the date of such event) and the award would immediately vest. In all of the foregoing cases, payment of the award would be accelerated.

The grant date fair values for the LTIP awards for 2016 are presented in the Summary Compensation Table and related footnotes within this Proxy Statement.

#### Transition Awards

As a result of the change in 2014 from an “end-over-end” structure under the prior long-term incentive plan to the “rolling” structure under the LTIP, a transition program was initiated in 2014 in order to ensure that executives maintained an appropriate level of overall long-term compensation during the “phasing in” period for the new structure. The transition program provided for a one-time transition award opportunity (in the amounts described in the table under "Long-Term Incentive Plan (LTIP) - Plan Summary" above) commencing in 2014. This transition award opportunity was divided into two separate tranches with different performance periods and vesting schedules, as follows:

33.34% of the award opportunity had a TSR performance period of one year (commencing on January 1, 2014), vesting 50% at the one-year anniversary of the end of such performance period and 50% on the two-year anniversary thereof, and

66.66% of the award opportunity had a TSR performance period of two years (commencing on January 1, 2014), vesting 65% at the end of such two-year performance period and 35% on the one-year anniversary thereof.

The overall effect of the above transition program was to ensure consistent award opportunity during the LTIP “phase in” period. Each portion of the transition program noted above, consistent with the overall LTIP, was based 50% on absolute TSR and 50% on relative TSR for the relevant performance period. The transition program was designed based on advice from FPL Associates L.P., the independent consultant to the Compensation Committee.

#### LTIP Determinations by Compensation Committee

With respect to TSR goals under the LTIP, the Compensation Committee reviewed the total shareholder return calculations against LTIP metrics with respect to the award opportunity, which had a three-year performance period ending on December 31, 2016. As noted above, for the absolute TSR goal, the threshold, target and high performance levels were 6%, 8% and 10% total shareholder return over the performance period (calculated on a per annum basis). As of the end of the performance period, Washington REIT’s absolute total shareholder return for the period was calculated to be 16.9%. As a result, pursuant to the terms of the LTIP, the Compensation Committee made awards with respect to the absolute TSR goal calculated based on such achievement.

For the relative TSR goal for the three-year period ending on December 31, 2016, Washington REIT’s TSR performance was measured over the performance period against the company peer group utilized by the Compensation Committee as of the beginning of such period, with peer companies that were no longer in existence being removed from the peer group when performance was measured. Threshold, target and high performance levels for relative TSR were the 33<sup>rd</sup>, the 51<sup>st</sup> and the 76<sup>th</sup> percentiles, respectively. As of the end of the performance period, Washington REIT’s relative TSR ranked at the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile. As a result, pursuant to the terms of the LTIP, the Compensation Committee made awards with respect to the relative TSR goal calculated based on such achievement.

## Other Executive Compensation Components

### CEO Employment Letter

On August 20, 2013, Washington REIT announced that it had selected Mr. McDermott to be its new President and Chief Executive Officer and had entered into an employment letter specifying the terms of his employment. The employment letter specified that Mr. McDermott's annual base salary would initially be \$500,000. After December 31, 2014, the Board agreed to review his base salary on an annual basis and may increase it in its discretion. In connection with entering into the employment letter, Mr. McDermott was awarded 21,000 restricted common shares on his start date, which was October 1, 2013. These shares were agreed to vest in equal installments of 7,000 shares each over a three year period while he remains employed, on the first, second and third anniversary dates of his start date. As of October 1, 2016, all of these shares had vested. Had he been terminated without Cause (as defined below) prior to the vesting of any of these shares, all of the then remaining unvested shares would have become vested on the termination date. Under the employment letter, effective January 1, 2014, Mr. McDermott became eligible to participate in the STIP and LTIP at the Chief Executive Officer level, in accordance with the terms of the STIP and the LTIP, as they may be amended by the Board for all participating employees generally from time to time.

The employment letter provided that Mr. McDermott is entitled to an automobile allowance of \$14,000 per year and reimbursement of up to \$15,000 for legal expenses for reviewing the employment letter. The employment letter also entitles Mr. McDermott to a 401(k) match and participation in our SERP. The employment letter requires Mr. McDermott to protect the confidentiality of Washington REIT confidential information and comply with Washington REIT's stock ownership guidelines described below in this Proxy Statement. It further provided that he would enter into the form of indemnification agreement entered into by and between Washington REIT and its other officers and Board members.

The employment letter provides that either Mr. McDermott or Washington REIT may terminate the employment relationship at any time for any lawful reason, with or without Cause, Good Reason (as defined below) or notice. If Mr. McDermott's employment is terminated without Cause or he terminates for Good Reason, he would receive the following severance benefits, payable in installments according to Washington REIT's payroll cycle and pro-rata portions of any STIP and LTIP values as determined by the applicable plans, provided that he signs Washington REIT's standard separation agreement and general release. If termination without Cause or for Good Reason had occurred between October 1, 2013 and September 30, 2015, he would have received 24 months base salary, and if termination without Cause or for Good Reason occurs on October 1, 2015 or thereafter, he would receive 12 months of base salary.

Under the employment letter, "Cause" means commission of a felony or crime of moral turpitude; conduct in the performance of duties which is illegal, dishonest, fraudulent or disloyal; breach of any fiduciary duty owed to Washington REIT; any action or inaction that constitutes a material breach of the employment letter which is not cured to Washington REIT's reasonable satisfaction within 30 days of receipt of written notice advising of such material breach; or gross neglect of duty which is not cured to Washington REIT's reasonable satisfaction within 30 days of receipt of written notice advising of such gross neglect. "Good Reason" means a material diminution in base salary or a material diminution in overall base compensation earning potential that is not agreed to by the employee (other than due to failure to achieve performance-based measures), a material diminution in authority, duties or responsibilities, a material change in geographic location at which the employee is



employed, or any action or inaction by Washington REIT that constitutes a material breach of the employment letter, provided the employee gives written notice within 90 days after the condition providing the basis for such Good Reason first exists and such Good Reason has not been corrected or cured within 30 days after Washington REIT has received written notice of the employee's intent to terminate his employment for Good Reason and specifying in detail the basis for such termination.

#### CFO Employment Letter and STIP/LTIP Matters

On January 18, 2015, Washington REIT entered into an employment letter with Mr. Riffie specifying the terms of his employment. Pursuant to Mr. Riffie's employment letter, Mr. Riffie participates in Washington REIT's executive compensation program, including the STIP and LTIP, at the Executive Vice President level, with the following modifications (1) Mr. Riffie's base annual salary is \$400,000 per annum (rather than \$350,000), (2) his participation in the STIP and LTIP takes effect as of January 1, 2015, and (3) his STIP target is 175% (rather than 186%), split evenly between the cash component of 87.5% and the restricted share component of 87.5%. Mr. Riffie was also awarded 5,287 restricted share units (RSUs) valued at \$150,000, granted under Washington REIT's 2007 Omnibus Long-term Incentive Plan, on his first date of employment. These RSUs vest in three equal installments over a three-year period, on the first, second and third anniversaries of such date.

For 2015 and 2016, Mr. Riffie's threshold, target and high award opportunities under the STIP for each of the cash component and the restricted share component were determined by the Compensation Committee to be 42%, 87.5% (as noted above) and 140%, respectively. Mr. Riffie's threshold, target and high award opportunities under the LTIP were determined by the Compensation Committee to be 44%, 95% and 149%, respectively. Effective January 1, 2017, the separate award opportunities for Mr. Riffie under the STIP and LTIP were eliminated so that all Executive Vice Presidents now have the same LTIP and STIP opportunities.

#### COO Employment Letter

On April 5, 2014, Washington REIT entered into an employment letter with Mr. Bakke specifying the terms of his employment. Pursuant to Mr. Bakke's employment letter, Mr. Bakke was awarded \$100,000 in RSUs, granted under Washington REIT's 2007 Omnibus Long-term Incentive Plan, on his first date of employment. These 4,151 RSUs vest in three equal installments over a three-year period, on the first, second and third anniversaries of such date.

#### Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan

Because the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (the "Code") limits the benefits that would otherwise be provided by our qualified retirement programs, Washington REIT provides a supplemental executive retirement plan ("SERP") for the benefit of the NEOs. This plan was established in November 2005 and is a defined contribution plan under which, upon a participant's termination of employment from Washington REIT for any reason other than cause, the participant will be entitled to receive a benefit equal to the participant's accrued benefit times the participant's vested interest. A participant's benefit accrues over years of service. Washington REIT makes contributions to the plan on behalf of the participant ranging from 9.5% to 19% of base salary. The exact contribution percentage is based on the participant's current age and service such that, at age 65, the participant could be expected to have an accumulation (under assumptions made under the plan) that is approximately equal to the present

value of a life annuity sufficient to replace 40% of his or her final three year average salary. Vesting generally occurs based on a minimum of 10 years of service or upon death, total and permanent disability, involuntary discharge other than for cause, or retirement or voluntary termination if the participant does not engage in prohibited competitive activities during the two-year period after such retirement or voluntary termination.

Washington REIT accounts for this plan in accordance with Accounting Standards Codification ("ASC") 710, Compensation - General and ASC 320, Investments - Debt and Equity Securities, whereby the investments are reported at fair value, and unrealized holding gains and losses are included in earnings. For the years ended December 31, 2016, 2015 and 2014, Washington REIT recognized current service cost of \$225,000, \$262,000 and \$306,000, respectively.

#### Severance Plan

On August 4, 2014, the Board and Compensation Committee adopted an Executive Officer Severance Pay Plan to provide specified benefits to executive officers in the event of their termination of employment from Washington REIT. Under the severance plan, in the event of a qualifying termination of employment of an executive officer, the executive officer will be entitled to receive severance pay in accordance with the following matrix:

#### Weeks of Severance Pay

| Years of Service | Base Salary                 |                |
|------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|
|                  | \$170K but less than \$225K | \$225K or more |
| Less than 1      | 12                          | 14             |
| 1-4              | 16                          | 18             |
| 5                | 18                          | 20             |
| 6                | 20                          | 22             |
| 7                | 22                          | 24             |
| 8                | 24                          | 26             |
| 9                | 26                          | 28             |
| 10               | 28                          | 30             |
| 11               | 30                          | 32             |
| 12               | 32                          | 34             |
| 13               | 34                          | 36             |
| 14               | 36                          | 38             |
| 15               | 38                          | 40             |
| 16               | 40                          | 42             |
| 17               | 42                          | 44             |
| 18               | 44                          | 46             |
| 19               | 46                          | 48             |
| 20               | 48                          | 50             |
| 21               | 50                          | 52             |
| 22 or more       | 52                          | 52             |

In addition to the severance pay set forth above, under the severance plan each executive officer will also be entitled to receive a severance benefit comprised of an ongoing payment from Washington REIT equal to the employer portion of current medical, dental and vision elections for the period of severance (or, if less, the applicable COBRA payment). Any severance pay and severance benefits described above will be subject to applicable payroll and tax withholding.

Under the severance plan, for an executive officer to be eligible for severance pay and severance benefits, the termination of such executive officer must be by Washington REIT without "Cause" (as defined in the severance plan) or by resignation of the executive officer for "Good Reason" (as defined in the severance plan). Washington REIT also has the discretion under the severance plan to pay severance pay and benefits in other involuntary termination scenarios and to pay supplemental severance pay. In all cases, the executive officer must execute and not revoke Washington REIT's standard form of separation agreement applicable to executive officers in order to receive severance pay and benefits. Washington REIT will be required to make the severance payment in a lump-sum on or before March 15 of the calendar year following the calendar year in which the executive officer is terminated, but such portion of the payments (if any) that would constitute deferred compensation under Section 409A of the Code will not be paid until at least six months after the executive officer's termination if the executive officer is also a "specified employee" under the provisions of the Code. The severance pay and severance benefits under the severance plan are in addition to, and not in lieu of, any applicable equity vesting, acceleration of payment or other benefits that may exist under the LTIP, the STIP, the SERP and other compensation plans. If the executive officer is entitled to severance payments under a change in control agreement with Washington REIT, then the executive officer will not also receive payment under the severance plan. In addition, for the President and Chief Executive Officer, he will be entitled to the severance payments under the severance plan or his employment letter with Washington REIT, whichever is greater. The severance plan defines participating executive officers to be officers at the level of President and Chief Executive Officer, Executive Vice President or Senior Vice President.

#### Deferred Compensation Plan

Beginning in 2007, Washington REIT adopted a plan that allows officers to voluntarily defer salary and STIP awards. The plan allows any officer to defer a percentage or dollar amount of his or her salary and/or his or her STIP awards. The amounts deferred are not included in the officer's current taxable income and, therefore, are not currently deductible by us. Salary deferrals are credited during the year with earnings based on the weighted average interest rate on Washington REIT's fixed rate bonds as of December 31 of each calendar year. STIP awards are deferred as restricted share units, with a 25% match of restricted share units on the deferred amount. The 25% match cliff vests after three years. The restricted share units are credited with an amount equal to the corresponding dividend paid on Washington REIT's common shares. Participants may elect to defer receipt of payments to a specified distribution date that is at least three years from first day of the year to which the salary deferred related or, if applicable, at least five years from any previously designated distribution date. If a participant has not elected to further defer a distribution beyond the original designated distribution date, then payment will commence upon the earliest of (1) the original specified distribution date, (2) the date the participant terminates employment from Washington REIT, (3) the participant's death, (4) the date the participant sustains a total and permanent disability, or (5) a change in control. Amounts deferred into restricted share units will be paid in the form of shares. The plan is unfunded and payments are to be made from general assets of Washington REIT.

#### Change in Control Termination Agreements

The change in control agreements with the NEOs discussed below provide for continuation of payments and benefits by Washington REIT in the event of termination due to a "change in control" (as defined in these agreements). The basic rationale

for these change in control protections is to diminish the potential distractions due to personal uncertainties and risks that inevitably arise when a change in control is threatened or pending.

The termination benefits payable in connection with a change in control require a “double trigger,” which means that (1) there is a “change in control” (as that term is defined in the agreement) and (2) after the change in control, the covered NEO's employment is “involuntarily terminated” by Washington REIT or its successor not for “cause” (as both terms are defined in the agreement), but including a termination by the executive because his duties, responsibilities or compensation are materially diminished, within 24 to 36 months of the change in control (as such period is specified in the covered NEO's agreement). In addition, if one of the foregoing terminations of employment occurs in the 90 day period before the change in control, the termination will be presumed to be due to the change in control unless Washington REIT can demonstrate to the contrary. A double trigger was selected to enhance the likelihood that an executive would remain with Washington REIT after a change in control because the executive would not receive the continuation of payments and benefits if he or she voluntarily resigned after the change in control. Thus, the executive is protected from actual or constructive dismissal after a change in control and any new controlling party or group is better able to retain the services of a key executive.

The formula to calculate the change in control benefit is similar for each of the NEOs, with the variable being whether the benefit will be paid for 24 or 36 months. The formula is as follows:

A. A continuation of base salary at the rate in effect as of the termination date for a period based on the levels below:

| Executive Position        | Period    |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| Chief Executive Officer   | 36 months |
| Executive Vice Presidents | 24 months |
| Senior Vice Presidents    | 24 months |

B. Payment of an annual bonus for each calendar year or partial calendar in which the NEO receives salary continuation as described above, in an amount equal to the average annual short-term incentive plan compensation received during the three years prior to the involuntary termination.

C. Payment of the full cost to continue coverage under Washington REIT's group health insurance plan pursuant to the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (“COBRA”) for the period of time the NEO receives salary continuation up to a maximum of 18 months or until the NEO obtains other comparable coverage, whichever is sooner.

D. Immediate vesting in all unvested common share grants, restricted share units, performance share units and dividend equivalent units granted to the NEO under Washington REIT's 2007 Omnibus Long-Term Incentive Plan or Washington REIT's 2016 Omnibus Incentive Plan and immediate vesting in the deferred compensation plans.

Each of our change of control agreements then in effect was amended effective November 5, 2012 to eliminate the executive's right to receive a tax “gross-up” payment based on Section 4999 of the Code. As a result, we have no tax “gross-up” payment requirements to our executives with respect to amounts owed under Section 4999 of the Code.

In addition to our change in control agreements, our STIP and LTIP each provide for particular awards to be made in the event of a change in control that occurs during the performance period under each such plan. These awards are described in further detail under the headings “Short-Term Incentive Plan (STIP)” and “Long-Term Incentive Plan (LTIP)” above. For further information on Change of Control payments, see “Potential Payments upon Change in Control” on page 59.

#### Separation Agreements

In July 2016, Washington REIT announced the resignation of Thomas C. Morey. In connection with his departure, Washington REIT entered into separation agreement with Mr. Morey. Pursuant to the separation agreement, Mr. Morey received all of his earned but unpaid salary and vacation, as of his resignation date. In addition, because he complied with and fulfilled his obligations under the separation agreement, Mr. Morey received an additional \$200,000, less required withholdings and deductions, on February 28, 2017. Mr. Morey’s separation agreement also contains releases by both Mr. Morey and Washington REIT, confidentiality and non-solicitation obligations and other customary provisions.

#### Perquisites

NEOs participate in other employee benefit plans generally available to all employees on the same terms. In addition, the NEOs are provided with supplemental life insurance and in some cases granted an automobile allowance and/or provided an executive physical. The Compensation Committee believes that these benefits are reasonable and consistent with its overall compensation program to better enable Washington REIT to attract and retain key employees. For more information on specific benefits and perquisites, see the footnotes to the Summary Compensation Table.

#### Policies Applicable to Executives

##### Clawback Policy

Washington REIT has adopted a clawback policy with respect to the return (clawback) from executive officers of incentive compensation. The policy states that, with respect to any incentive awards granted after March 20, 2013, the Board will have the right to seek to recoup all or any portion of the value of such awards in the event of a material restatement of Washington REIT's financial statements covering any of the three fiscal years preceding the payment of an award which results from fraud or misconduct committed by a recipient of such award. The Board may seek recoupment from any award recipient whose fraud or misconduct gave rise or contributed to the restatement. The value with respect to which recoupment may be sought will be determined by the Board. Further, it is the intention of the Board that, to the extent that the final clawback provisions adopted by the SEC and the NYSE differ from the foregoing policy, the foregoing policy will be amended to conform to the final provisions.

##### Hedging Prohibition Policy

To prevent speculation or hedging in our shares by trustees, officers or employees, Washington REIT has adopted a policy prohibiting hedging. The policy states that Washington REIT considers it inappropriate for any trustee, officer or employee to hedge or monetize transactions to lock in the value of his or her Washington REIT share holdings. Such transactions, while

allowing the holder to own Washington REIT shares without the full risks and rewards of ownership, potentially separate the holder's interest from those of the other Washington REIT shareholders. Therefore, no Washington REIT trustee, officer or employee is permitted to purchase or sell derivative securities relating to Washington REIT shares, such as exchange-traded options to purchase or sell Washington REIT shares, or other financial instruments that are designed to hedge or offset any decrease in the market value of Washington REIT shares (including but not limited to prepaid variable forward contracts, equity swaps, collars and exchange funds).

#### Margin Loan Prohibition Policy

Washington REIT maintains a policy that no executive officer may take a margin loan where Washington REIT's shares are used, directly or indirectly, as collateral for the loan. Such persons are also prohibited from otherwise pledging Washington REIT securities as collateral for a loan agreement.

#### Executive Ownership Policy

The Compensation Committee believes that common share ownership allows our executives to better understand the viewpoint of shareholders and incentivizes them to enhance shareholder value by aligning their interests with shareholders' interests. To that end, in 2010, the Compensation Committee and Board adopted a formal stock ownership policy. The stock ownership policy requires each executive to retain an aggregate number of common shares having a market value at least equal to a specified multiple of such executive's annual base salary (determined based on 2010 base salary for any executive in office on the February 18, 2010 plan commencement date, or as of the date of hire for executives hired after such date). The applicable multiples of base salary required to be held are as follows:

| Title                                 | Multiple of<br>Base Salary |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Chief Executive Officer and President | 3.0x                       |
| Executive Vice Presidents             | 2.0x                       |
| Senior Vice Presidents                | 1.0x                       |

The policy requires that each executive attain the level set forth above within five years after his or her date of employment with Washington REIT. The aggregate number of common shares required to be held by each executive in office on February 18, 2010 (the plan commencement date), was determined based on the market value of common shares for the 60 trading days prior to such date. For executives hired or promoted thereafter, the aggregate number of common shares or additional common shares required to be held by such executive is determined based on the market value of common shares on the 60 trading days prior to the date of such hiring or promotion, as applicable. Once established, an executive's common share ownership goal will not change because of changes in his or her base salary or fluctuations in Washington REIT's common share price. The policy also contains additional terms and conditions, including an interim ownership requirement for executives during the transition period to the full requirements.

The multiples of base salary reflected in the stock ownership guidelines above were determined by the Compensation Committee based on the recommendation of the Hay Group (the Compensation Committee's consultant at the time the stock ownership guidelines were adopted), which had presented the Compensation Committee with a survey of stock ownership requirements in the peer group utilized by the Compensation Committee for 2010 compensation and a survey of stock ownership practices of large public companies.

#### Tax Deductibility of Executive Compensation

Section 162(m) of the Code generally disallows a tax deduction to public companies for individual compensation in excess of \$1 million paid to its chief executive officer and each of its three other most highly compensated executive officers, other than its chief financial officer, in any taxable year. Certain compensation is specifically exempt from the deduction limit to the extent that it does not exceed \$1 million during any fiscal year or is "performance based" as defined in Section 162(m). For the calendar year following shareholder approval of our 2016 Omnibus Incentive Plan, the benefits under our short-term incentive and long-term incentive plans are able to qualify as "performance based" under Section 162(m). To the extent that compensation paid to Washington REIT's executive officers is subject to and does not qualify for deduction under Section 162(m), Washington REIT is prepared to exceed the limit on deductibility under Section 162(m) to the extent necessary to establish compensation programs that we believe provide appropriate incentives and reward our executives relative to their performance. Washington REIT believes that it must maintain the flexibility to take actions that may not qualify for tax deductibility under Section 162(m) if it is deemed to be in the best interests of Washington REIT.

#### Compensation Committee Matters

The Compensation Committee is responsible for approving executive compensation decisions and making recommendations to the Board. The Compensation Committee is also responsible for approving and making recommendations to the Board with respect to other employee compensation and benefit plan matters. In addition, the Compensation Committee is required to produce an annual report on executive compensation for inclusion in our proxy statement, in accordance with applicable SEC rules and regulations.

The Compensation Committee is comprised of at least three and no more than six independent members of the Board (as the term "independent" is defined in the applicable listing standards of the New York Stock Exchange). The current Compensation Committee charter was adopted on October 21, 2015. A copy of the Compensation Committee Charter can be found on our website at [www.washreit.com](http://www.washreit.com), under the heading "Investor" and subheading "Corporate Overview - Corporate Governance." Among other matters, the Compensation Committee charter provides the Compensation Committee with the independent authority to retain and terminate any compensation consulting firms or other advisors to assist in the evaluation of trustee, Chief Executive Officer and other executive compensation.

The Compensation Committee meets at least once annually or more frequently as circumstances require. Each meeting allows time for an executive session in which the Compensation Committee and outside advisors, if requested, have an opportunity to discuss all executive compensation issues without members of management being present.

#### Compensation Consultant Matters

Pursuant to the Compensation Committee charter, the decision to retain an independent consultant (as well as other advisors) is at the sole discretion of the Compensation Committee, and any such independent consultant works at the direction of the Compensation Committee. In establishing 2016 executive compensation levels, the Compensation Committee Chairman worked with FPL Associates L.P. to determine the scope of work to be performed to assist the Compensation Committee in its decision making processes. In conducting its work on 2016 executive compensation levels for the Compensation Committee, FPL Associates L.P. also interacted with other members of the Compensation Committee, the Chief Executive Officer, the Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer and the Senior Vice President and General Counsel.

As noted above, FPL Associates L.P. provided the Compensation Committee with competitive pay analysis regarding both the broader market (including the NAREIT survey) and a group of public REITs. FPL Associates L.P. attended Compensation Committee meetings and, upon request by the Compensation Committee, executive sessions to provide advice and counsel regarding decisions facing the Compensation Committee.

The Compensation Committee has reviewed its relationship with FPL Associates L.P. to ensure that FPL Associates L.P. is independent from management. This review process includes a review of the services FPL Associates L.P. provides, the quality of those services, and fees associated with the services during the fiscal year, as well as consideration of the factors impacting independence that are set forth in NYSE rules.

#### Compensation Policies and Risk Management

The Compensation Committee members evaluate the principal elements of executive and non-executive compensation to determine whether they encourage excessive risk-taking. While the Compensation Committee members focus primarily on the compensation of the executive officers because risk-related decisions depend predominantly on their judgment, they also consider other Washington REIT employees operating in decision-making capacities. The Compensation Committee believes that because of the following there is a low likelihood that our compensation policies and practices would encourage excessive risk-taking:

#### RISK MITIGATION FACTORS

A significant percentage of compensation is equity-based, long-term compensation under the STIP and LTIP, both of which provide for equity-based compensation. Awards made under the STIP are payable 50% in restricted shares that vest over a three-year period. Awards made under the LTIP are made after a three-year performance period. At the conclusion of such three-year performance period, the LTIP awards are payable 75% in unrestricted shares and 25% in restricted shares that vest over a one-year period commencing at the conclusion of the three-year performance period. This significant use of restricted shares encourages our executives to focus on sustaining our long-term performance because unvested awards could significantly decrease in value if our business were not managed with long-term interests in mind.



The STIP and LTIP utilize a balanced variety of performance goals. The STIP utilizes aggregate financial performance (comprised of core FFO per share, core FAD per share and same-store NOI growth) at a 75% weighting and the executive's individual performance compared to individual goals at a 25% weighting. The LTIP utilizes absolute TSR (50% weighting) and relative TSR (50% weighting). As a result, the benefit plan design contains several performance goals intentionally selected by the Compensation Committee with the goal of aligning executive compensation with long-term creation of shareholder value.

The STIP and LTIP contain reasonable award opportunities that are capped at appropriate maximum levels. For each executive, the target incentive award is based on a percentage of base salary ranging from 130% to 226% for the STIP and 80% to 150% for the LTIP. For the STIP, the actual award to be paid to the executive could range from a 51% to 54% of the target incentive award for threshold performance and 172% to 177% of the target incentive award for high performance. For the LTIP, the actual award to be paid to the executive could range from a 50% to 53% of the target incentive award for threshold performance and 175% to 180% of the target incentive award for high performance. The preceding values take into consideration the elimination of the separate award opportunities under the STIP and LTIP for Mr. Riffée, as described above. Mr. Riffée's award opportunities are now governed by the original terms of the plans.

The Compensation Committee retains discretion under the STIP with respect to total awards. Under the STIP, aggregate financial performance and the participant's performance compared to individual objectives represent all of the performance goals under the STIP (i.e., 100% of the performance goals are determined in the Compensation Committee's (or Chief Executive Officer's) discretion), and each is subject to the discretion of the Compensation Committee.

Washington REIT adopted a stock ownership policy by which each executive is required to maintain a multiple of his or her base salary in common shares. The multiples are 3x (for the Chief Executive Officer), 2x (for Executive Vice Presidents) and 1x (for Senior Vice Presidents). This ownership policy requires each executive to maintain a meaningful equity interest that could significantly decrease in value if our business were not managed with long-term interests in mind.

Washington REIT adopted a "clawback" policy by which the Board has the right to seek or recoup all or any portion of the value of incentive awards. The Board's clawback right will apply in the event of a material restatement of Washington REIT's financial statements covering any of the three fiscal years preceding the payment of an award which results from fraud or misconduct committed by a recipient of such award.

We believe this combination of factors encourages prudent management of Washington REIT. In particular, by structuring our compensation programs to ensure that a considerable amount of the wealth of our executives is tied to our long-term health, we believe we discourage executives from taking risks that are not in our long-term interests.

#### Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation

During the last completed fiscal year, the Compensation Committee was comprised of Chairman Civera, Messrs. Butcher and Winns, and Ms. White. The Compensation Committee was responsible for making decisions and recommendations to the Board with respect to compensation matters. Ms. White resigned from the board effective August 19, 2016, and, therefore, no

longer serves as a member of the Compensation Committee. There are no Compensation Committee interlocks and no Washington REIT employee serves on the Compensation Committee.

Compensation Committee Report

The Compensation Committee of Washington REIT has reviewed and discussed the Compensation Discussion and Analysis required by Item 402(b) of Regulation S-K with management and, based on such review and discussions, the Compensation Committee recommended to the Board that the Compensation Discussion and Analysis be included in this Proxy Statement.

**SUBMITTED BY THE COMPENSATION COMMITTEE:**

Edward S. Civera, Compensation Committee Chairman

Benjamin S. Butcher, Compensation Committee Member

Vice Adm. Anthony L. Winns (RET.), Compensation Committee Member

## COMPENSATION TABLES

## Summary Compensation Table

The Summary Compensation Table has been prepared to comply with the disclosure requirements of the SEC. The Summary Compensation Table sets forth the compensation paid for 2016, 2015 and 2014 to each of our "NEOs" (who are the executive officers set forth in the Summary Compensation Table) and includes as compensation for the indicated year all incentive compensation awards granted in that year (although the awards were made with respect to performance in other years). For an alternative view that we believe more accurately reflects incentive compensation received for a given year, we urge you to refer to the Total Direct Compensation Table on page 55.

| (a)<br>Name and Principal Position                                                       | (b)<br>Year | (c)<br>Salary<br>(\$) | (e)<br>Stock<br>Awards<br>(4) (5) (\$) | (g)<br>Non-Equity<br>Incentive Plan<br>Compensation<br>(6) (\$) | (i)<br>All Other<br>Compensation<br>(7) (\$) | (j)<br>Total<br>(\$) |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Paul T. McDermott<br>President and Chief<br>Executive Officer                            | 2016        | \$575,000             | \$1,093,866                            | \$ 969,191                                                      | \$ 127,591                                   | \$2,765,648          |
|                                                                                          | 2015        | 500,000               | 1,216,978                              | 652,125                                                         | 113,648                                      | 2,482,751            |
|                                                                                          | 2014        | 500,000               | 1,093,150                              | 706,250                                                         | 113,166                                      | 2,412,566            |
| Thomas Q. Bakke (1)<br>Executive Vice President and<br>Chief Operating Officer           | 2016        | 387,500               | 564,926                                | 536,271                                                         | 72,364                                       | 1,561,061            |
|                                                                                          | 2015        | 350,000               | 604,924                                | 375,331                                                         | 68,607                                       | 1,398,862            |
|                                                                                          | 2014        | 244,102               | 582,088                                | 378,000                                                         | 37,059                                       | 1,241,249            |
| Stephen E. Riffie (2)<br>Executive Vice President and<br>Chief Financial Officer         | 2016        | 412,500               | 589,536                                | 507,659                                                         | 83,297                                       | 1,592,992            |
|                                                                                          | 2015        | 347,179               | 364,392                                | 394,625                                                         | 68,981                                       | 1,175,177            |
| Thomas C. Morey (3)<br>Senior Vice President, General<br>Counsel and Corporate Secretary | 2016        | 191,093               | 204,720                                | —                                                               | 222,384                                      | 618,197              |
|                                                                                          | 2015        | 288,000               | 372,877                                | 217,800                                                         | 35,882                                       | 914,559              |
|                                                                                          | 2014        | 288,000               | 404,074                                | 219,600                                                         | 35,732                                       | 947,406              |

(1) Mr. Bakke became Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer on April 21, 2014.

(2) Mr. Riffie became Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer-elect on February 17, 2015 and became Chief Financial Officer on March 4, 2015.

(3) Mr. Morey resigned on July 26, 2016. The amount in column (g) for 2016 was calculated pursuant to Mr. Morey's separation agreement.

(4) Column (e) represents the total grant date fair value of all equity awards computed in accordance with FASB ASC Topic 718.

(5) Mr. Morey forfeited 19,423 shares in connection with his resignation on July 26, 2016. No common share awards granted to the NEOs listed above were forfeited during 2015 or 2014.

(6) The NEOs' non-equity incentive plan compensation for 2016, 2015 and 2014, which is reported in this table, was determined by the Compensation Committee at its February 8, 2017 (subject to the Audit Committee's ratification of Washington REIT's final financial performance for the applicable period), February 17, 2016 and February 18, 2015

meetings, respectively. For 2016, 2015 and 2014, the cash award was paid in February of 2017, 2016 and 2015, respectively. The payments were recorded as expenses for the year to which they relate.

For 2016, the amounts shown in column (i) include the life insurance premiums paid by us for group term life (7) insurance, our match for each individual who made 401(k) contributions, auto allowances, SERP contributions and membership dues. The table below shows the components of "All Other Compensation" for 2016:

| Name          | Life Insurance (\$) | 401(k) Company Match (\$) | Auto Allowances (\$) | SERP Contributions (\$) | Membership Dues (\$) | Severance (\$) | Total (\$) |
|---------------|---------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|----------------|------------|
| Mr. McDermott | \$ 5,106            | \$ 9,275                  | \$ 14,000            | \$ 97,747               | \$ 1,463             | \$ —           | —\$127,591 |
| Mr. Bakke     | 5,261               | 7,138                     | 10,000               | 48,557                  | 1,408                | —              | 72,364     |
| Mr. Riffie    | 5,018               | 9,275                     | 6,100                | 62,904                  | —                    | —              | 83,297     |
| Mr. Morey     | —                   | 6,424                     | —                    | 15,960                  | —                    | 200,000        | 222,384    |

## Total Direct Compensation Table

The SEC's calculation of total compensation, as shown in the 2016 Summary Compensation Table set forth on page 53, includes several items that are driven by accounting and actuarial assumptions, which are not necessarily reflective of compensation actually realized by the NEOs in a particular year. To supplement the SEC-required disclosure, we have included the additional table below, which shows the equity incentive compensation awards that were actually received with respect to the applicable year, not the year the award was made.

| (a)<br>Name and Principal Position                                                       | (b)<br>Year | (c)<br>Salary<br>(\$) | (e)<br>Stock<br>Awards<br>(1) (\$) | (g)<br>Non-Equity<br>Incentive Plan<br>Compensation<br>(\$) | (i)<br>All Other<br>Compensation<br>(\$) | (j)<br>Total Direct<br>Compensation<br>(\$) |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| Paul T. McDermott<br>President and Chief Executive<br>Officer                            | 2016        | \$575,000             | \$2,295,783                        | \$ 969,191                                                  | \$ 127,591                               | \$ 3,967,565                                |
|                                                                                          | 2015        | 500,000               | 1,317,104                          | 652,125                                                     | 113,648                                  | 2,582,877                                   |
|                                                                                          | 2014        | 500,000               | 1,083,678                          | 706,250                                                     | 113,166                                  | 2,403,094                                   |
| Thomas Q. Bakke<br>Executive Vice President and<br>Chief Operating Officer               | 2016        | 387,500               | 1,125,878                          | 536,271                                                     | 72,364                                   | 2,122,013                                   |
|                                                                                          | 2015        | 350,000               | 663,592                            | 375,331                                                     | 68,607                                   | 1,457,530                                   |
|                                                                                          | 2014        | 244,102               | 546,366                            | 378,000                                                     | 37,059                                   | 1,205,527                                   |
| Stephen E. Riffie<br>Executive Vice President and<br>Chief Financial Officer             | 2016        | 412,500               | 502,525                            | 507,659                                                     | 83,297                                   | 1,505,981                                   |
|                                                                                          | 2015        | 347,179               | 520,928                            | 394,625                                                     | 68,981                                   | 1,331,713                                   |
| Thomas C. Morey (2)<br>Senior Vice President, General<br>Counsel and Corporate Secretary | 2016        | 191,093               | —                                  | —                                                           | 222,384                                  | 413,477                                     |
|                                                                                          | 2015        | 288,000               | 416,534                            | 217,800                                                     | 35,882                                   | 958,216                                     |
|                                                                                          | 2014        | 288,000               | 333,526                            | 219,600                                                     | 35,732                                   | 876,858                                     |

These amounts differ substantially from the amounts reported as Stock Awards in column (e) in the Summary Compensation Table required under SEC rules and are not a substitute for the amounts reported in the Summary Compensation Table. Total Direct Compensation in this table represents: (1) total compensation, as determined (1) under applicable SEC rules and as set forth in column (j) in the Summary Compensation Table on page 53, minus (2) the aggregate fair value of equity awards as reflected in the Stock Awards column (e) in the Summary Compensation Table, plus (3) incentive compensation awards that were actually received with respect to the applicable performance year.

(2) Mr. Morey resigned on July 26, 2016.

## Grants of Plan-Based Awards

The following table presents information regarding grants made to the NEOs during 2016 under Washington REIT's STIP and LTIP.

| (a)                    | (b)        | (c)                                                                 | (d)         | (e)          | (f)                                                         | (g)         | (h)          | (i)                                                   | (l)                                                   |
|------------------------|------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|--------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|--------------|-------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| Name                   | Grant Date | Estimated Future Payouts Under Non-Equity Incentive Plan Awards (1) |             |              | Estimated Future Payouts Under Equity Incentive Plan Awards |             |              | All Other Stock Awards: Number of Shares or Units (#) | Grant Date Fair Value of Stock and Option Awards (\$) |
|                        |            | Threshold (\$)                                                      | Target (\$) | Maximum (\$) | Threshold (\$)                                              | Target (\$) | Maximum (\$) |                                                       |                                                       |
| Paul T. McDermott      | 1/1/2016   |                                                                     |             |              | \$400,000                                                   | \$750,000   | \$1,350,000  |                                                       | \$480,900(2)                                          |
|                        | 2/17/2016  |                                                                     |             |              |                                                             |             |              | 24,627(3)                                             | 612,966                                               |
|                        | 2/17/2016  | \$333,500                                                           | \$649,750   | \$1,121,250  |                                                             |             |              |                                                       |                                                       |
| Thomas Q. Bakke        | 1/1/2016   |                                                                     |             |              | 175,000                                                     | 332,500     | 595,000      |                                                       | 212,135 (2)                                           |
|                        | 2/17/2016  |                                                                     |             |              |                                                             |             |              | 14,174(3)                                             | 352,791                                               |
|                        | 2/17/2016  | 186,000                                                             | 360,375     | 620,000      |                                                             |             |              |                                                       |                                                       |
| Stephen E. Riffie      | 1/1/2016   |                                                                     |             |              | 176,000                                                     | 380,000     | 596,000      |                                                       | 218,600 (2)                                           |
|                        | 2/17/2016  |                                                                     |             |              |                                                             |             |              | 14,903(3)                                             | 370,936                                               |
|                        | 2/17/2016  | 173,250                                                             | 360,938     | 577,500      |                                                             |             |              |                                                       |                                                       |
| Thomas C. Morey<br>(4) | 1/1/2016   |                                                                     |             |              | 115,200                                                     | 230,400     | 403,200      |                                                       | 144,230 (2)                                           |
|                        | 2/17/2016  |                                                                     |             |              |                                                             |             |              | 8,225 (3)                                             | 204,720                                               |
|                        | 2/17/2016  | 100,800                                                             | 187,200     | 331,200      |                                                             |             |              |                                                       |                                                       |

(1) The amounts shown in columns (c), (d) and (e) reflect the threshold, target and maximum payment levels for 2016 under the 50% cash STIP component which were established on February 17, 2016. The actual cash bonuses received by each of the named executive officers for performance in 2016, paid in 2017, are set out in column (g) of the Summary Compensation Table.

(2) Amounts represent LTIP awards based on achievement of performance objectives over a three-year performance period (commencing January 1, 2016 and concluding December 31, 2018). For performance below threshold levels, no incentives will be paid pursuant to the program, and the maximum award will only be paid if actual performance meets or exceeds the high level of performance. The award will be paid out in a number of unrestricted shares and restricted shares that vest over a one-year period commencing on January 1 following the end of the performance period, with the total number of restricted and unrestricted shares issued determined by dividing the dollar amount payable by the closing price per share on January 1 or if such January 1 is not a trading day, the first trading day following such January 1.

(3) Amounts represent performance-based restricted share awards pursuant to the STIP for the performance period commencing January 1, 2015 and concluding December 31, 2015 that vest over three years, with one-third vesting on December 31, 2016, 2017 and 2018.

(4) Mr. Morey resigned on July 26, 2016.

For unvested and vested restricted shares, an amount equal to the dividends granted on the shares is paid at the same time dividends on common shares are paid.

Outstanding Equity Awards at Fiscal Year-End

The following table presents information regarding the outstanding equity awards held by each of the NEOs as of December 31, 2016, including the vesting dates for the portion of these awards that had not vested as of that date.

| (a)<br>Name           | (g)<br>Number of Shares or Units of Stock That Have Not Vested (#) | (h)<br>Market Value of Shares or Units of Stock That Have Not Vested (\$) | (i)<br>Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Number of Shares, Units or Rights That Have Not Vested (#) | (j)<br>Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Market or Payout Value of Unearned Shares, Units or Other Rights That Have Not Vested (\$) |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Paul T. McDermott (1) | 35,140                                                             | \$ 1,148,727                                                              | —                                                                                               | —                                                                                                                               |
| Thomas Q. Bakke (2)   | 19,923                                                             | 651,283                                                                   | —                                                                                               | —                                                                                                                               |
| Stephen E. Riffie (3) | 13,459                                                             | 439,975                                                                   | —                                                                                               | —                                                                                                                               |
| Thomas C. Morey (4)   | —                                                                  | —                                                                         | —                                                                                               | —                                                                                                                               |

(1) Mr. McDermott's share awards listed in column (g) vest according to the following schedule: 26,931 shares will vest on December 31, 2017 and 8,209 shares will vest on December 31, 2018.

(2) Mr. Bakke's share awards listed in column (g) vest according to the following schedule: 1,383 shares will vest on April 21, 2017; 13,816 shares will vest on December 31, 2017 and 4,724 shares will vest on December 31, 2018.

(3) Mr. Riffie's share awards listed in column (g) vest according to the following schedule: 1,762 shares vested on February 17, 2017; 4,968 shares will vest on December 31, 2017; 1,762 shares will vest on February 17, 2018 and 4,967 shares will vest on December 31, 2018.

(4) Mr. Morey's unvested shares were forfeited upon his resignation. Mr. Morey resigned on July 26, 2016.

2016 Option Exercises and Stock Vested

The following table sets forth the value realized by our NEOs in 2016 upon the vesting of common share awards in 2016. None of our NEOs had outstanding options or exercises of options in 2016.

| Name              | Stock Awards Number of Shares Value Realized on Acquisition Vesting on (\$) |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Paul T. McDermott | 70,986 \$ 2,296,066                                                         |

|                     |                |
|---------------------|----------------|
| Thomas Q. Bakke     | 31,597,022,569 |
| Stephen E. Riffe    | 6,731 206,285  |
| Thomas C. Morey (1) | — —            |

(1) Mr. Morey resigned on July 26, 2016.

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## Non-Qualified Deferred Compensation

The following table presents information regarding the contributions to and earnings on the NEOs' deferred compensation balances during 2016 and also shows the total deferred amounts for the NEOs as of December 31, 2016.

| (a)<br>Name         | (b)<br>Executive Contributions in Last FY (\$)(1) | (c)<br>Registrant Contribution in Last FY (\$)(2) | (d)<br>Aggregate Earnings in Last FY (\$)(3) | (e)<br>Aggregate Withdrawals/Distributions (\$) | (f)<br>Aggregate Balance at Last FYE (\$)(4) |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| Paul T. McDermott   | \$                                                | —\$                                               | —\$                                          | —\$                                             | —\$                                          |
| Thomas Q. Bakke     | —                                                 | —                                                 | —                                            | —                                               | —                                            |
| Stephen E. Riffie   | —                                                 | —                                                 | —                                            | —                                               | —                                            |
| Thomas C. Morey (5) | —                                                 | —                                                 | —                                            | —                                               | —                                            |

(1) The amounts reflected in this column are reported as compensation for the last completed fiscal year in the Summary Compensation Table.

(2) The amounts reflected in this column were reported as compensation in prior fiscal years and are included in this table due to vesting during the last completed fiscal year.

(3) The amounts reflected in this column are not included in the Summary Compensation Table because they do not constitute “above-market” or “preferential” earnings, as those terms are defined in SEC Regulation S-K 402(c)(2)(viii)(B).

(4) The amounts reflected in this column include contributions reported as compensation for the last fiscal year, as set forth in columns (b) and (c), amounts reported as compensation in prior fiscal years and earnings (which were not required to be reported as compensation), less aggregate withdrawals/distributions currently and previously reported in this table.

(5) Mr. Morey resigned on July 26, 2016.

## Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan

The following table presents information regarding the contributions to and earnings on the NEOs' SERP balances during 2016 as of December 31, 2016.

| (a)<br>Name         | (b)<br>Executive Contributions in Last FY (\$) | (c)<br>Registrant Contribution in Last FY (\$)(1) | (d)<br>Aggregate Earnings in Last FY (\$)(2) | (e)<br>Aggregate Withdrawals/Distributions (\$) | (f)<br>Aggregate Balance at Last FYE (\$) |
|---------------------|------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Paul T. McDermott   | \$                                             | —\$ 97,747                                        | \$ 15,973                                    | \$                                              | —\$ 311,324                               |
| Thomas Q. Bakke     | —                                              | 48,557                                            | 7,389                                        | —                                               | 128,349                                   |
| Stephen E. Riffie   | —                                              | 62,904                                            | 7,451                                        | —                                               | 120,193                                   |
| Thomas C. Morey (3) | —                                              | 15,960                                            | 18,327                                       | —                                               | —                                         |

(1) The amounts reflected in this column are reported as compensation for the last completed fiscal year in the Summary Compensation Table.

(2) The amounts reflected in this column are not included in the Summary Compensation Table because they do not constitute “above-market” or “preferential” earnings, as those terms are defined in SEC Regulation S-K 402(c)(2)(viii)(B).

(3) Mr. Morey resigned on July 26, 2016 and his unvested balance of \$316,817 was forfeited.

## Potential Payments upon Change in Control

Washington REIT has entered into change in control agreements with the NEOs which entitle them to continuation of compensation and other benefits if Washington REIT is subject to a change in control, the NEO's employment with Washington REIT or its successor is terminated by Washington REIT or its successor, other than for "cause," or by the NEO for "good reason" and such termination occurs within 24 or 36 months of the change in control. The formula to calculate the change in control benefit is similar for each of the NEO's, with the variable being whether the benefit will be paid for 24 or 36 months. The formula is as follows:

1. Continuation of base salary at the rate in effect as of the termination date for a period of 24 or 36 months from the date of termination.  
Payment of an annual bonus for each calendar year or partial calendar in which the NEO receives salary
2. continuation as described above, in an amount equal to the average annual short-term incentive plan compensation received during the three years prior to the involuntary termination.  
Payment of the full cost of COBRA continuation coverage for the period of time in which salary continuation
3. pursuant to the change in control agreement is paid, up to a maximum of 18 months or until the NEO obtains other comparable coverage, whichever is sooner.
4. Immediate vesting in all unvested common share grants and restricted share units granted to the NEO under Washington REIT's long-term incentive plan and immediate vesting in the SERP and deferred compensation plans.

The following table lists the estimated amounts each of the NEOs would have become entitled to under their change in control agreements had their employment with Washington REIT terminated on December 31, 2016, under the circumstances described above.

| Name              | 2016 Base Salary (\$) | Average 3 Year Bonus (\$) | Annual Change in Control Benefit Amount (\$) | Change in Control Benefit Formula (# of months) | Vesting of all unvested Share Grants, SERP and Deferred Compensation (\$) | Total Change in Control Benefit Amount (1)(2) (\$) |
|-------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| Paul T. McDermott | \$650,000             | \$1,551,711               | \$ 2,201,711                                 | 36                                              | \$ 4,048,090                                                              | \$ 10,653,223                                      |
| Thomas Q. Bakke   | 425,000               | 859,735                   | 1,284,735                                    | 24                                              | 1,920,649                                                                 | 4,490,119                                          |
| Stephen E. Riffie | 425,000               | 902,284                   | 1,327,284                                    | 24                                              | 1,711,862                                                                 | 4,366,430                                          |

- (1) The cost of COBRA continuation benefits has not been included in the total change in control benefit amount, as the value would not be material.

- If the NEO is subject to an excise tax pursuant to Section 4999 of the Code, the NEO will not receive a tax gross-up payment. Each of our change of control agreements was amended effective November 5, 2012 to
- (2) eliminate the executive's right to receive a tax "gross-up" payment based on Section 4999 of the Code. As a result, we no longer have the obligation to provide tax "gross-up" payments to our executives with respect to amounts owed under Section 4999 of the Code.

## PROPOSAL 5: ADVISORY VOTE ON FREQUENCY OF ADVISORY VOTE ON SAY-ON-PAY VOTE

### Description of Proposal

Pursuant to the Dodd-Frank Act, in 2011 and Section 14A of the Securities Exchange Act, every six years we provided our shareholders with the opportunity to vote, on an advisory basis, regarding whether the say-on-pay vote (as described in Proposal 4) should occur every one, two or three years. This proposal is commonly known as a “say-on-frequency” proposal. This say-on-frequency proposal must be submitted to shareholders at least once every six calendar years. We are, therefore, once again providing our shareholders with the opportunity to vote on this say-on-frequency proposal. Shareholders have the option to abstain from voting on the matter. The next say-on-frequency vote will occur in 2023.

The Board has determined that an annual executive compensation advisory vote is the best approach for Washington REIT and its shareholders for several reasons, including the following:

We believe that furnishing our shareholders with an annual executive compensation advisory vote will provide valuable feedback to the Compensation Committee and the Board on our compensation philosophy, policies and practices as disclosed in the proxy statement each year. We believe this voting frequency provides the highest level of communication between shareholders, on the one hand, and the Board and Compensation Committee, on the other hand.

We believe an annual executive compensation advisory vote is consistent with our goal to regularly receive input from our shareholders on corporate governance matters and executive compensation philosophy, policies and practices. We understand that our shareholders may from time to time have different views as to what is the best approach for Washington REIT, and we look forward to hearing from them in annual executive compensation advisory votes.

We believe that providing the executive compensation advisory vote every two or three years may prevent shareholders from communicating in a meaningful and coherent way. For example, we may not know whether the shareholder vote approves or disapproves of compensation for the reporting period or compensation for the previous reporting periods, or both. As a result, it could be difficult to discern the implications of the executive compensation advisory vote.

Pursuant to the Dodd-Frank Act, this vote is advisory and not binding on Washington REIT or the Board in any way, and the Board or the Compensation Committee may determine that it is in the best interests of Washington REIT to hold an advisory vote on executive compensation more or less frequently than the option recommended by our shareholders. Nevertheless, the Compensation Committee and the Board value the opinions of the shareholders and will consider the outcome of the vote when determining the frequency of the executive compensation advisory vote.

### Voting Matters

The form of Proxy Card enables shareholders to vote, by checking the appropriate box, to recommend that a vote on executive compensation take place every one year, every two years or every three years, or to abstain from voting. Although the Board is making a recommendation with respect to this proposal, shareholders are being asked to vote on the choices specified above, and not whether they agree or disagree with the Board’s recommendation. Under our bylaws, the affirmative vote of a majority of the votes cast is required for approval, on a non-binding, advisory basis, of the frequency of the Say-on-Pay vote.

Abstentions and other shares not voted (whether broker non-votes, if any, or otherwise) will not be counted as votes cast and will have no effect on the result of this vote.

Notwithstanding the approval requirements set forth in the previous paragraph, the vote remains advisory, and the Board and Compensation Committee value the opinions of our shareholders regardless of whether approval (as defined in the previous paragraph) is actually obtained. Because shareholders have several voting choices, it is possible that no single choice will receive a majority of the votes cast. If that occurs, we will consider the option receiving the most votes to be the option selected by shareholders.

Recommendation

**THE BOARD UNANIMOUSLY RECOMMENDS THAT SHAREHOLDERS VOTE FOR THE “1 YEAR” ALTERNATIVE SET FORTH IN THE PROXY CARD.**

**PROPOSAL 6: RATIFICATION OF APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

**Description of Proposal**

The firm of Ernst & Young LLP served as Washington REIT's independent registered public accounting firm for 2016. The Audit Committee has appointed Ernst & Young LLP as Washington REIT's independent registered public accounting firm for 2017.

If this appointment is not ratified by our shareholders, the Audit Committee may re-consider the appointment. Even if the selection is ratified, the Audit Committee, in its discretion, may appoint a different independent registered public accounting firm at any time during the year if it determines that such change would be in the best interests of Washington REIT.

Representatives of Ernst & Young LLP are expected to attend the Annual Meeting and will have the opportunity to make a statement if they desire to do so. They are also expected to be available to respond to appropriate questions.

**Voting Matters**

Under our bylaws, ratification of the appointment of Ernst & Young LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for 2017 requires the affirmative vote of a majority of the votes cast. A majority of votes cast means that the number of votes "FOR" a proposal must exceed the number of votes "AGAINST" that proposal. Abstentions and other shares not voted will not be counted as votes cast and will have no effect on the result of this vote.

**Recommendation**

**THE BOARD UNANIMOUSLY RECOMMENDS THAT SHAREHOLDERS VOTE "FOR" THE RATIFICATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF ERNST & YOUNG LLP AS WASHINGTON REIT'S INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2017.**

## ACCOUNTING/AUDIT COMMITTEE MATTERS

## Principal Accounting Firm Fees

The following table sets forth the aggregate fees billed to Washington REIT for the years ended December 31, 2016 and 2015 by Washington REIT's independent registered public accounting firm, Ernst & Young LLP. The Audit Committee has considered whether the provision of non-audit services is compatible with maintaining the public accountant's independence.

|                        | 2016        | 2015        |
|------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Audit Fees (a)(b)      | \$1,422,775 | \$1,305,315 |
| Audit-Related Fees (c) | 15,000      | 73,000      |
| Tax Fees (d)           | 184,430     | 319,585     |
| All Other Fees         | —           | —           |
| Total Fees             | \$1,622,205 | \$1,697,900 |

- (a) Includes fees and expenses related to the fiscal year audit and interim reviews, notwithstanding when the fees and expenses were billed or when the services were rendered.
- (b) Audit fees include the annual audit fee and fees for reviews of offering memorandums and other filings, performance of comfort procedures and issuance of comfort and bring down letters.
- (c) Audit-related fees consist of the annual audit fees of certain subsidiaries, notwithstanding when the fees were billed or when the services were rendered.
- (d) Includes fees and expenses for tax services, including tax compliance, tax advice and tax planning, rendered from January through the end of the fiscal year, notwithstanding when the fees and expenses were billed.

## Pre-Approval Policies and Procedures

The Audit Committee has adopted a policy that requires advance approval of all audit, audit-related, tax and other services performed by the independent auditor. The policy provides for pre-approval by the Audit Committee of specifically defined audit and non-audit services. Unless the specific service has been previously pre-approved with respect to that year, the Audit Committee must approve the permitted service before the independent auditor is engaged to perform it. The Audit Committee has delegated to the Chairman of the Audit Committee authority to approve permitted services provided that the Chairman reports any decisions to the Committee at its next scheduled meeting. All services performed by Ernst & Young LLP for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2016 were preapproved by the Audit Committee or the Chairman of the Audit Committee.

## Audit Committee Report

The Board maintains an Audit Committee, currently comprised of four of Washington REIT's independent trustees. The Board and the Audit Committee believe that the Audit Committee's current member composition satisfies Section 303A of the New York Stock Exchange's listed company manual. The Audit Committee oversees Washington REIT's financial process on behalf of the Board. Management has the primary responsibility for the financial statements and the reporting process, including the systems of internal controls. The independent registered public accounting firm Ernst & Young LLP is responsible for expressing an opinion on the conformity of those financial statements with generally accepted accounting principles and the effectiveness of Washington REIT's internal controls over financial reporting in accordance with the standards of the Public

Company Accounting Oversight Board. The members of the Audit Committee of the Board of Washington REIT submit this report in connection with the committee's review of the financial reports for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016 as follows:

In fulfilling its oversight responsibilities, the Audit Committee reviewed the audited financial statements in the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2016, with management, including a discussion of  
1. the quality, and not just the acceptability, of the accounting principles, the reasonableness of significant judgments and the clarity of disclosures in the financial statements and management's assessment of the effectiveness of Washington REIT's internal controls over financial reporting.

The Audit Committee discussed with Washington REIT's independent registered public accounting firm the overall scope and plans for their audit. The Audit Committee meets with the independent auditors, with and without  
2. management present, to discuss the results of their examination, their evaluation of Washington REIT's internal controls and the overall quality of Washington REIT's financial reporting.

The Audit Committee reviewed with the independent registered public accounting firm their judgments as to the quality, and not just the acceptability, of Washington REIT's accounting principles and such other matters as are  
3. required to be discussed with the Audit Committee by Public Company Accounting Oversight Board Auditing Standards No. 61, Communications with Audit Committees.

In addition, the Audit Committee has received the written disclosures and the letter from the independent registered public accounting firm required by applicable requirements of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board  
4. regarding the independent registered public accounting firm's communications with the Audit Committee concerning independence and has discussed with the independent registered public accounting firm their independence from management and Washington REIT.

Based on the reviews and discussions referred to above, the Audit Committee recommended to the Board that the audited financial statements be included in Washington REIT's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016 and for filing with the SEC.

**SUBMITTED BY THE AUDIT COMMITTEE**

William G. Byrnes, Audit Committee Chairman  
Benjamin S. Butcher, Audit Committee Member  
Edward S. Civera, Audit Committee Member  
Thomas H. Nolan, Jr., Audit Committee Member

## OTHER MATTERS

### Solicitation of Proxies

Solicitation of proxies may be made by mail, personal interview, telephone or other means by officers, trustees and employees of Washington REIT for which they will receive no compensation in addition to their normal compensation. Washington REIT may also request banking institutions, brokerage firms, custodians, nominees and fiduciaries to forward solicitation material to the beneficial owners of common shares that those companies or persons hold of record. Washington REIT will reimburse these forwarding expenses. The cost of the solicitation of proxies will be paid by Washington REIT.

Washington REIT has also hired MacKenzie Partners, Inc. to assist in distributing and soliciting proxies and will pay approximately \$8,000 plus expenses for these services.

### Shareholder Proposals for Our 2018 Annual Meeting of Shareholders

The Board will provide for presentation of proposals by shareholders at the 2018 Annual Meeting of Shareholders, provided that these proposals are submitted by eligible shareholders who have complied with the relevant regulations of the SEC and our bylaws regarding shareholder proposals.

Any shareholder proposal pursuant to Rule 14a-8 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 intended to be presented at the 2018 Annual Meeting must be received at our executive offices on or before December 11, 2017 to be considered for inclusion in our 2018 proxy statement materials.

Shareholders wishing to submit proposals or trustee nominations to be presented at the 2018 Annual Meeting that are not to be included in our proxy statement materials must deliver notice to us at our executive offices not less than 120 and no more than 150 days before the first anniversary of the date of Proxy Statement for the preceding year's Annual Meeting (i.e., between November 11, 2017 and 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time, on December 11, 2017). Shareholders are advised to review our bylaws, which contain additional requirements with respect to advance notice of shareholder proposals and trustee nominations. Any shareholder desiring a copy of our bylaws will be furnished one without charge upon written request to the Secretary.

### Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance

Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, requires that trustees, officers and persons who own more than 10% of the common shares file initial reports of ownership of the common shares and changes in such ownership with the SEC. Based solely upon review of Forms 3 and 4 and amendments thereto and written representations furnished to us during the most recent fiscal year, no person who at any time during the fiscal year was a director, officer, or beneficial owner or more than 10% of any class of our equity securities failed to file on a timely basis, as disclosed in the above forms, reports required by Section 16(a) of the Exchange Act during the most recent fiscal year, except that the following Form 4 was filed late:

The Form 4 reporting the forfeiture of shares in order to satisfy withholding tax obligations related to the vesting on October 1, 2015 of restricted stock grant made to our Chief Executive Officer, Paul T. McDermott



Annual Report

Washington REIT's 2016 Annual Report to Shareholders is being mailed or made available electronically to shareholders concurrently with this Proxy Statement and does not form part of proxy solicitation material.

Shareholders may also request a free copy of our 2016 Annual Report on Form 10-K, including applicable financial statements, schedules and exhibits by sending a written request to: Washington Real Estate Investment Trust, 1775 Eye Street, N.W., Suite 1000, Washington, D.C. 20006, Attention Investor Relations. Alternatively, shareholders can access the 2016 Form 10-K and other financial information on our website at: [www.washreit.com](http://www.washreit.com).

/s/ Kelly N. Shiflett

Kelly N. Shiflett

Corporate Secretary

April \_\_, 2017

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## APPENDIX A

## DECLASSIFICATION AMENDMENT

If Proposal 1 is approved by the shareholders, Section 5.2 of Washington Real Estate Investment Trust's Articles of Amendment and Restatement would be amended as set forth below. Proposed additions are indicated by underline and proposed deletions are indicated by strike-through.

Section 5.2 Number, Classification and Vacancies. The number of Trustees of the Corporation shall be nineeight (8), which number may be increased or decreased only by the Board pursuant to the Bylaws. The Trustees shall be classified, with respect to the terms for which they severally hold office, into three classes, Class I, Class II and Class III, as nearly equal in number as possible. Initially, the Class I Trustees shall be John M. Derrick, Jr., Charles T. Nason and Thomas Edgie Russell, III; the Class II Trustees shall be William G. Byrnes, John P. McDaniel and George F. McKenzie; and the Class III Trustees shall be Edward S. Civera, Terence C. Golden and Wendelin A. White. The Class I Trustees shall serve Until the 2019 annual meeting of shareholders, the trustees of the Trust shall be divided into more than one class, reflecting the classified board structure that was in existence prior to the 2017 annual meeting of shareholders, with the Trustees of each class serving for a term expiring at the annual meeting of shareholders to be held in 2012; the Class II Trustees shall serve for a term expiring at the annual meeting of shareholders to be held in 2013; and the Class III Trustees shall serve for a term expiring at the annual meeting of shareholders to be held in 2014. At each annual meeting of shareholders, the successor or successors of the class of Trustees whose term expires at that meeting shall be elected in accordance with the Bylaws, and shall hold office for a term expiring at the annual meeting of shareholders held induring the third (3rd) year following the year of theirafter election. The Trustees elected to each class shall hold office (except as set forth in this Section 5.2) and until their successors aresuccessor shall have been duly elected and qualify,shall have qualified or until their earlier removal or resignation. It shall not be necessary to list in the Declaration of Trust the names and addresses of any Trustees hereinafter elected. At the 2017 annual meeting of shareholders, the Trustees who shall be elected at the 2017 annual meeting to fill the trusteeships held by Trustees whose terms expire at the 2017 annual meeting shall be elected for one-year terms expiring at the 2018 annual meeting of shareholders; at the 2018 annual meeting of shareholders, the Trustees who shall be elected at the 2018 annual meeting to fill the trusteeships held by Trustees whose terms expire at the 2018 annual meeting shall be elected for one-year terms expiring at the 2019 annual meeting of shareholders; at the 2019 annual meeting of shareholders, the terms of all Trustees shall expire and at such annual meeting, and at each annual meeting thereafter, all Trustees shall be elected for one-year terms expiring at the next annual meeting. Each Trustee elected at the 2017 annual meeting of shareholders shall serve a one-year term as provided in this Section 5.2 notwithstanding that the Articles effecting these amendments to declassify the Board of Trustees as provided herein may be filed with the Department after the 2017 annual meeting of shareholders at which such Trustee was elected and these amendments were adopted by the shareholders. The names of the seven (7) current Trustees who shall serve until the expiration of their respective terms for which they were elected, and until their successors are duly elected and qualified or until their earlier removal or resignation, and the year in which the current term of each such trustee shall expire are:

Edward S. Civera (Term to expire in 2017)  
Benjamin S. Butcher (Term to expire in 2017)

Charles T. Nason (Term to expire in 2018)  
Thomas H. Nolan, Jr. (Term to expire in 2018)  
Anthony L. Winns (Term to expire in 2018)

William G. Byrnes (Term to expire in 2019)  
Paul T. McDermott (Term to expire in 2019)

Except as may be provided by the Board of Trustees in setting the terms of any class or series of Shares, any and all vacancies on the Board of Trustees may be filled by the affirmative vote of a majority of the remaining Trustees in office, even if the remaining Trustees do not constitute a quorum, unless the vacancy occurring through removal has

already been filled by the shareholders acting pursuant to the provisions of Section 8.2. Any Trustee elected to fill a vacancy shall serve for the remainder of the full term of the trusteeship in which such vacancy occurred.

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APPENDIX B

SHAREHOLDER VOTING AMENDMENT

If Proposal 2 is approved by the shareholders, Section 8.2 of Washington Real Estate Investment Trust's Articles of Amendment and Restatement would be amended as set forth below. Proposed additions are indicated by underline and proposed deletions are indicated by strike-through.

Section 8.2 Voting Rights. Subject to the provisions of any class or series of Shares then outstanding, the shareholders shall be entitled to vote only on the following matters: (a) election of Trustees as provided in Section 5.2 and the removal of Trustees as provided in Section 5.3; (b) amendment of the Declaration of Trust as provided in Article X; (c) termination of the Trust as provided in Section 12.2; (d) merger or consolidation of the Trust, or the sale or disposition of all or substantially all of the Trust property, as provided in Article XI; and (e) amendment of the Bylaws in accordance with terms thereof; and (f) such other matters with respect to which the Board of Trustees has adopted a resolution declaring that a proposed action is advisable and directing that the matter be submitted to the shareholders for approval or ratification. Except with respect to the foregoing matters, no action taken by the shareholders at any meeting shall in any way bind the Board of Trustees.

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