



WASHINGTON★REIT

# DIRECT

DIVIDEND REINVESTMENT AND SHARE PURCHASE PLAN

A convenient way to become a shareholder, increase your holdings and manage your investment in Washington REIT.

WELCOME TO

# WASHINGTON REIT DIRECT

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Whether you are already a Washington REIT shareholder or are interested in becoming one, you will find Washington REIT Direct, our dividend reinvestment and direct share purchase program, to be a convenient way to become a shareholder, increase your holdings and manage your investment in Washington REIT.

## **WASHINGTON REIT DIRECT ALLOWS YOU TO:**

- Purchase Washington REIT shares directly from us by writing a check or making automatic purchases through deductions from your U.S. bank account
- Reinvest all or part of your dividends without paying fees or brokerage commissions
- Receive any cash dividends by check in the mail or by direct deposit into your U.S. bank account
- Easily transfer or sell your Washington REIT shares
- Take advantage of our free safekeeping option by depositing any certificated Washington REIT shares you hold into your Washington REIT Direct account

*Please read the enclosed prospectus in its entirety for a more detailed description of Washington REIT Direct and its features. We hope you will enjoy Washington REIT Direct and the investment options it provides.*

# PROSPECTUS

## WASHINGTON REIT DIRECT

1,000,000 Common Shares of Beneficial Interest

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This prospectus describes Washington Real Estate Investment Trust's ("Washington REIT," "our," "we" or "us") convenient direct dividend reinvestment and share purchase plan ("Washington REIT Direct"), available for new investors to make initial investments in Washington REIT common shares, and for existing shareholders to increase their holdings of Washington REIT common shares.

You can participate in Washington REIT Direct if you own our common shares. If you do not own our common shares, you can become a participant by making an initial purchase through Washington REIT Direct with a minimum investment of \$250.

Program highlights include:

- Purchasing shares weekly and selling shares daily;
- Reinvesting dividends automatically at no cost;
- Buying additional Washington REIT shares by check or automatic deduction from your U.S. bank account; and
- Transferring and selling Washington REIT shares easily without certificates.

This prospectus relates to 1,000,000 Washington REIT common shares of beneficial interest, par value \$0.01 per share, to be offered for purchase under the program, which we refer to herein as "Washington REIT shares." All references in this prospectus to "common shares" are to Washington REIT common shares of beneficial interest, par value \$0.01 per share. References to "shareholders" are to individuals or entities that hold Washington REIT common shares. The term "new investor" refers to an individual or entity that does not hold Washington REIT common shares prior to becoming a participant in Washington REIT Direct.

Washington REIT shares are listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the trading symbol "WRE." On May 27, 2015, the closing price of our common shares as reported on the NYSE was \$25.13 per share.

Please read this prospectus carefully and keep it and all account statements for future reference. If you have any questions about

the program, please call Computershare Trust Company, N.A. (“Computershare”), the program administrator, toll-free at 800-519-3111 (781-575-2879 from outside the U.S. and Canada), 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Customer service representatives are available between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Eastern time, Monday through Friday. You may also contact Computershare via the Internet. Computershare’s Internet/web-site address is [www.computershare.com/investor](http://www.computershare.com/investor).

The Washington REIT shares being offered are not insured or protected by any governmental agency, and involve investment risk, including the possible loss of principal. The payment of dividends by Washington REIT is discretionary and dividend payments may increase or decrease at the discretion of Washington REIT’s Board of Trustees.

**Investing in our common shares involves risks. See “Risk Factors” beginning on page 8 of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014, which is incorporated by reference in this prospectus.**

**Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved the securities to be issued under this prospectus or determined if this prospectus is accurate or adequate. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.**

This prospectus is not an offer to sell securities and it is not soliciting an offer to buy securities in any state or country where the offer or sale is not permitted. To the extent required by applicable law in certain jurisdictions, shares offered through the program are offered only through a registered broker-dealer in those jurisdictions.

The date of this Prospectus is June 1, 2015.

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## **SUMMARY OF WASHINGTON REIT DIRECT**

The following summary of Washington REIT Direct may omit information that may be important to you. You should carefully read the entire text of Washington REIT Direct contained in this prospectus before you decide to participate in Washington REIT Direct.

### **ENROLLMENT**

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You can participate in Washington REIT Direct if you currently own Washington REIT shares. You may participate in Washington REIT Direct by completing a shareholder enrollment form and submitting it to Computershare, Washington REIT Direct's administrator. *Please see Question 5 for more detailed information.*

### **INITIAL INVESTMENT**

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If you do not own any Washington REIT shares, you can participate in Washington REIT Direct by making an initial purchase of our common shares through Washington REIT Direct with a minimum initial investment of \$250. *Please see Question 7 for more detailed information.*

### **REINVESTMENT OF DIVIDENDS AND DISTRIBUTIONS**

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If you are a shareholder, you can reinvest all or a portion of your cash dividends in additional common shares. *Please see Question 8 for more detailed information.*

### **OPTIONAL CASH INVESTMENTS**

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As a participant in Washington REIT Direct, you can purchase additional common shares by investing a minimum of \$100 and a maximum of \$300,000 per year. You can either pay by check or authorize one or more electronic transfers from your account at a U.S. Bank or financial institution. *Please see Question 11 for more detailed information.*



## **SOURCE OF SHARES**

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Computershare will purchase our common shares directly from us as newly issued common shares, in the open market or in privately negotiated transactions with third parties. *Please see Question 13 for more detailed information.*

## **PURCHASE PRICE**

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The purchase price for our common shares under Washington REIT Direct depends on whether Computershare obtains your common shares by purchasing them directly from Washington REIT or in the open market. *Please see Question 15 for more detailed information.*

## **TRACKING YOUR INVESTMENTS**

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As a Washington REIT Direct participant you will receive periodic statements showing the details of each transaction and the share balance in your Washington REIT Direct account. *Please see Question 35 for more detailed information.*

## **WASHINGTON REIT DIRECT ADMINISTRATOR**

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We have appointed Computershare Trust Company, N.A. to administer Washington REIT Direct. *Please see Question 26 for more detailed information.*

## **WASHINGTON REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST**

Washington Real Estate Investment Trust (“Washington REIT”) is a self-administered real estate investment trust (“REIT”) successor to a trust organized in 1960. Our business consists of the ownership and operation of income-producing real property in the greater Washington, DC metro region. We own a diversified portfolio of office, retail and multifamily properties. Our principal objective is to invest in high quality properties in prime locations, then proactively manage, lease and direct ongoing capital improvement programs to improve their economic performance. As of March 31, 2015, we owned 55 properties, consisting of 25 office properties, 17 retail centers and 13 multifamily properties.

Our principal offices are located at 1775 Eye Street, NW, Suite 1000, Washington, D.C. 20006. Our telephone number there is (202) 774-3200. We maintain a website at [www.washreit.com](http://www.washreit.com).

Additional information about Washington REIT is included in documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus. See “Where You Can Find More Information” on page 18 of this prospectus and “Incorporation of Certain Information by Reference” on page 18 of this prospectus.

## **FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS**

This prospectus and the documents that we incorporate by reference contain certain “forward-looking statements” within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 (set forth in Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the “Securities Act”), and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the “Exchange Act”). Documents we subsequently file with the Securities and Exchange Commission and incorporate by reference will also contain forward-looking statements. Such statements are based on assumptions and expectations that may not be realized and are inherently subject to risks, uncertainties and other factors, many of which cannot be predicted with accuracy and some of which might not even be anticipated. Future events and actual results, performance, transactions or achievements, financial or otherwise, may differ materially from the results, performance, transactions or achievements, financial or otherwise, expressed or implied by the forward-looking statements.

Forward-looking statements involve numerous risks and uncertainties, and you should not rely on them as predictions of future events. Forward-looking statements depend on assumptions, data or methods which may be incorrect or imprecise, and we may not be able to realize them. We do not guarantee that any transactions and events described in documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus will happen as described (or that they will happen at all). In some cases, you can identify forward-looking statements by the use of forward-looking terminology such as “believes,” “expects,” “may,” “will,” “should,” “seeks,” “approximately,” “intends,” “plans,” “estimates” or “anticipates” or the negative of these words and phrases or similar words or phrases which are predictions of or indicate future events or trends and which do not

relate solely to historical matters. You can also identify forward-looking statements by discussions of strategy, plans or intentions.

The forward-looking statements contained in, or incorporated by reference into, this prospectus reflect our current views about future events and are subject to numerous known and unknown risks, uncertainties, assumptions and changes in circumstances that may cause our actual results to differ significantly from those expressed in any forward-looking statement. We do not guarantee that the transactions and events described will happen as described (or that they will happen at all). The following factors, among others, could cause actual results and future events to differ materially from those set forth or contemplated in the forward-looking statements: (a) the effect of credit and financial market conditions; (b) the availability and cost of capital; (c) fluctuations in interest rates; (d) the economic health of our tenants; (e) the timing and pricing of lease transactions; (f) the economic health of the greater Washington Metro region, or other markets we may enter; (g) changes in real estate and zoning laws and increases in property tax rates; (h) the effects of changes in federal government spending; (i) the supply of competing properties; (j) consumer confidence; (k) unemployment rates; (l) consumer tastes and preferences; (m) our future capital requirements; (n) inflation; (o) compliance with applicable laws, including those concerning the environment and access by persons with disabilities; (p) governmental or regulatory actions and initiatives; (q) changes in general economic and business conditions; (r) terrorist attacks or actions; (s) acts of war; (t) weather conditions and natural disasters; (u) failure to qualify as a REIT; (v) the availability of and our ability to attract and retain qualified personnel; and (w) other factors discussed under the caption "Risk Factors" in our most recent annual report on Form 10-K, as updated by our future filings.

While forward-looking statements reflect our good faith beliefs, they are not guarantees of future performance. Any forward-looking statements speak only as of the date on which they are made. We disclaim any obligation to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statement to reflect changes in underlying assumptions or factors, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise. For a further discussion of these and other factors that could impact our future results, performance or transactions, see the "Risk Factors" section in our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K, as updated by our future filings.

## RISK FACTORS

Investing in Washington REIT shares involves risks that are described under the captions “Item 1A. Risk Factors” and “Item 7. Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations” in our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K and under the captions “Item 1A. Risk Factors” and “Item 2. Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations” in our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, and in other reports that we may file from time to time with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

## INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The following questions and answers explain and constitute the governing document for Washington REIT Direct.

### PURPOSE

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#### 1. WHAT IS WASHINGTON REIT DIRECT?

Washington REIT Direct is a convenient direct share purchase and dividend reinvestment program available for new investors to make an initial investment in Washington REIT shares, and for existing shareholders to increase their holdings of Washington REIT shares. Participants in the program may elect to have dividends automatically reinvested in Washington REIT shares and/or to make optional cash investments through the program administrator, Computershare.

Participation in Washington REIT Direct is entirely voluntary, and we give no advice regarding your decision to join the program. However, if you decide to participate in this program, an enrollment form and reply envelope are enclosed for your convenience. *Enrollment forms are also available by contacting Computershare at the address listed in Question 26.*

#### 2. WHAT OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE UNDER THE PROGRAM?

Washington REIT Direct allows participants to:

- open a program account with an initial investment of as little as \$250 by check, or by authorizing automatic deductions from a U.S. bank account;

- have all or part of the dividends on your Washington REIT shares automatically reinvested in additional Washington REIT shares at no cost to you;
- increase holdings of Washington REIT shares under the program by making additional investments of as little as \$100, up to a maximum of \$300,000 per year, including the option of making automatic purchases by authorizing deductions from a U.S. bank account;
- purchase Washington REIT shares in whole dollar amounts, rather than a specific quantity of shares, with the appropriate number of full and fractional shares credited to your Washington REIT Direct account;
- make gifts of shares to family members and others at no cost by transferring Washington REIT shares to another account, new or old, or by making an initial investment;
- deposit Washington REIT share certificates in the program's share safekeeping feature with your share ownership maintained on Computershare's records in book-entry form; and
- receive regular statements indicating activity in your program account.

*Please refer to Question 8 for additional information regarding dividend options and to Question 11 for further information regarding the methods for making additional cash investments.*

Please retain all account statements for your records. The statements contain important tax and other information.

## **ELIGIBILITY AND ENROLLMENT**

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### **3. WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN WASHINGTON REIT DIRECT?**

**New Investors:** If you do not currently own any Washington REIT shares, you can participate in Washington REIT Direct by making an initial purchase of common shares through Washington REIT Direct with a minimum investment of \$250.

**Record Owners:** You are a record owner if you own common shares that are registered in your name with Washington REIT's transfer agent, Computershare. If you are a record owner, you may participate directly in any or all of the features of Washington REIT Direct.

**Beneficial Owners:** You are a beneficial owner if you own common shares that are registered in the name of a financial intermediary (i.e., broker, bank or other nominee). If you are a beneficial owner, you must either (i) become a record owner by having one or more shares transferred into your own name, (ii) enroll in the program in the same manner as someone who is not currently a Washington REIT shareholder with a minimum investment of \$250 or (iii) coordinate your dividend reinvestment through the broker, bank or other nominee in whose name your common shares are held.

All U.S. citizens are eligible to participate in Washington REIT Direct, whether or not they are currently Washington REIT shareholders.

If you are not a U.S. citizen, you can participate in Washington REIT Direct provided there are no laws or governmental regulations that would prohibit you from participating or laws or governmental regulations that would affect the terms of Washington REIT Direct. Washington REIT reserves the right to terminate participation of any shareholder if it deems it advisable under any foreign laws or regulations. All program funds must be in U.S. funds and drawn on a U.S. bank. If you are not in the U.S., contact your bank to verify that they can provide you with a check that clears through a U.S. bank and can print the dollar amount in U.S. funds. Due to the longer clearance period, we are unable to accept checks clearing through non-U.S. banks. Please contact your local bank for details on how to make the transaction.

#### **4. ARE THERE FEES ASSOCIATED WITH PARTICIPATION?**

There is no cost to you for reinvesting your dividends. Washington REIT will pay all fees for dividend reinvestments and the annual maintenance cost for your account.

There is no fee for purchasing shares with optional cash investments by check or with automatic investments. However, you will incur a processing fee (currently, \$0.03 per share) which will be deducted from your optional cash investment funds. All per share processing fees include any brokerage commissions Computershare is required to pay. Any fractional share will be rounded up to a whole share for purposes of calculating the per share processing fee.

There is no enrollment fee for joining Washington REIT Direct. However, new shareholders must pay a processing fee (currently,

\$0.03 per share), which will be deducted from their initial investment funds. Current shareholders pay no fee for enrolling in the program. All per share processing fees include any brokerage commissions Computershare is required to pay. Any fractional share will be rounded up to a whole share for purposes of calculating the per share processing fee.

If you instruct Computershare to sell any of your Washington REIT shares, you will be charged a service fee plus a processing fee which will be deducted from the proceeds derived from the sale. All per share processing fees include any brokerage commissions Computershare is required to pay. Any fractional share will be rounded up to a whole share for purposes of calculating the per share processing fee. *See Question 22 for more information.*

#### **5. HOW DOES A WASHINGTON REIT SHAREHOLDER ENROLL IN THE PROGRAM?**

If you are already a Washington REIT shareholder of record (that is, if you own Washington REIT shares that are registered in your name, not your broker's) but you are not enrolled in Washington REIT Direct, you may enroll in the program simply by completing and returning the enclosed shareholder enrollment form to Computershare or by enrolling online through Computershare's website, [www.computershare.com/investor](http://www.computershare.com/investor). You may obtain additional shareholder enrollment forms at any time upon request to Computershare.

#### **6. I ALREADY OWN WASHINGTON REIT SHARES, BUT THEY ARE HELD BY MY BANK OR BROKER AND REGISTERED IN "STREET NAME." CAN I USE THOSE SHARES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM?**

Yes. To become a participant, you may choose from among the following options:

- If you are a beneficial owner of Washington REIT shares registered in the name of a financial intermediary (for example, a bank or a broker), you may participate in Washington REIT Direct by directing your financial intermediary to re-register at least one Washington REIT share directly in your name. You need to re-register in your name as many shares as you wish to have dividends reinvested from. You may then enroll in the program as a registered shareholder, without having to make an initial investment. *Simply complete the shareholder enrollment form or enroll online as described in Question 5.*

- You may enroll in the program in the same manner as someone who is not currently a Washington REIT shareholder, as described in Question 7.
- You can coordinate your dividend reinvestment through the broker, bank or other nominee in whose name your common shares are held.

## 7. I AM NOT CURRENTLY A WASHINGTON REIT SHAREHOLDER. HOW DO I ENROLL IN WASHINGTON REIT DIRECT?

If you do not currently own Washington REIT shares and you wish to become a shareholder and a participant in Washington REIT Direct, you may enroll in the program by completing an initial enrollment form and making an initial investment of at least \$250. To make your initial investment, you may:

- **enroll by mail.** You may include with your initial enrollment form a check made payable to “Computershare—Washington Real Estate Investment Trust” in an amount equal to at least \$250, up to a maximum of \$300,000. Alternatively, you may authorize monthly recurring automatic deductions of at least \$100 per transaction from your account at a U.S. Bank or financial institution for at least three consecutive purchases, up to a maximum of \$300,000 per year. Automatic deductions will continue indefinitely, beyond the initial three purchases, until you notify Computershare by telephone, Internet, or in writing that the automatic deductions are to stop. Computershare’s Internet address is [www.computershare.com/investor](http://www.computershare.com/investor). A direct debit authorization form is included with the initial enrollment form.
- **enroll online at [www.computershare.com/investor](http://www.computershare.com/investor).** You will be asked to complete an online enrollment form and authorize a one-time debit from your U.S. Bank or financial institution account for at least \$250, up to a maximum of \$300,000. Alternatively, you may authorize monthly recurring automatic deductions of at least \$100 per transaction from your account at a U.S. Bank or financial institution for at least three consecutive purchases, up to a maximum of \$300,000 per year. Automatic deductions will continue indefinitely, beyond the initial three purchases, until you notify Computershare by telephone, Internet, or in writing that the automatic deductions are to stop.



## DIVIDEND REINVESTMENT OPTIONS

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### 8. WHAT ARE THE DIVIDEND OPTIONS?

As a participant in the program, you may elect to reinvest all, part or none of the dividends on your Washington REIT shares for the purchase of additional Washington REIT shares. The options available to you are as follows:

- **Full Dividend Reinvestment.** If you select this option, Computershare will apply all of your dividends on all Washington REIT shares registered in your name toward the purchase of more Washington REIT shares.
- **Partial Dividends Paid in Cash (Partial Reinvestment).** If you select this option, Computershare will pay you dividends in cash on the number of Washington REIT shares that you specify on your enrollment form and apply the balance of your dividends toward the purchase of more Washington REIT shares.
- **All Dividends Paid in Cash (No Dividend Reinvestment).** If you select this option, your dividends will not be reinvested. Instead, you will receive payment by check or direct deposit (at your option) for all of your cash dividends.

The dates on which dividends will be reinvested are described in Question 14. Computershare will continue to reinvest your dividends as you have indicated on your enrollment form until you specify otherwise. You may change your election at any time by either completing and submitting a new enrollment form, by contacting Computershare directly at 800-519-3111 (781-575-2879 from outside the U.S. and Canada), or by accessing your program account through the Internet at Computershare's website, [www.computershare.com/investor](http://www.computershare.com/investor). *No matter which reinvestment option you have selected, you may make optional cash investments as described in Question 11.*

### 9. HOW MAY I CHANGE MY DIVIDEND REINVESTMENT OPTION OR DISCONTINUE REINVESTING MY DIVIDENDS?

You may change dividend reinvestment options by calling Computershare directly at 800-519-3111 (781-575-2879 from outside the U.S. and Canada), by instructing Computershare in writing at its address listed in Question 26, by submitting to Computershare a new election on an enrollment form, or by accessing your program account through the Internet at Computershare's website, [www.computershare.com/investor](http://www.computershare.com/investor). To

be effective for a specific dividend, any change must be received by Computershare before the record date for that dividend. *See Question 14 for information regarding record dates.*

You may discontinue reinvestment of cash dividends at any time by calling or writing to Computershare or by accessing your program account through the Internet at Computershare's website at [www.computershare.com/investor](http://www.computershare.com/investor). If Computershare receives your request to discontinue dividend reinvestment shortly before, on, or shortly after a record date for a dividend, Computershare may either pay the dividend in cash or reinvest it under the program on the next investment date on your behalf. If reinvested, Computershare may sell the Washington REIT shares purchased and send the proceeds to you, less any service fee, applicable processing fee and any other costs of sale. After processing your request to discontinue dividend reinvestment, any Washington REIT shares credited to your account under Washington REIT Direct will continue to be held in book-entry form. Dividends on any Washington REIT shares held in book-entry form, and on any Washington REIT shares you hold in certificate form, will be paid in cash by check or direct deposit (at your option). *To receive cash dividends by direct deposit, see Question 10.*

## **10. MAY I RECEIVE DIVIDEND PAYMENTS BY DIRECT DEPOSIT?**

Yes. Through the program's direct deposit feature, instead of receiving dividend checks, you may elect to have your cash dividends paid by electronic funds transfer to your account at a U.S. bank or financial institution on the dividend payment date. To receive dividends by direct deposit, you must complete, sign and return to Computershare an authorization for electronic direct deposit form. You may obtain this form by calling Computershare directly at 800-519-3111 (781-575-2879 from outside the U.S. and Canada). You may also elect direct deposit online at [www.computershare.com/investor](http://www.computershare.com/investor).

Authorization for electronic direct deposit forms will be processed and will become effective as promptly as practicable after receipt of the form by Computershare. You may change your designated U.S. bank account for direct deposit or discontinue this feature at any time by submitting to Computershare a new authorization for electronic direct deposit form, by written instruction to Computershare or online.

## OPTIONAL CASH INVESTMENTS

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### 11. HOW DO I MAKE AN ADDITIONAL INVESTMENT?

You may make optional cash investments by choosing among the following options:

- **Check Investment.** You may make optional cash investments of at least \$100, up to a maximum of \$300,000 per year, in Washington REIT shares by sending to Computershare a check for the purchase of additional shares. The check must be made payable to “Computershare—Washington Real Estate Investment Trust” in U.S. dollars and drawn on a U.S. bank. If you are not in the U.S., contact your bank to verify that they can provide you with a check that clears through a U.S. bank and can print the dollar amount in U.S. funds. Due to the longer clearance period, we are unable to accept checks clearing through non-U.S. banks. Computershare will not accept cash, traveler’s checks, money orders, or third party checks for optional cash investments. All checks should be sent to Computershare at the address listed on the tear-off form section attached to each account statement you receive, or if making an investment when enrolling, with your enrollment form.
- **One-time Online Bank Debit.** You may make optional cash investments of at least \$100, up to a maximum of \$300,000 per year, in Washington REIT through Computershare’s website, [www.computershare.com/investor](http://www.computershare.com/investor), and authorizing a one-time online bank debit from an account at a U.S. bank or financial institution. One-time online optional cash investment funds will be held by Computershare for three banking business days before they are invested. Please refer to the online confirmation for the account debit date and investment date.
- **Monthly Recurring Automatic Investment from a U.S. Bank Account.** As an alternative to sending checks for optional cash investments, you may elect to have funds automatically withdrawn from your checking or savings account at a U.S. bank or financial institution. You may elect the automatic deduction option by accessing your program account through the Internet at Computershare’s website, [www.computershare.com/investor](http://www.computershare.com/investor). You may also elect the automatic deduction option by completing and signing a direct debit authorization form and returning this form to Computershare, together with a voided blank check or savings account deposit slip for the bank account from

which the funds are to be withdrawn. Additional direct debit authorization forms are available through Computershare. Your direct debit authorization form will be processed and will become effective as promptly as practicable. However, you should allow four to six weeks for the first investment to be initiated using this automatic deduction feature. Once automatic deductions begin, funds will be withdrawn from your bank account on either the first or fifteenth day of each month, or both (at your option), or the next business day if either of those days is not a business day. Those funds normally will be invested within five business days. You may change the amount of money or discontinue automatic deductions by completing and submitting to Computershare a new authorization form for automatic deductions. As an alternative, you may also change or discontinue your automatic monthly deductions by accessing your program account through the Internet at Computershare's website, [www.computershare.com/investor](http://www.computershare.com/investor). To be effective for a particular investment date, Computershare must receive your new instructions at least six business days before the investment date. *See Question 14 for more information regarding investment dates.*

## **12. WHAT ARE THE MINIMUM AND MAXIMUM AMOUNTS FOR ADDITIONAL INVESTMENTS?**

In addition to increasing your holdings of Washington REIT shares through the reinvestment of dividends, you may make optional cash investments in Washington REIT shares at any time. Your optional cash investment must be at least \$100, up to a maximum of \$300,000 per year. Whether participating through the use of a check, online debit or through the monthly recurring automatic deduction feature, the \$100 minimum per transaction applies. If you are not a Washington REIT shareholder and are a first-time investor in the program, your initial investment must be for at least \$250 (or, if you wish to authorize automatic deductions, you must authorize at least three consecutive purchases of at least \$100 per transaction). *See Question 7 for additional information regarding an initial investment.*

Optional cash investments will be returned to you upon your request, provided that Computershare receives your request at least two business days prior to the investment date.

## COMMON SHARE PURCHASES

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### 13. WHAT IS THE SOURCE OF WASHINGTON REIT SHARES PURCHASED THROUGH THE PROGRAM?

At Washington REIT's option, shares may be purchased in the open market through a registered broker-dealer or directly from Washington REIT. Share purchases in the open market may be made on any stock exchange where Washington REIT shares are traded or on terms as Computershare may reasonably determine. Neither Washington REIT nor any participant will have any authority or power to direct the date, time or price at which Washington REIT shares may be purchased, or the selection of the broker or dealer through or from whom purchases are to be made.

### 14. WHEN WILL WASHINGTON REIT SHARES BE PURCHASED UNDER THE PROGRAM?

**General.** Direct purchases from Washington REIT of authorized but unissued Washington REIT shares will be made on the relevant "investment date" as described below. Purchases on the open market will begin on the investment date and generally will be completed the same day, but if market conditions do not permit, the purchases will be completed no later than 30 days from that date, except where completion at a later date is necessary or advisable under any applicable federal securities laws.

**Optional Cash Investments.** Computershare will normally invest any initial and additional cash investments by check, one-time online debit or by automatic deductions from a U.S. bank account, toward the purchase of Washington REIT shares no later than five business days after receipt of the investment. Computershare will determine the actual investment date for initial and additional cash investments.

**Dividend Reinvestments.** The investment date for reinvested cash dividends will be the dividend payment date. If the investment date falls on a date when the New York Stock Exchange is closed, the investment date will be the next day that the New York Stock Exchange is open. If Computershare receives your enrollment form requesting reinvestment of dividends on or before the record date established for a particular dividend, reinvestment will commence with that dividend. We expect that record dates for dividends which may be declared on Washington REIT shares will be approximately two weeks before the end of each quarter

and the related payment dates will be on the last day or next to last day of the quarter.

If your enrollment form is received after the record date for a particular dividend, the reinvestment of dividends will begin on the dividend payment date following the next record date.

#### **15. AT WHAT PRICE WILL WASHINGTON REIT SHARES BE PURCHASED?**

For Washington REIT shares purchased on the open market, Computershare may combine a participant's funds with funds of other participants and generally will batch purchase types (dividend and optional cash investments) for separate execution by its broker. At Computershare's discretion these batches may be combined and executed by its broker. Computershare may also direct its broker to execute each purchase type in several batches throughout a trading day. Depending on the number of shares being purchased and current trading volume in the shares, Computershare's broker may execute purchases for any batch or batches in multiple transactions and over more than one day. If different purchase types are batched, the price per share of the common shares purchased for each participant's account, whether purchased with funds contributed, dividends or both, shall be the weighted average price of the specific batch for such shares purchased by Computershare's broker on that investment date.

For Washington REIT shares purchased directly from Washington REIT, the price will be the closing price of the Washington REIT shares as reported on the New York Stock Exchange Composite Transactions list for that investment date. If no trading in Washington REIT shares occurs on the New York Stock Exchange for that date, Washington REIT will determine your price per share on the basis of market quotations as Washington REIT deems appropriate.

#### **16. WILL FRACTIONAL WASHINGTON REIT SHARES BE PURCHASED?**

Yes. If any dividend or optional cash investment is not sufficient to purchase a whole Washington REIT share, a fractional Washington REIT share equivalent will be credited to your account. All fractional Washington REIT shares are rounded to six decimal places.

## 17. HOW ARE PAYMENTS WITH “INSUFFICIENT FUNDS” HANDLED?

In the event that any check or other deposit is returned unpaid for any reason, or your predesignated U.S. bank account does not have sufficient funds for an automatic debit, Computershare will consider the request for investment of that purchase null and void and will immediately remove from your account any Washington REIT shares already purchased in anticipation of receiving those funds. If the net proceeds from the sale of those shares are insufficient to satisfy the balance of the uncollected amounts, Computershare may sell additional Washington REIT shares from your account as necessary to satisfy the uncollected balance. There is a fee (currently \$25) for any check or other deposit that is returned unpaid by your bank and for any failed automatic deduction from your predesignated U.S. bank account. This fee will be collected by Computershare through the sale of the number of Washington REIT shares from your Washington REIT Direct account necessary to satisfy the fee.

## 18. WILL INTEREST BE PAID ON THE PROGRAM ACCOUNTS?

No. Interest will not be paid on amounts held pending investment.

## 19. WHO WILL HOLD THE ADDITIONAL WASHINGTON REIT SHARES PURCHASED THROUGH WASHINGTON REIT DIRECT?

Washington REIT shares purchased through Washington REIT Direct are credited in book-entry form to your account on Computershare’s records. The number of Washington REIT shares (including fractional interests) credited to your account will be shown on each account statement.

If you wish to pledge Washington REIT shares credited to your account, you must first request Computershare to issue a certificate for the Washington REIT shares. *To request a certificate, see Question 20.*

## SHARE CERTIFICATES AND SAFEKEEPING

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### 20. HOW MAY I RECEIVE A WASHINGTON REIT SHARE CERTIFICATE?

You may obtain a certificate at no cost for some or all of the whole Washington REIT shares credited to your account at any time by simply requesting Computershare to issue a certificate for the

requested number of Washington REIT shares. You may make such a request by:

- Calling Computershare at 800-519-3111 (781-575-2879 from outside the U.S. and Canada);
- accessing your program account through the Internet at Computershare's website, [www.computershare.com/investor](http://www.computershare.com/investor);
- using the tear-off form attached to the account statement; or
- sending written notice specifying the number of Washington REIT shares to be issued in certificate form (certificated).

Certificates will be issued to you and registered in your name. Certificates are normally issued to participants within two business days after receipt of the request. No certificates will be issued for a fractional Washington REIT share. If you request a certificate for all Washington REIT shares credited to your account, a certificate will be issued for the whole Washington REIT shares and a cash payment in the form of a check will be made for any remaining fractional Washington REIT share. That cash payment will be based upon the then-current market price of Washington REIT shares, less any service fee, any applicable processing fee and any other costs of sale. Issuance of certificates may be subject to an additional fee. Please contact Computershare to determine if there is a certificate issuance fee.

Receiving certificated Washington REIT shares from your account does not affect your dividend reinvestment option. For example, if you authorized the full dividend reinvestment option, cash dividends with respect to Washington REIT shares issued in certificate form will continue to be reinvested.

## **21. MAY I ADD MY WASHINGTON REIT SHARE CERTIFICATE TO MY WASHINGTON REIT DIRECT ACCOUNT FOR SAFEKEEPING?**

Yes. You may deposit with Computershare any Washington REIT share certificate in your possession and registered in your name for credit to your account as book-entry shares at any time, at no cost. Washington REIT will pay all fees for this service. This safekeeping feature offers two advantages:

- the risk associated with loss, theft or destruction of Washington REIT share certificates is eliminated. Otherwise, in the case of a lost or stolen certificate, no sale or transfer may occur until



a replacement is obtained, which can be a costly and time-consuming process; and

- since Washington REIT shares deposited into your account with Computershare are treated in the same manner as Washington REIT shares purchased through the program, they may be transferred or sold through the program in a convenient and efficient manner.

To combine Washington REIT shares held in certificate form with Washington REIT shares held in book-entry form through your Washington REIT Direct account, you must send your request and your certificates to Computershare. The certificates should not be endorsed. Computershare will promptly send you a statement confirming each certificate deposit.

To insure against potential loss resulting from mailing certificates to Computershare, you should send your certificates to the address listed in Question 26 by registered mail, return receipt requested, and insured for possible mail loss for 3% of the market value (minimum of \$50). This represents the approximate cost to you for replacing certificates if they are lost in the mail.

## **SALE AND TRANSFER OF SHARES**

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### **22. HOW MAY I SELL WASHINGTON REIT SHARES I HOLD THROUGH WASHINGTON REIT DIRECT?**

You can sell some or all of the shares held in your Washington REIT Direct account at any time by contacting Computershare. *See Question 26 for more information on how to contact Computershare.* You have four choices when making a sale, depending on how you submit your sale request, as follows:

- **Market Order.** A market order is a request to sell shares promptly at the current market price. Market order sales are only available by accessing your account at [www.computershare.com/investor](http://www.computershare.com/investor) or by calling Computershare directly at 800-519-3111 (781-575-2879 from outside the U.S. and Canada). Market order sale requests received at [www.computershare.com/investor](http://www.computershare.com/investor) or by telephone will be placed promptly upon receipt during market hours (normally 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Eastern time). Any orders received after 4:00 p.m. Eastern time will be placed promptly on the next day the market is open. Depending on the number of shares being sold and current trading volume in the shares, a market order may

only be partially filled or not filled at all on the trading day in which it is placed, in which case the order, or remainder of the order, as applicable, will be cancelled at the end of such day. To determine if your shares were sold, you should check your account online at [www.computershare.com/investor](http://www.computershare.com/investor) or call Computershare directly at 800-519-3111 (781-575-2879 from outside the U.S. and Canada). If your market order sale was not filled and you still want the shares sold, you will need to re-enter the sale request. The price shall be the market price of the sale obtained by Computershare's broker, less a service fee of \$25 and a processing fee of \$0.12 per share sold.

- **Batch Order.** A batch order is an accumulation of all sale requests for a security submitted together as a collective request. Batch orders are submitted on each market day, assuming there are sale requests to be processed. Sale instructions for batch orders received by Computershare will be processed no later than five business days after the date on which the order is received (except where deferral is required under applicable federal or state laws or regulations), assuming the applicable market is open for trading and sufficient market liquidity exists. All sales requests received in writing will be submitted as batch order sales. Computershare will cause your shares to be sold on the open market within five business days of receipt of your request. To maximize cost savings for batch order sales requests, Computershare may combine each selling program participant's shares with those of other selling program participants. In every case of a batch order sale, the price to each selling program participant shall be the weighted average sale price obtained by Computershare's broker for each aggregate order placed by Computershare and executed by the broker, less a service fee of \$15 and a processing fee of \$0.12 per share sold.
- **Day Limit Order.** A day limit order is an order to sell securities when and if they reach a specific trading price on a specific day. The order is automatically cancelled if the price is not met by the end of that day (or, for orders placed after-market hours, the next day the market is open). Depending on the number of securities being sold and the current trading volume in the securities, such an order may only be partially filled, in which case the remainder of the order will be cancelled. The order may be cancelled by the applicable stock exchange, by Computershare at its sole discretion or, if Computershare's broker has not filled

the order, at your request made online at [www.computershare.com/investor](http://www.computershare.com/investor) or by calling Computershare directly at 800-519-3111 (781-575-2879 from outside the U.S. and Canada). Each day limit order sale will incur a service fee of \$25 per sale and a processing fee of \$0.12 per share sold.

- **Good-Til-Cancelled (“GTC”) Limit Order.** A GTC limit order is an order to sell securities when and if the securities reach a specific trading price at any time while the order remains open (generally up to 30 days). Depending on the number of securities being sold and current trading volume in the securities, sales may be executed in multiple transactions and over more than one day. If an order remains open for more than one day during which the market is open, a separate fee will be charged for each such day. The order (or any unexecuted portion thereof) is automatically cancelled if the trading price is not met by the end of the order period. The order may be cancelled by the applicable stock exchange, by Computershare at its sole discretion or, if Computershare’s broker has not filled the order, at your request made online at [www.computershare.com/investor](http://www.computershare.com/investor) or by calling Computershare directly at 800-519-3111 (781-575-2879 from outside the U.S. and Canada). Each GTC limit order sale will incur a service fee of \$25 per sale and a processing fee of \$0.12 per share sold.

All per share processing fees include any brokerage commissions Computershare is required to pay. Any fractional share will be rounded up to a whole share for purposes of calculating the per share processing fee. Proceeds are normally paid by check, which are distributed within 24 hours after your sale transaction has settled. You should be aware that the price of Washington REIT common shares may rise or fall during the period between a request for sale, its receipt by Computershare, and the ultimate sale on the open market. Instructions for a market order or a batch order are binding and may not be rescinded. Computershare may, for various reasons, require a transaction request to be submitted in writing. Please contact Computershare to determine if there are any limitations applicable to your particular sale request. An additional fee of \$15 will be charged if the assistance of a Customer Service Representative is required when selling shares.

Computershare reserves the right to decline to process a sale if it determines, in its sole discretion, that supporting legal documentation is required. In addition, no one will have any authority or

power to direct the time or price at which Washington REIT shares for the program are sold (except for prices specified for day limit orders or GTC limit orders), and no one, other than Computershare, will select the broker(s) or dealer(s) through or from whom sales are to be made.

If you elect to sell Washington REIT shares, you may utilize Computershare's international currency exchange service to convert your sale proceeds to your local currency prior to being sent to you. Receiving your sales proceeds in a local currency and having your check drawn on a local bank avoids the time-consuming and costly "collection" process required for cashing U.S. dollar checks. You can establish your international currency elections online at [www.computershare.com/investor](http://www.computershare.com/investor) or by completing the International Currency Payment Registration Form and returning it to Computershare. Please note that your international currency elections must be completed online or received via mail by Computershare prior to requesting this service for any sales processed by telephone. This service is subject to additional terms and conditions and fees.

### **23. CAN I TRANSFER WASHINGTON REIT SHARES THAT I HOLD IN THE PROGRAM TO SOMEONE ELSE?**

Yes. You may transfer ownership of some or all of your Washington REIT shares held through Washington REIT Direct. You may obtain information about transferring your shares through the Computershare Transfer Wizard at [www.computershare.com/transferwizard](http://www.computershare.com/transferwizard). The Transfer Wizard will guide you through the transfer process, assist you in completing the transfer form, and identify other necessary documentation you may need to provide. Alternatively, you may call Computershare at 800-519-3111 (781-575-2879 from outside the U.S. and Canada) for complete transfer instructions. You will be asked to send to Computershare written transfer instructions. Your signature on the written transfer instructions must be "Medallion Signature Guaranteed" by a financial institution. Most banks and brokers participate in the Medallion Signature Guarantee program. The Medallion Signature Guarantee program ensures that the individual signing is in fact the owner of the shares to be transferred. A notary is not sufficient.

You may transfer Washington REIT shares to new or existing Washington REIT record shareholders. However, if you transfer

less than one whole share, a new Washington REIT Direct account may not be opened for the transferee. If the transferee is not already a participant in Washington REIT Direct and you transfer more than one whole share, an account will be opened in the name of the transferee and he or she will automatically be enrolled in the program under the full reinvestment option unless you specify differently. *After the transfer has been made, the transferee may change the investment option as described in Question 9.*

## **TERMINATION OF PARTICIPATION**

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### **24. HOW WOULD I TERMINATE MY PARTICIPATION IN WASHINGTON REIT DIRECT?**

You may terminate your participation in Washington REIT Direct at any time by giving notice to Computershare. To be effective for any given dividend payment, Computershare must receive notice before the record date for such dividend payment. If Computershare receives your request to discontinue dividend reinvestment shortly before, on, or shortly after a record date for a dividend, Computershare may either pay the dividend in cash or reinvest it under the program on the next investment date on your behalf. If reinvested, Computershare may sell the Washington REIT shares purchased and send the proceeds to you, less any service fee, applicable processing fee and any other costs of sale. After processing your request to discontinue dividend reinvestment, any Washington REIT shares credited to your account under Washington REIT Direct will continue to be held in book-entry form. Dividends on any Washington REIT shares held in book-entry form, and on any Washington REIT shares you hold in certificate form, will be paid in cash by check or direct deposit (at your option). *To receive cash dividends by direct deposit, see Question 10.*

Upon termination of your Washington REIT Direct account, at your request you can either continue to have Computershare hold your whole shares in your account in book-entry form or you can receive a certificate for the whole shares held for you under Washington REIT Direct. In both instances you will receive cash payment in the form of a check for any remaining fractional Washington REIT share. That cash payment will be based upon the then-current market price of Washington REIT shares, less any service fee, any applicable processing fee and any other costs of sale. Issuance of certificates may be subject to an additional

fee. Please contact Computershare to determine if there is a certificate issuance fee. After Computershare terminates your account, future dividends will be sent directly to you by check or direct deposit (at your option). *To receive cash dividends by direct deposit, see Question 10.* Alternatively, if you so direct, Computershare will sell all whole and fractional shares in your Washington REIT Direct account. See Question 22 *“How may I sell Washington REIT shares I hold through Washington REIT Direct?”* for more information.

**Rejoining the Plan After Withdrawal.** After you withdraw from Washington REIT Direct, you may rejoin Washington REIT Direct at any time by enrolling online, or by filing a new enrollment form with Computershare, and otherwise complying with the terms of Washington REIT Direct. However, the Washington REIT or Computershare has the right to reject the enrollment form if you repeatedly join and withdraw from the Washington REIT Direct, or for any other reason. Computershare’s exercise of this right is intended to minimize unnecessary administrative expenses and to encourage use of the Washington REIT Direct as a long-term shareholder investment service.

## **OTHER INFORMATION**

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### **25. I’VE JUST MOVED. HOW CAN I REQUEST A CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR UPDATE OTHER PERSONAL DATA?**

It is important that our records contain your most up-to-date personal data. If you need to request a change of address or update other personal data, please call Computershare at 800-519-3111 (781-575-2879 from outside the U.S. and Canada) or write to Computershare at the address listed in Question 26. You may also update your personal information through Computershare’s website, [www.computershare.com/investor](http://www.computershare.com/investor).

### **26. WHO ADMINISTERS WASHINGTON REIT DIRECT? HOW DO I CONTACT THEM?**

Computershare Trust Company, N.A. directs the purchase of and credits participants’ accounts with Washington REIT shares acquired under the program, keeps records, sends statements of account activity to participants and performs other related duties.

You may contact Computershare by writing to:

Washington REIT Direct

c/o Computershare Trust Company, N.A.

P.O. Box 30170

College Station, TX 77842-3170

You may contact Computershare at one of the telephone numbers listed below:

- Shareholder customer service, including sale of shares: 800-519-3111 (within the U.S. and Canada) and 781-575-2879 (outside the U.S. and Canada)
- New investors requesting program material: 800-519-3111 (781-575-2879 from outside the U.S. and Canada) (available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week) and TDD: 800-368-0328 (a telecommunications device for the hearing impaired is available)

You may also contact Computershare via the Internet. Computershare's Internet address is [www.computershare.com/investor](http://www.computershare.com/investor). Messages sent via the Internet will be responded to promptly. At Computershare's website, you can access your Washington REIT share balance, transfer Washington REIT shares, sell Washington REIT shares, request a Washington REIT share certificate, and obtain online forms and other information about your account.

## **27. WHAT IF WASHINGTON REIT ISSUES A WASHINGTON REIT SHARE DIVIDEND OR DECLARES A WASHINGTON REIT SHARE SPLIT?**

Any Washington REIT share dividends or split Washington REIT shares distributed by Washington REIT on Washington REIT shares credited to your account or on Washington REIT shares held by you in the form of certificates will be credited to your account. You will receive a statement indicating the number of Washington REIT shares or dividends earned as a result of the transaction.

## **28. HOW DO I VOTE MY WASHINGTON REIT DIRECT SHARES AT SHAREHOLDERS' MEETINGS?**

In connection with any meeting of Washington REIT shareholders, you will receive proxy materials, including a proxy card representing both the Washington REIT shares for which you hold physical certificates and the whole shares held in book-entry form in your Washington REIT Direct account. Fractional Washington REIT shares will not be voted.

## **29. HOW WILL WASHINGTON REIT INTERPRET AND REGULATE WASHINGTON REIT DIRECT AND CAN WASHINGTON REIT DIRECT BE CHANGED?**

We may interpret, regulate and take any other action in connection with Washington REIT Direct that we deem reasonably necessary in our sole discretion to carry out Washington REIT Direct. As a participant in Washington REIT Direct, you will be bound by any actions taken by us or Computershare.

While Washington REIT Direct is intended to continue indefinitely, Washington REIT reserves the right to suspend or terminate the program at any time. Washington REIT also reserves the right to make modifications to the program. You will be notified of any such suspension, termination or modification.

Washington REIT Direct was formerly referred to as “WRIT Direct.”

## **30. CAN MY WASHINGTON REIT DIRECT ACCOUNT BE TERMINATED?**

Computershare may terminate your Washington REIT Direct account if you do not own at least one whole Washington REIT share. In the event that your program account is terminated for this reason, a check for the cash value of the fractional Washington REIT share based upon the then-current market price, less any service fee, any processing fee and any other costs of sale will be sent to you and your account will be closed.

Any questions of interpretation that may arise under the program will be determined by Washington REIT and Washington REIT’s determination will be final.

## **31. ARE THERE ANY RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH WASHINGTON REIT DIRECT?**

Your investment in common shares purchased under Washington REIT Direct is no different from any investment in Washington REIT shares that you hold directly. Neither we nor Computershare can assure you a profit or protect you against a loss on shares that you purchase. You bear the risk of loss and enjoy the benefits of any gain from market price changes with respect to shares purchased under Washington REIT Direct. *See “Risk Factors.”*



### **32. WHAT ARE THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF WASHINGTON REIT AND COMPUTERSHARE UNDER THE PROGRAM?**

Neither Washington REIT nor Computershare will be liable for any act or omission to act, which was done in good faith, including any claim of liability arising out of the failure to cease reinvestment of dividends for a participant's account upon the participant's death prior to receipt of notice in writing of the death along with a request to cease dividend reinvestment from a qualified representative of the deceased, the prices at which Washington REIT shares are purchased or sold (except for prices specified for day limit orders or GTC limit orders) for participants' accounts, the times when purchases or sales are made (except for prices specified for day limit orders or GTC limit orders), or fluctuations in the market value of Washington REIT shares.

Although Washington REIT currently contemplates the continuation of quarterly dividends, the payment and amount of dividends is subject to the discretion of Washington REIT's Board of Trustees and will depend upon future earnings, financial condition and other factors.

### **33. WHAT ARE THE FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSEQUENCES OF PARTICIPATING IN THE PROGRAM?**

A summary of the certain U.S. federal income tax consequences of a shareholders' participation in Washington REIT Direct is set forth in our Current Report on Form 8-K, filed with the SEC on June 1, 2015 (as amended or supplemented from time to time), and incorporated by reference in this prospectus. The summary in our Current Report on Form 8-K is for general information only and does not constitute tax advice. It does not reflect every possible tax outcome or consequence that could result from participation in Washington REIT Direct. In addition, it does not reflect state, local or non-U.S. tax consequences that may apply to you based on your particular circumstances and residence. We advise you to consult your own tax advisors to determine the tax consequences particular to your situation, including any applicable state, local or foreign income and other tax consequences that may result from your participation in Washington REIT Direct and your subsequent sale of shares acquired pursuant to Washington REIT Direct.

### **34. WHERE WILL NOTICES BE SENT?**

Computershare will address all of its notices to you at your last known address. You should notify Computershare promptly, in writing, of any change of address.

### **35. WHAT REPORTS WILL I RECEIVE?**

Easy to read statements of your calendar year-to-date account activity will be sent to you after each transaction, which will simplify your record keeping. Each account statement will show the amount invested, the purchase or sale price, the number of Washington REIT shares purchased or sold and any applicable fees, as well as any activity associated with Washington REIT share deposits or certificated withdrawals. For market order sale transactions, the time of sale will be provided. For shares acquired in Washington REIT Direct after January 1, 2011, specific cost basis information will be included in your Washington REIT Direct statement in accordance with applicable law. Please notify Computershare promptly either in writing or by telephone if your address changes. In addition, you will receive copies of the same communications sent to all other holders of Washington REIT shares, such as annual reports and proxy statements. You will also receive any Internal Revenue Service information returns, if required.

Please retain all account statements for your records. The statements contain important tax and other information.

### **36. WHAT LAW GOVERNS WASHINGTON REIT DIRECT?**

The laws of the State of Maryland govern Washington REIT Direct.

## **WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION**

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You should rely only on the information contained in, or incorporated by reference into, this prospectus. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with additional or different information. You should not assume that the information in this prospectus or any document incorporated by reference is accurate as of any date other than the date of those documents. You may also obtain from the SEC a copy of the registration statement and exhibits that we filed with the SEC when we registered the shares. The registration statement may contain additional information that may be important to you.

We maintain a website at [www.washreit.com](http://www.washreit.com). We make our SEC filings available on our website, free of charge, as soon as reasonably practicable after such materials are filed with, or furnished to the SEC. Information contained on our website is not incorporated by reference into this prospectus, and you should not consider information contained on our website to be part of this prospectus or any applicable prospectus supplement.

We file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. Our SEC filings are available to the public at the SEC's website at <http://www.sec.gov>. You may also read and copy of the registration statement and any other document we file without charge at the SEC's Public Reference Room at 100 F Street, N.E. Washington, D.C. 20549. Information about the operation of the public reference room may be obtained by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0300. Copies of all or a portion of the registration statement can be obtained from the public reference room of the SEC upon payment of prescribed fees.

Because our common shares are listed on the New York Stock Exchange, you also may read our reports, proxy statements and other information filed by us at the offices of the New York Stock Exchange, 20 Broad Street, New York, New York 10005.

## **INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN INFORMATION BY REFERENCE**

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The SEC permits us to incorporate information into this prospectus by reference some information that is contained in other documents we file with the SEC. This means that we may disclose important information by referring you to other documents filed separately with the SEC that contain the information, including documents that we file after the date of this prospectus. The information that is incorporated by reference is considered to be part of this prospectus, except to the extent superseded by information contained herein or by information contained in documents filed with or furnished to the SEC after the date of this prospectus. This prospectus incorporates by reference the documents set forth below that have been previously filed with the SEC:

1. Our annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014, filed with the SEC on March 2, 2015;

2. Our quarterly report on Form 10-Q for the period ending March 31, 2015, filed with the SEC on May 5, 2015;
3. Our definitive proxy statement filed with the SEC on March 25, 2015 (solely to the extent incorporated by reference into Part III of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014);
4. Our current reports on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on January 20, 2015, January 27, 2015, February 20, 2015, March 5, 2015, May 18, 2015, and June 1, 2015;
5. The description of our common shares included in our Registration Statement on Form 8-A, filed with the SEC on December 4, 1998 under Section 12(b) of the Exchange Act and including any additional amendment or report filed for the purpose of updating such description; and
6. Each document that we file after the date of this prospectus under Section 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act from the date of this prospectus until we have sold all of the securities to which this prospectus relates or the offering is otherwise terminated; provided, however that we are not incorporating any information furnished under either Item 2.02 or Item 7.01 of any Current Report on Form 8-K.

Information in this prospectus may add to, update or change information in a previously filed document incorporated by reference in this prospectus. In that case, you should rely on the information in this prospectus. Information in a document filed after the date of this prospectus may add to, update or change information in this prospectus or in a previously filed document incorporated by reference in this prospectus. In that case, you should rely on the information in the later filed document.

You may request a copy of these filings and any amendments thereto at no cost, by writing or telephoning us. Those copies will not include exhibits to those documents unless the exhibits are specifically incorporated by reference in the documents or unless you specifically request them. Please direct your request to:

Investor Relations, Washington REIT, 1775 Eye Street, NW, Suite 1000, Washington, D.C. 20006, (202) 774-3200.

## **USE OF PROCEEDS**

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Washington REIT will receive proceeds from the sale of common shares that Computershare purchases directly from us. We will not receive proceeds from the sale of common shares that Computershare purchases in the open market. We intend to use the proceeds of the sale of any newly issued or treasury common shares issued under Washington REIT Direct for general corporate purposes. Since the price of the common shares offered under Washington REIT Direct is based on future market prices, we are unable to make an advance determination of the price at which common shares will be sold to Washington REIT Direct participants or the proceeds of such sale.

## **PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION**

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Except to the extent Computershare purchases Washington REIT shares in open market transactions, Washington REIT will sell Washington REIT shares acquired under Washington REIT Direct directly to you through Computershare. Washington REIT shares acquired pursuant to Washington REIT Direct may be resold in market transactions on any national securities exchange on which Washington REIT shares trade or in privately negotiated transactions. Washington REIT shares are currently listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the trading symbol "WRE."

Washington REIT may sell Washington REIT shares through Washington REIT Direct to persons (including brokers or dealers) who, in connection with the resale of Washington REIT shares, may be considered underwriters. In connection with these types of transactions, compliance with Regulation M under the Exchange Act would be required. The difference between the price such persons who may be deemed to be underwriters pay Washington REIT for Washington REIT shares acquired under Washington REIT Direct and the price at which such Washington REIT shares are resold, may be deemed to constitute underwriting commissions received by such persons in connection with such transactions. Washington REIT will not give any person any rights or privileges other than those that the person would be entitled to as a participant in Washington REIT Direct. Washington REIT will not enter into any agreement with any person regarding the person's purchase, resale or distribution of Washington REIT shares.

Subject to the availability of Washington REIT shares registered for issuance under Washington REIT Direct, there is no total maximum number of Washington REIT shares that can be issued pursuant to Washington REIT Direct. Except for the specific fees described in Question 4 of this prospectus, you are not required to pay any transaction fees, service fees, processing fees or other charges, in connection with the purchase of Washington REIT shares under Washington REIT Direct. You will only have to pay fees in connection with your voluntary sale of Washington REIT shares from your Washington REIT Direct account. *See Questions 4 and 22 for more detailed information.*

Washington REIT shares may not be available under Washington REIT Direct in all states. This prospectus does not constitute an offer to sell, or a solicitation of an offer to buy, any Washington REIT shares or other securities in any state or any other jurisdiction to any person to whom it is unlawful to make such offer in such jurisdiction.

## **LEGAL OPINION**

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Hogan Lovells US LLP will issue an opinion regarding certain legal matters in connection with this offering, including the validity of the common shares being offered pursuant to the Washington REIT Direct, and will pass upon certain federal income tax matters.

## **EXPERTS**

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Ernst & Young LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, has audited our consolidated financial statements and schedules included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014, and the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2014 as set forth in their reports, which are incorporated by reference in this prospectus and elsewhere in the registration statement. Our financial statements and schedules are incorporated by reference in reliance on Ernst & Young LLP's reports, given on their authority as experts in accounting and auditing.



# WASHINGTON★REIT

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