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Justice Benjamin Certified to Receive Campaign Funds

Charleston WV, February 10, 2016 – In a meeting this morning, the West Virginia State Election Commission certified that the Committee to Re-elect Justice Brent Benjamin has met all requirements to qualify for public campaign financing. The following statement from Justice Benjamin was presented to the commission at the conclusion of the vote:

“Today’s meeting of this commission was the fourth in the past several days to focus on certifying candidates for the Public Campaign Finance program. Two days last week were dedicated to addressing 516 challenges to individual donors making small-dollar contributions to my campaign committee.

“In creating the Public Campaign Finance program, the Legislature recognized that increasingly expensive judicial elections funded by high-dollar interests have created a concern among voters that such interests have too much influence in our judicial system. The Public Campaign Finance program not only enhances public confidence in the fairness and impartiality of our courts, it also ensures that the West Virginian who is able to give just a single dollar knows that his or her participation in the selection process is just as important as the \$1,000 given by a politically-connected insider, special interest or out-of-state group.

“Here, we have seen a direct challenge by one opposing candidate to 9 out of 10 West Virginians who simply wished to participate in this program and show support for my campaign. In rejecting nearly every such challenge, this commission signaled to every West Virginia voter that their voice matters.

“I wish to express my personal appreciation for the professional and courteous treatment the commission, the Secretary, counsel, and staff have shown my campaign team during this long process.

“By your labors you have shown West Virginians that our system for determining eligibility for public campaign financing is transparent, fact-based, and thorough. On behalf of myself, my campaign team, and those for whom the Public Campaign Finance program was created, thank you for the diligence you have applied to this process.”

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COMMITTEE TO RE-ELECT JUSTICE BRENT BENJAMIN
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