**Jason Belcher – Candidate for Secretary of State**

1. What sets you apart from the other candidates?

 I am the only candidate for Secretary of State in the Democratic Primary who served in the military.   I served on active duty in the U.S. Air Force as a commissioned officer for nine and a half years, and I gained from that service command leadership experience that I will bring to the office of Secretary of State.    I will also bring a wealth of crisis management experience gained in both the military and the private sector.  After the Air Force I worked as a business process consultant for Target Corporation's Global Crisis Management division, protecting people and assets from security threats worldwide and leading crisis responses to natural disasters, political unrest, and other disruptions to supply chain.  The 2020 Presidential Elections will be the most contentious in American history, and Kentucky needs a chief election official who is battle tested with the proven ability to make good decisions under pressure.  I am the only candidate for Secretary of State who has that experience.

1. How are you going to bring Kentucky into the future?

 During the campaign I have consistently championed moving Kentucky towards electronic voting, which is a capability half a dozen other states are already developing.   By leading a public private partnership to establish Kentucky as a leader in electronic voting, I will help bring Kentucky into the future.  In addition, I would lead a Government Streamlining Commission dedicated to cutting the red tape and making it easier for new businesses to get started in Kentucky.  The GSC would gather input from small businesses and use their feedback to find ways to improve the tax code, licensing regulations, and networking and training to improve Kentucky's business climate.

1. What are your goals if elected?

 To double voter turnout in local, statewide and national elections from an average of 30% to 60%,  to cut red tape for new and existing businesses, to develop an electronic voting capability for the state, to work with the legislature to enact automatic voter registration, early voting, and the restoration of voting rights to non-violent felons who have completed their sentences.   To improve the working relationships between the Secretary of States office and the State Board of Elections and County Election officials.

1. How do you plan on addressing income inequality in Kentucky?

 By advocating a raise to the minimum wage statewide, and by preparing Kentucky for the coming shifts to the workforce that will result from increasing automation.  Kentucky is vulnerable to lost jobs due to automation, and without proper preparation those losses will worsen income inequality in the state.