
UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

Form S-3
REGISTRATION STATEMENT
UNDER
THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

DYNEX CAPITAL, INC.
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Virginia
(State of jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)
4991 Lake Brook Drive
Suite 100
Glen Allen, VA 23060
(804) 217-5800

(Address including zip code, and telephone number,
including area code, of registrant's principal executive offices)

52-1549373
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)

Michael A. Angelo, Esq.
Chief Legal Officer and Corporate Secretary
4991 Lake Brook Drive
Suite 100
Glen Allen, VA 23060
(804) 217-5800

(Name, address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of
agent for service)

Copies to:

Anna T. Pinedo, Esq.
Brian D. Hirshberg, Esq.
Mayer Brown LLP
1221 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10020
212-506-2500

Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to the public: From time to time after the effective date of this registration statement as determined by the registrant.

If the only securities being registered on this Form are being offered pursuant to dividend or interest reinvestment plans, please check the following box. ☐

If any of the securities being registered on this Form are to be offered on a delayed or continuous basis pursuant to Rule 415 under the Securities Act of 1933, other than securities offered only in connection with dividend or interest reinvestment plans, check the following box. ☒

If this Form is filed to register additional securities for an offering pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act, please check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering. ☐

If this Form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(c) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering. ☐

If this Form is a registration statement pursuant to General Instruction I.D. or a post-effective amendment thereto that shall become effective upon filing with the Commission pursuant to Rule 462(e) under the Securities Act, check the following box: ☒

If this Form is a post-effective amendment to a registration statement filed pursuant to General Instruction I.D. filed to register additional securities or additional classes of securities pursuant to Rule 413(b) under the Securities Act, check the following box: ☐

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, a smaller reporting company, or an emerging growth company. See the definitions of “large accelerated filer,” “accelerated filer,” “smaller reporting company” and “emerging growth company” in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

Large accelerated filer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Accelerated filer	<input type="checkbox"/>
Non-accelerated filer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Smaller reporting company	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Emerging growth company	<input type="checkbox"/>

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 7(a)(2)(B) of the Securities Act. ☐

PROSPECTUS



Dynex Capital, Inc.

**COMMON STOCK
PREFERRED STOCK
DEBT SECURITIES
WARRANTS
UNITS**

We intend to offer and sell from time to time the debt and equity securities described in this prospectus:

- shares of our common stock;
- shares of our preferred stock;
- debt securities;
- warrants to purchase shares of our common stock, our preferred stock or our debt securities; and
- units consisting of two or more of the foregoing.

We refer to the common stock, preferred stock, debt securities, warrants and units, collectively, as the “securities” in this prospectus.

Our common stock, par value 0.01 per share, is listed on the New York Stock Exchange (the “NYSE”) under the symbol “DX” and our 6.900% Series C Fixed-to-Floating Rate Cumulative Redeemable Preferred Stock, par value \$0.01 per share (the “Series C Preferred Stock”), is listed on the NYSE under the symbol “DXPRC.”

We will provide the specific terms of any securities we may offer in supplements to this prospectus. You should read this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement carefully before you invest. This prospectus may not be used to offer and sell any securities unless accompanied by a prospectus supplement describing the amount of securities being offered and the terms of the offering of those securities. We may offer and sell these securities to or through one or more underwriters, dealers or agents, or directly to purchasers on a continuous or delayed basis. We reserve the sole right to accept, and together with any underwriters, dealers and agents, reserve the right to reject, in whole or in part, any proposed purchase of securities. The names of any underwriters, dealers or agents involved in the sale of any securities, the specific manner in which they may be offered and any applicable commissions or discounts will be set forth in the prospectus supplement covering the sales of those securities.

To assist us in qualifying as a real estate investment trust for federal income tax purposes, no person may own more than 9.8% of the outstanding shares of our capital stock, unless our Board of Directors waives this limitation.

Investing in our securities involves risks. You should carefully consider the information referred to under the heading “[Risk Factors](#)” beginning on [page 8](#) of this prospectus as well as the “Risk Factors” incorporated by reference herein from our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K, our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q and other reports and information that we file with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or passed upon the adequacy or accuracy of this prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

The date of this prospectus is July 28, 2025.

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No dealer, salesperson or other person is authorized to give any information or to represent anything not contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus, any accompanying prospectus supplement or any free writing prospectus we may provide you in connection with an offering of securities. You must not rely on any unauthorized information or representation not contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus, any accompanying prospectus supplement or any free writing prospectus. This prospectus, any accompanying prospectus supplement or any free writing prospectus does not constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy securities other than the registered securities to which they relate, nor does this prospectus, any accompanying prospectus supplement or any free writing prospectus constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy securities in any jurisdiction to any person to whom it is unlawful to make such offer or solicitation in such jurisdiction. The information contained in this prospectus, any prospectus supplement to this prospectus, any free writing prospectus or the documents incorporated by reference herein or therein are accurate only as of the date of such document. Our business, financial condition, liquidity, results of operations, funds from operations and prospects may have changed since those dates.

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement on Form S-3 that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “SEC”) as a “well-known seasoned issuer” as defined in Rule 405 under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the “Securities Act”) using a “shelf” registration process for the delayed offering and sale of securities pursuant to Rule 415 under the Securities Act. Under the shelf registration process, we may, over time, sell any combination of the securities described in this prospectus in one or more offerings. This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities that we may offer. As allowed by SEC rules, this prospectus does not contain all the information you can find in the registration statement or the exhibits to the registration statement. We will not use this prospectus to offer and sell securities unless it is accompanied by a prospectus supplement that more fully describes the securities being offered and the terms of the offering. Any accompanying prospectus supplement or free writing prospectus may also add to, update or supersede other information contained in this prospectus.

The SEC allows us to “incorporate by reference” certain information that we file with it, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those documents. The information incorporated by reference is considered to be part of this prospectus, and information that we file later with the SEC will update automatically, supplement and/or supersede this information. Any statement contained in a document incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference in this prospectus shall be deemed to be modified or superseded for purposes of this prospectus to the extent that a statement contained in this prospectus or in any other document which also is or is deemed to be incorporated by reference in this prospectus modifies or supersedes such statement. Any such statement so modified or superseded shall not be deemed, except as so modified or superseded, to constitute a part of this prospectus. You should read the detailed information regarding our company, our securities and our financial statements and the notes to those statements appearing elsewhere in this prospectus or incorporated herein by reference. Before purchasing any securities, you should carefully read this prospectus, any prospectus supplement and any free writing prospectus together with the information incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference herein as described under the headings “Where You Can Find More Information” and “Incorporation of Information by Reference” in this prospectus.

When used in this prospectus, the terms “Dynex,” “company,” “issuer,” “we,” “our,” and “us” refer to Dynex Capital, Inc. and its consolidated subsidiaries, unless otherwise specified.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other documents with the SEC under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the “Exchange Act”). The SEC maintains a website that contains reports, proxy and information statements and other information regarding registrants that we file electronically with the SEC at www.sec.gov. In addition, we maintain a website that contains information about us at www.dynexcapital.com. The information found on, or otherwise accessible through, our website is not incorporated by reference into, and does not form a part of, this prospectus or any accompanying prospectus supplement or any other report or document we file with or furnish to the SEC.

We have filed with the SEC a registration statement on Form S-3, of which this prospectus is a part, including exhibits, schedules and amendments filed with, or incorporated by reference into, the registration statement, under the Securities Act with respect to the securities registered hereby. This prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement do not contain all of the information set forth in the registration statement and exhibits and schedules to the registration statement. For further information with respect to our company and the securities registered hereby, reference is made to the registration statement, including the exhibits and schedules to the registration statement. Statements contained in this prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement as to the contents of any contract or other document referred to in, or incorporated by reference into, this prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement are not necessarily complete and, where such contract or other document is an exhibit to the registration statement, each statement is qualified in all respects by the exhibit to which the reference relates. The registration statement of which this prospectus is a part is available to you on the SEC’s website.

INCORPORATION OF INFORMATION BY REFERENCE

The SEC's rules allow us to "incorporate by reference" information into this prospectus, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to another document filed separately with the SEC. The information incorporated by reference is deemed to be part of this prospectus from the date of filing those documents. Any reports filed by us with the SEC on or after the date of this prospectus will automatically update and, where applicable, supersede any information contained in this prospectus or incorporated by reference in this prospectus. We have filed the documents listed below with the SEC under the Exchange Act, and these documents are incorporated herein by reference (other than information in such documents that is furnished and not deemed to be filed):

- Our [Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2024](#), filed with the SEC on February 28, 2025 (including the portions of our Proxy Statement on [Schedule 14A](#), filed with the SEC on April 8, 2025, incorporated by reference therein);
- Our [Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the period ended March 31, 2025](#), filed with the SEC on April 30, 2025, and our [Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the period ended June 30, 2025](#), filed with the SEC on July 28, 2025;
- Our Current Reports on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on [January 27, 2025](#), [April 21, 2025](#), [May 1, 2025](#), [May 21, 2025](#), and [July 21, 2025](#) (in each case, except for any information contained therein which is furnished rather than filed); and
- The description of our common stock contained in the [Registration Statement on Form 8-A](#) relating thereto, filed with the SEC pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Exchange Act on February 18, 2020, as updated by the description of our common stock contained in [Exhibit 4.3](#) to our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2024, filed with the SEC on February 28, 2025, including any amendment or report filed for the purpose of updating any of these descriptions.

All documents we file pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act on or after the date of this prospectus and prior to the termination of the offering of the securities to which this prospectus relates (other than information in such documents that is furnished and not deemed to be filed) will be deemed to be incorporated by reference into this prospectus and to be part hereof from the date of filing of those documents. All documents we file pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act after the date of the initial registration statement that contains this prospectus and prior to the effectiveness of the registration statement will be deemed to be incorporated by reference into this prospectus and to be part hereof from the date of filing those documents.

We are not, however, incorporating by reference any documents or portions thereof, whether specifically listed above or filed in the future, that are not deemed "filed" with the SEC, including any information furnished pursuant to Items 2.02 or 7.01 of Form 8-K or certain exhibits furnished pursuant to Item 9.01 of Form 8-K.

We will provide to each person, including any beneficial owner, to whom a copy of this prospectus is delivered, a copy of any or all of the information that has been incorporated by reference in this prospectus but not delivered with this prospectus (other than the exhibits to such documents which are not specifically incorporated by reference therein); we will provide this information at no cost to the requester upon written or oral request to:

Investor Relations Officer
Dynex Capital, Inc.
4991 Lake Brook Drive, Suite 100
Glen Allen, Virginia 23060
(804) 217-5800

CAUTIONARY STATEMENT ABOUT FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

Certain written statements in this prospectus, and in our other filings with the SEC that are incorporated herein by reference, that are not historical facts constitute “forward-looking statements” within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act and Section 21E of the Exchange Act. Forward-looking statements are those that predict or describe future events or trends and that do not relate solely to historical matters. All statements contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus addressing our future results of operations and operating performance, events, or developments that we expect or anticipate will occur in the future, including, but not limited to, statements relating to investment strategies, changes in net interest income, investment performance, earnings or earnings per share, the interest rate environment, capital raising strategies and activities, economic conditions and outlook, expected impact of hedging transactions, and market share, as well as statements expressing optimism or pessimism about future operating results, are forward-looking statements.

We intend such forward-looking statements to be covered by the safe harbor provisions for forward-looking statements contained in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 and include this statement for purposes of complying with these safe harbor provisions. You can generally identify forward-looking statements as statements containing the words “will,” “believe,” “expect,” “anticipate,” “intend,” “estimate,” “assume,” “plan,” “continue,” “should,” “may” or other similar expressions. Forward-looking statements are based on our current beliefs, assumptions and expectations of our future performance as of the date the statements are made, taking into account all information currently available to us. These beliefs, assumptions and expectations are subject to risks and uncertainties and can change as a result of many possible events or factors, not all of which are known to us. If a change occurs, our business, financial condition, prospects, liquidity and results of operations may vary materially from those expressed or implied in our forward-looking statements. We caution readers not to place undue reliance on our forward-looking statements, which are not historical facts and may be based on assumptions and expectations that do not materialize.

Forward-looking statements in this prospectus and in our other filings with the SEC may include, but are not limited to the statements regarding:

- Our business and investment strategy including our ability to generate acceptable risk-adjusted returns, our target investment allocations, and our views on the future performance of mortgage-backed securities (“MBS”) and other investments;
- Our views on the macroeconomic environment, monetary and fiscal policy, and conditions in the investment, credit, interest rate, and derivatives markets;
- Our views on inflation, market interest rates, and market spreads;
- Our views on the effect of actual or proposed actions of the Federal Reserve or other central banks with respect to monetary policy (including the targeted Fed Funds rate), and the potential impact of these actions on interest rates, borrowing costs, inflation, or unemployment;
- The effect of regulatory initiatives of the Federal Reserve, the Federal Housing Finance Agency, other financial regulators, and other central banks;
- Our financing strategy, including our target leverage ratios, our use of to-be-announced (“TBA”) dollar roll transactions, and anticipated trends in financing costs, including TBA dollar roll transaction costs, and our hedging strategy, including changes to the derivative instruments to which we are a party, and changes to government regulation of hedging instruments and our use of these instruments;
- Our investment portfolio composition and target investments;

- Our investment portfolio performance, including the fair value, yields, and forecasted prepayment speeds of our investments;
- Our liquidity and ability to access financing and the anticipated availability and cost of financing;
- Our capital stock activity, including the impact of stock issuances and repurchases;
- The amount, timing, and funding of future dividends;
- Our use of our tax net operating loss (“NOL”) carryforward and other tax loss carryforwards;
- Future competition for, and availability of, investments, financing, and capital;
- Estimates of future interest expenses, including related to our repurchase agreements and derivative instruments;
- The status and effect of legislative reforms and regulatory rule-making or review processes and the status of reform efforts and other business developments in the repurchase agreement financing market;
- Market, industry, and economic trends, and how these trends and related economic data may impact the behavior of market participants and financial regulators;
- The impact of bank failures, potential new regulations, and the potential for other bank failures;
- The impact of debt ceiling negotiations on interest rates, spreads, the U.S. Treasury market as well as the impact more broadly on fixed income and equity markets;
- Uncertainties regarding the war between Russia and Ukraine or the conflict in the Middle East and the related impacts on macroeconomic conditions, including, among other things, interest rates;
- The financial position and credit worthiness of the depository institutions in which our MBS and cash deposits are held;
- The impact of applicable tax and accounting requirements on us, including our tax treatment of derivative instruments such as TBAs, interest rate swaps, options, and futures;
- Our future compliance with covenants in our master repurchase agreements, ISDA agreements, and debt covenants in our other contractual agreements;
- Our reliance on a single service provider for our trading, portfolio management, and risk reporting systems;
- The implementation in a timely and cost-effective manner of our operating platform, which includes trading, portfolio management, risk reporting, and accounting services systems, and the anticipated benefits thereof; and
- Possible future effects of any global health crisis.

Forward-looking statements are inherently subject to risks, uncertainties and other factors that could cause our actual results to differ materially from historical results or from any results expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements. Not all of these risks and other factors are known to us. New risks and uncertainties arise over time, and it is not possible to predict those events or how they may affect us. The projections, assumptions, expectations or

beliefs upon which the forward-looking statements are based can also change as a result of these risks or other factors. If such a risk or other factor materializes in future periods, our business, financial condition, liquidity and results of operations may vary materially from those expressed or implied in our forward-looking statements.

While it is not possible to identify all factors that may cause actual results to differ from historical results or from any results expressed or implied by forward-looking statements, or that may cause our projections, assumptions, expectations or beliefs to change, some of those factors include the following:

- The risks and uncertainties referenced in this prospectus, or in our other filings with the SEC that are incorporated herein by reference, particularly those set forth under the heading “Risk Factors” herein and in our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K under Item 1A, “Risk Factors”;
- Our ability to find suitable reinvestment opportunities;
- Changes in domestic economic conditions;
- Geopolitical events, such as terrorism, war, or other military conflict, including increased uncertainty regarding the war between Russia and Ukraine and the conflict in the Middle East and the related impact on macroeconomic conditions as a result of such conflict;
- Tariffs that the U.S. imposes on trading partners or tariffs imposed on the U.S. from trading partners;
- Global government policy changes and the ability or inability to react to rapidly changing global economic policies;
- Changes in interest rates and credit spreads, including the repricing of interest-earning assets and interest-bearing liabilities;
- Our investment portfolio performance particularly as it relates to cash flow, prepayment rates, and credit performance;
- The impact on markets and asset prices from changes in the Federal Reserve’s policies regarding the purchases of Agency residential MBS (“RMBS”), Agency commercial (“CMBS”), and U.S. Treasuries;
- Actual or anticipated changes in Federal Reserve monetary policy or the monetary policy of other central banks;
- Adverse reactions in U.S. financial markets related to actions of foreign central banks or the economic performance of foreign economies including in particular China, Japan, the European Union, and the United Kingdom;
- Uncertainty concerning the long-term fiscal health and stability of the United States;
- The cost and availability of financing, including the future availability of financing due to changes to regulation of, and capital requirements imposed upon, financial institutions;
- The cost and availability of new equity capital;
- Changes in our leverage and use of leverage;
- Changes to our investment strategy, operating policies, dividend policy, or asset allocations;

- The quality of performance of third-party service providers, including our sole third-party service provider for our critical operations and trade functions;
- The loss or unavailability of our third-party service provider's service and technology that supports critical functions of our business related to our trading and borrowing activities due to outages, interruptions, or other failures;
- The level of defaults by borrowers on loans underlying MBS;
- Changes in our industry;
- Increased competition;
- Changes in government regulations affecting our business;
- Changes or volatility in the repurchase agreement financing markets and other credit markets;
- Changes to the market for interest rate swaps and other derivative instruments, including changes to margin requirements on derivative instruments;
- Uncertainty regarding continued government support of the U.S. financial system and U.S. housing and real estate markets, or to reform the U.S. housing finance system, including the resolution of the conservatorship of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac;
- The composition of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve;
- The political environment in the U.S.;
- Systems failures or cybersecurity incidents; and
- Exposure to current and future claims and litigation.

We are including this cautionary statement in this prospectus to make applicable and take advantage of the safe harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 for any forward-looking statements made by us or on our behalf. Any forward-looking statements should be considered in context with the various disclosures made by us about our business in our public filings with the SEC, including without limitation the risk factors described above and those described in "[Risk Factors](#)" beginning on page [8](#).

OUR COMPANY

We commenced operations in 1988 and are an internally managed mortgage real estate investment trust, which invests in mortgage-backed securities (“MBS”). We finance our investments principally with repurchase agreements. Our objective is to provide attractive risk-adjusted returns to our shareholders over the long term that are reflective of a leveraged, high-quality fixed income portfolio with a focus on capital preservation. We seek to provide returns to our shareholders primarily through the payment of regular dividends and through capital appreciation of our investments.

As of December 31, 2024, we were primarily invested in Agency MBS, of which over 97% are residential MBS (“Agency RMBS”), including to-be-announced (“TBA”) securities. The remainder of our investment portfolio as of December 31, 2024, was comprised of Agency commercial MBS (“Agency CMBS”) and Agency and non-Agency CMBS interest-only (“CMBS IO”) securities. Agency MBS have an implicit guaranty of principal payment by an agency of the U.S. government or a U.S. government-sponsored entity (“GSE”) such as Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. Non-Agency MBS are issued by non-governmental enterprises and do not have a guaranty of principal or interest payments. CMBS IO securities in which we invest may be issued by a GSE or a non-governmental enterprise. We also purchase TBA securities as a means of investing in non-specified fixed rate Agency RMBS, and from time to time, we may also sell TBA securities to economically hedge our book value exposure to Agency RMBS. We may also invest in debt securities, or U.S. Treasuries, issued by the United States Department of the Treasury. We regularly review our existing operations to determine whether our investment strategy or business model should change, including through capital reallocation, changing our targeted investments as well as hedging instruments, and shifting our risk position.

We employ leverage to enhance the returns on our invested capital by pledging our investments as collateral for borrowings, primarily through the use of repurchase agreements with major financial institutions and broker-dealers. These repurchase agreements generally have original terms to maturity of overnight to six months, though in some instances we may enter into longer-dated maturities depending on market conditions. We pay interest on our repurchase agreement borrowings at a rate determined by a spread to certain short-term interest rates and fixed for the term of the borrowing. Borrowings under uncommitted repurchase agreements are renewable at the discretion of our lenders and do not contain guaranteed rollover terms.

We use derivative instruments to economically hedge our exposure to adverse changes in interest rates resulting from our ownership of primarily longer-term fixed-rate investments financed using short-term repurchase agreements with interest rates that reset each time we renew our borrowing. Changes in interest rates can impact net interest income, the market value of our investments, and therefore, our book value per common share. In a period of rising interest rates, our earnings and cash flow may be negatively impacted by borrowing costs increasing faster than interest income from our assets, and our book value may decline due to declining market values of our MBS. Our hedging strategy is dynamic and is based on our assessment of U.S. and global economic conditions and monetary policies. We frequently adjust our hedging portfolio based on our expectation of future interest rates, including the absolute level of rates and the slope of the yield curve versus market expectations. In conducting our hedging activities, we intend to comply with REIT and tax limitations on our hedging instruments, which could limit our activities and the instruments that we may use. We also intend to enter into derivative contracts only through a futures commission merchant or with counterparties that we believe have a strong credit rating to mitigate the risk of counterparty default or insolvency.

Our common stock is traded on the NYSE under the symbol “DX.” We also have one series of preferred stock outstanding, our 6.900% Series C Fixed-to-Floating Rate Cumulative Redeemable Preferred Stock, which is traded on the NYSE under the symbol “DXPRC.”

We maintain a website at www.dynexcapital.com. Information contained on our website is not, and should not be interpreted to be, part of this prospectus.

Our address and telephone number are 4991 Lake Brook Drive, Suite 100, Glen Allen, Virginia 23060 and (804) 217-5800.

RISK FACTORS

Investing in our securities involves risk. Before making an investment decision, you should carefully read and consider the information set forth under the heading “Risk Factors” in our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K and any subsequent Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q (which information is incorporated by reference herein), as well as the other information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus or in any prospectus supplement hereto before making a decision to invest in our securities. For more information, see “Where You Can Find More Information,” “Incorporation of Information By Reference,” and “Cautionary Statement About Forward-Looking Statements.”

USE OF PROCEEDS

Unless we state otherwise in the accompanying prospectus supplement, we intend to use the net proceeds from the sale of the securities offered by us pursuant to this prospectus for the acquisition of mortgage assets or other investments as allowed by our investment policy or general corporate purposes. General corporate purposes may include the repayment of existing indebtedness, working capital and for liquidity needs. We have not determined the amount of net proceeds to be used specifically for such purposes. As a result, management will retain broad discretion over the allocation of net proceeds. Additional information on the use of net proceeds from any sale of securities offered under this prospectus may be set forth in the prospectus supplement relating to a specific offering.

DESCRIPTION OF OUR CAPITAL STOCK

The following is a description of the material terms of our capital stock. Because it is only a summary, it does not contain all of the information that may be important to you. For a complete description, please refer to the Virginia Stock Corporation Act and our articles of incorporation and bylaws. See “Where You Can Find More Information.”

General

Our articles of incorporation currently authorize 360,000,000 shares of common stock, \$0.01 par value per share, and 50,000,000 shares of preferred stock, \$0.01 par value per share. Our articles of incorporation designate up to 6,600,000 shares of preferred stock as Series C Preferred Stock.

As of June 30, 2025, we had issued and outstanding 125,358,375 shares of common stock and 4,460,000 shares of Series C Preferred Stock. Under the Virginia Stock Corporation Act, shareholders generally are not liable for the corporation’s debts or obligations.

Restrictions on Ownership and Transfer

Two of the requirements of qualification for the tax benefits accorded by the REIT provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Code”) are that (1) during the last half of each taxable year not more than 50% in value of the outstanding shares of our capital stock may be owned directly or indirectly by five or fewer individuals, and (2) there must be at least 100 shareholders on 335 days of each taxable year of 12 months.

To assist us in meeting these requirements and qualifying as a REIT, our articles of incorporation prohibit anyone from owning in the aggregate, directly or indirectly, more than 9.8% of the outstanding shares of our capital stock, unless our Board of Directors waives this limitation (the “Ownership Limit”). For this purpose, “ownership” includes constructive ownership in accordance with the constructive ownership provisions of Section 544 of the Code, as modified in Section 856(h) of the Code, as well as shares beneficially owned under the provisions of Rule 13d-3 (or any successor rule) under the Exchange Act.

The constructive ownership provisions of Section 544 of the Code generally attribute ownership of securities owned by a corporation, partnership, estate or trust proportionately to its shareholders, partners or beneficiaries; attribute ownership of securities owned by family members to other members of the same family; and set forth rules for attributing securities constructively owned by one person to another person. All shares of our capital stock which any person or persons acting as a group have the right to acquire upon exercise of outstanding rights, options and warrants, and upon conversion of any securities convertible into shares of capital stock, will be considered outstanding for purposes of determining the applicable Ownership Limit if such inclusion will cause such person or persons acting as a group to own more than such applicable Ownership Limit.

To determine whether a person holds or would hold capital stock in excess of the Ownership Limit, a person will be treated as owning not only shares of capital stock actually owned, but also any shares of capital stock attributed to that person under the attribution rules described above. Accordingly, a person who individually owns less than 9.8% of the shares outstanding may nevertheless be in violation of the Ownership Limit.

Any acquisition of shares of capital stock that could or would (i) cause us to be disqualified as a REIT, (ii) result in the imposition of a penalty tax (a “Penalty Tax”) on us (including the imposition of an entity-level tax on one or more real estate mortgage investment conduits (“REMICs”) in which we have acquired or plan to acquire an interest) or (iii) endanger the tax status of one or more REMICs in which we have acquired or plan to acquire an interest will be null and void to the fullest extent permitted by law, and the intended transferee (the “purported transferee”) will be deemed never to have had an interest in such shares. If the prior sentence is held void or invalid by virtue of any legal decision, statute, rule or regulation, then the purported transferee of those shares will be deemed, at our option, to have acted as agent on our behalf in acquiring those shares and to hold those shares on behalf of us.

Shares which, but for the provisions of Article VI of our articles of incorporation, would be owned by a person or persons acting as a group and would, at any time, be in excess of the Ownership Limit will be "Excess Shares." At the discretion of the Board of Directors, all Excess Shares may be redeemed by us. We will provide written notice of redemption to the holder of the Excess Shares not less than one week prior to the redemption date (the "Redemption Date") determined by the Board of Directors and included in the notice of redemption. The redemption price to be paid for Excess Shares will be equal to (a) the closing price of those shares on the principal national securities exchange on which the shares are listed or admitted to trading on the last business day prior to the Redemption Date, or (b) if the shares are not so listed or admitted to trading, the closing bid price on the last business day prior to the Redemption Date as reported on the NASD System, if quoted thereon, or (c) if the redemption price is not determinable in accordance with either clause (a) or (b) of this sentence, the net asset value of the shares determined in good faith by the Board of Directors and in accordance with the Virginia Stock Corporation Act. From and after the Redemption Date, the holder of any shares of our capital stock called for redemption will cease to be entitled to any distributions and other benefits with respect to those shares, except the right to payment of the redemption price.

In addition, whenever our Board of Directors deems it to be prudent in avoiding (i) the imposition of a Penalty Tax on us (including the imposition of an entity-level tax on one or more REMICs in which we have acquired or plan to acquire an interest) or (ii) the endangerment of the tax status of one or more REMICs in which we have acquired or plan to acquire an interest, we may redeem shares of our capital stock in the manner described in the foregoing paragraph.

Whenever our Board of Directors deems it to be prudent in protecting our tax status, the Board of Directors may require to be filed with us a statement or affidavit from each proposed transferee of shares of our capital stock setting forth the number of such shares already owned by the transferee and any related person(s). Any contract for the sale or other transfer of shares of our capital stock will be subject to this provision. Prior to any transfer or transaction which would cause a shareholder to own, directly or indirectly, shares in excess of the Ownership Limit, and in any event upon demand of our Board of Directors, such shareholder must file with us an affidavit setting forth the number of shares of our capital stock of the Corporation owned by it directly or indirectly, including both constructive and beneficial ownership. The affidavit must set forth all information required to be reported in returns filed by shareholders under Treasury Regulation § 1.857-9 issued under the Code or similar provisions of any successor regulation, and in reports to be filed under Section 13(d), or any successor rule thereto, of the Exchange Act. The affidavit must be filed with us within ten days after demand therefor and at least fifteen days prior to any transfer or transaction which, if consummated, would cause the filing person to hold a number of shares of our capital stock in excess of the Ownership Limit. The Board of Directors has the right, but is not required, to refuse to transfer any shares of our capital stock purportedly transferred if, as a result of the proposed transfer, any person or persons acting as a group would hold or be deemed to hold Excess Shares.

In addition, whenever our Board of Directors deems it to be prudent in avoiding (i) the imposition of a Penalty Tax on us (including the imposition of an entity-level tax on one or more REMICs in which we have acquired or plan to acquire an interest) or (ii) the endangerment of the tax status of one or more REMICs in which we have acquired or plan to acquire an interest, the Board of Directors may require to be filed with us a statement or affidavit from any holder or proposed transferee of our capital stock stating whether the holder or proposed transferee is a tax-exempt organization or a pass-through entity. Any contract for the sale or other transfer of shares of our capital stock of the Corporation will be subject to this provision. The Board of Directors has the right, but is not required, to refuse to transfer any shares of our capital stock purportedly transferred, if either (a) a statement or affidavit requested as described in this paragraph has not been received, or (b) the proposed transferee is a tax-exempt organization or pass-through entity.

Our Board of Directors may take any and all other action as it in its sole discretion deems necessary or advisable to protect us and the interests of our shareholders by (i) maintaining our eligibility to be, and preserving our status as, a REIT, (ii) avoiding the imposition of a Penalty Tax and (iii) avoiding the endangerment of the tax status of one or more REMICs in which we have acquired or plan to acquire an interest. The Board of Directors in its discretion may exempt from the Ownership Limit and from the affidavit filing requirements described above ownership or transfers of certain designated shares of our capital stock while owned by or transferred to a person who has provided the Board of Directors with acceptable evidence and assurances that our REIT status would not be jeopardized thereby.

The Ownership Limit will not apply to the acquisition of shares of our capital stock by an underwriter in a public offering of those shares or in any transaction involving the issuance of shares of capital stock by us in which the Board of Directors determines that the underwriter or other person initially acquiring those shares will timely distribute those shares to or among others so that, following such distribution, none of those shares will be deemed to be Excess Shares.

The provisions described above may inhibit market activity, and may delay, defer or prevent a change in control or other transaction and the resulting opportunity for the holders of our capital stock to receive a premium for their shares that might otherwise exist in the absence of such provisions. Such provisions also may make us an unsuitable investment vehicle for any person seeking to obtain ownership of more than 9.8% of the outstanding shares of our capital stock. None of the provisions of our articles of incorporation may preclude settlement of any transaction entered into or through the facilities of the NYSE or any other exchange on which our common stock may be listed from time to time.

Transfer Agent and Registrar

The transfer agent and registrar for our common stock and Series C Preferred Stock is Computershare Shareowner Services. The transfer agent and registrar for any other class or series of stock that we may issue will be identified in the applicable prospectus supplement.

DESCRIPTION OF OUR COMMON STOCK

The following description of our common stock sets forth certain general terms and provisions of our common stock to which any prospectus supplement may relate, including a prospectus supplement providing that common stock will be issuable upon conversion or exchange of our debt securities or preferred stock or upon the exercise of warrants to purchase our common stock.

All shares of our common stock covered by this prospectus will be duly authorized, fully paid and nonassessable. Subject to the preferential rights of any other class or series of stock and to the provisions of the articles of incorporation regarding the restrictions on transfer of stock, holders of shares of our common stock are entitled to receive dividends on such stock when, as and if authorized by our Board of Directors out of funds legally available therefor and declared by us and to share ratably in the assets of our company legally available for distribution to our shareholders in the event of our liquidation, dissolution or winding up after payment of or adequate provision for all known debts and liabilities of our company, including the preferential rights on dissolution of any class or classes of preferred stock.

Subject to the provisions of our articles of incorporation regarding the restrictions on transfer of stock, each outstanding share of our common stock entitles the holder to one vote on all matters submitted to a vote of shareholders, including the election of directors and, except as provided with respect to any other class or series of stock, the holders of such shares will possess the exclusive voting power. There is no cumulative voting in the election of our Board of Directors.

Holders of shares of our common stock have no preference, conversion, exchange, sinking fund, redemption or appraisal rights and have no preemptive rights to subscribe for any securities of our company. Subject to the provisions of the articles of incorporation regarding the restrictions on ownership and transfer of stock, shares of our common stock will have equal dividend, liquidation and other rights.

Under the Virginia Stock Corporation Act, a Virginia corporation generally cannot dissolve, amend its articles of incorporation, merge, sell all or substantially all of its assets, engage in a share exchange or engage in similar transactions outside the ordinary course of business unless approved by the affirmative vote of more than two-thirds of all votes entitled to be cast on the matter, unless a greater or lesser proportion of votes (but not less than a majority of all votes cast) is specified in the articles of incorporation. Our articles of incorporation provide that, except as otherwise required or authorized by the Virginia Stock Corporation Act or our articles of incorporation, the vote required to approve an amendment or restatement of the articles of incorporation will be a majority of all votes

entitled to be cast by each voting group entitled to vote on the amendment, other than in the case of an amendment or restatement that amends or affects: (i) the shareholder vote required by the Virginia Stock Corporation Act to approve a merger, share exchange, sale of all or substantially all of our assets or our dissolution, or (ii) the provisions addressing the ownership of Excess Shares in the articles of incorporation.

DESCRIPTION OF OUR PREFERRED STOCK

The prospectus supplement relating to any series of preferred stock offered by that supplement will describe the specific terms of those securities, including where applicable:

- the title and stated value of that preferred stock;
- the number of shares of that preferred stock offered, the liquidation preference per share and the offering price of that preferred stock;
- the dividend rate(s), period(s) and payment date(s) or method(s) of calculation thereof applicable to that preferred stock;
- whether dividends will be cumulative or non-cumulative and, if cumulative, the date from which dividends on that preferred stock will accumulate;
- the voting rights applicable to that preferred stock;
- the procedures for any auction and remarketing, if any, for that preferred stock;
- the provisions for a sinking fund, if any, for that preferred stock;
- the provisions for redemption including any restriction thereon, if applicable, of that preferred stock;
- any listing of that preferred stock on any securities exchange;
- the terms and conditions, if applicable, upon which that preferred stock will be convertible into other securities of ours, including the conversion price (or manner of calculation of the conversion price) and conversion period;
- a discussion of any material U.S. federal income tax considerations applicable to that preferred stock;
- any limitations on issuance of any series of preferred stock ranking senior to or on a parity with that series of preferred stock as to dividend rights and rights upon liquidation, dissolution or winding up of our affairs;
- in addition to those limitations described above under “Description of Our Capital Stock—Restrictions on Ownership and Transfer,” any other limitations on actual and constructive ownership and restrictions on transfer, in each case as may be appropriate to preserve our status as a REIT; and
- any other specific terms, preferences, rights, limitations or restrictions of that preferred stock.

Rank Within Our Capital Structure

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, the preferred stock will, with respect to dividend rights and rights upon liquidation, dissolution or winding up of our affairs rank:

- senior to all classes or series of common stock and to all equity securities ranking junior to the preferred stock with respect to dividend rights or rights upon liquidation, dissolution or winding up of our affairs;
- on a parity with all equity securities issued by us the terms of which specifically provide that those equity securities rank on a parity with the preferred stock with respect to dividend rights or rights upon liquidation, dissolution or winding up of our affairs; and
- junior to all equity securities issued by us the terms of which specifically provide that those equity securities rank senior to the preferred stock with respect to dividend rights or rights upon liquidation, dissolution or winding up of our affairs.

The term “equity securities” does not include convertible debt securities.

Dividends

Subject to the preferential rights of any other class or series of stock and to the provisions of the articles of incorporation regarding the restrictions on transfer of stock, holders of shares of our preferred stock will be entitled to receive dividends on such stock when, as and if authorized by our Board of Directors out of funds legally available therefor and declared by us, at rates and on dates as will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Dividends on any series or class of our preferred stock may be cumulative or noncumulative, as provided in the applicable prospectus supplement. Dividends, if cumulative, will be cumulative from and after the date set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. If our Board of Directors fails to authorize a dividend payable on a dividend payment date on any series or class of preferred stock for which dividends are noncumulative, then the holders of that series or class of preferred stock will have no right to receive a dividend in respect of the dividend period ending on that dividend payment date, and we will have no obligation to pay the dividend accrued for that period, whether or not dividends on such series or class are declared or paid for any future period.

If any shares of preferred stock of any series or class are outstanding, no dividends may be authorized or paid or set apart for payment on the preferred stock of any other series or class ranking, as to dividends, on a parity with or junior to the preferred stock of that series or class for any period unless:

- the series or class of preferred stock has a cumulative dividend, and full cumulative dividends have been or contemporaneously are authorized and paid or authorized and a sum sufficient for the payment of those dividends is set apart for payment on the preferred stock of that series or class for all past dividend periods and the then current dividend period; or
- the series or class of preferred stock does not have a cumulative dividend, and full dividends for the then current dividend period have been or contemporaneously are authorized and paid or authorized and a sum sufficient for the payment of those dividends is set apart for the payment on the preferred stock of that series or class.

When dividends are not paid in full (or a sum sufficient for the full payment is not set apart) upon the shares of preferred stock of any series or class and the shares of any other series or class of preferred stock ranking on a parity as to dividends with the preferred stock of that series or class, then all dividends authorized on shares of preferred stock of that series or class and any other series or class of preferred stock ranking on a parity as to dividends with that preferred stock will be authorized pro rata so that the amount of dividends authorized per share on the preferred stock of that series or class and other series or class of preferred stock will in all cases bear to each other the same ratio that accrued dividends per share on the shares of preferred stock of that series or class (which will not include any accumulation in respect of unpaid dividends for prior dividend periods if the preferred stock does not have a cumulative dividend) and that other series or class of preferred stock bear to each other. No interest, or sum of

money in lieu of interest, will be payable in respect of any dividend payment or payments on preferred stock of that series or class that may be in arrears.

Redemption

We may have the right or may be required to redeem one or more series of preferred stock, in whole or in part, in each case upon the terms, if any, and at the time and at the redemption prices set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement.

If a series of preferred stock is subject to mandatory redemption, we will specify in the applicable prospectus supplement the number of shares we are required to redeem, when those redemptions start, the redemption price, and any other terms and conditions affecting the redemption. The redemption price will include all accrued and unpaid dividends, except in the case of noncumulative preferred stock. The redemption price may be payable in cash or other property, as specified in the applicable prospectus supplement. If the redemption price for preferred stock of any series or class is payable only from the net proceeds of the issuance of our stock, the terms of that preferred stock may provide that, if no such stock will have been issued or to the extent the net proceeds from any issuance are insufficient to pay in full the aggregate redemption price then due, that preferred stock will automatically and mandatorily be converted into shares of our applicable stock pursuant to conversion provisions specified in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Liquidation Preference

Upon any voluntary or involuntary liquidation or dissolution of us or winding up of our affairs, then before any distribution or payment will be made to the holders of common stock or any other series or class of stock ranking junior to any series or class of the preferred stock in the distribution of assets upon any liquidation, dissolution or winding up of our affairs, the holders of that series or class of preferred stock will be entitled to receive out of our assets legally available for distribution to shareholders liquidating distributions in the amount of the liquidation preference per share (set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement), plus an amount equal to all dividends accrued and unpaid on the preferred stock (which will not include any accumulation in respect of unpaid dividends for prior dividend periods if the preferred stock does not have a cumulative dividend). After payment of the full amount of the liquidating distributions to which they are entitled, the holders of preferred stock will have no right or claim to any of our remaining assets.

If, upon any voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution or winding up, the legally available assets are insufficient to pay the amount of the liquidating distributions on all outstanding shares of any series or class of preferred stock and the corresponding amounts payable on all shares of other classes or series of our stock of ranking on a parity with that series or class of preferred stock in the distribution of assets upon liquidation, dissolution or winding up, then the holders of that series or class of preferred stock and all other classes or series of capital stock ranking on a parity as to liquidating distributions will share ratably in any distribution of assets in proportion to the full liquidating distributions to which they would otherwise be respectively entitled.

If liquidating distributions have been made in full to all holders of any series or class of preferred stock, our remaining assets will be distributed among the holders of any other classes or series of stock ranking junior to that series or class of preferred stock upon liquidation, dissolution or winding up, according to their respective rights and preferences and in each case according to their respective number of shares. For these purposes, the consolidation or merger of us with or into any other entity, or the sale, lease, transfer or conveyance of all or substantially all of our property or business, will not be deemed to constitute a liquidation, dissolution or winding up of our affairs.

Voting Rights

Holders of preferred stock will not have any voting rights, except as indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Conversion Rights

The terms and conditions, if any, upon which shares of any series or class of preferred stock are convertible into shares of common stock or other securities of ours will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. The terms will include, where applicable:

- the number or value of shares of common stock or other securities of ours into which the preferred stock is convertible;
- the conversion price (or manner of calculation of the conversion price);
- the conversion period;
- provisions as to whether conversion will be at the option of the holders of the preferred stock or us;
- the events requiring an adjustment of the conversion price; and
- provisions affecting conversion in the event of the redemption of the preferred stock.

Series C Preferred Stock

In February 2020, our Board of Directors classified and designated 6,600,000 shares of Series C Preferred Stock and, on February 21, 2020, we issued 4,460,000 shares of Series C Preferred Stock, all of which shares of Series C Preferred Stock were outstanding as of June 30, 2024. Holders of shares of the Series C Preferred Stock are entitled to receive, when, as and if declared by our Board of Directors, out of funds legally available for the payment of dividends, cumulative cash dividends initially fixed from the original issuance date to, but not including, April 15, 2025, at the rate of 6.900% of the \$25.00 per share of Series C Preferred Stock per year (equivalent to \$1.725 per year per share), and on and after April 15, 2025, at a percentage of the \$25.00 liquidation preference per share of Series C Preferred Stock equal to an annual floating rate of the three-month LIBOR rate (as replaced pursuant to the existing LIBOR cessation fallback language within our articles of incorporation) plus a spread of 5.461%. See Exhibit 4.3 to our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2024, filed with the SEC on February 28, 2025 for a description of our Series C Preferred Stock, which description is incorporated by reference herein.

DESCRIPTION OF OUR DEBT SECURITIES

The following description, together with the additional information we include in any applicable prospectus supplements, summarizes the material terms and provisions of the debt securities that we may offer under this prospectus. Although the terms we have summarized below will apply generally to any future debt securities we may offer, we will describe the particular terms of any debt securities that we may offer in more detail in the applicable prospectus supplement. The terms of any debt securities we offer under that prospectus supplement may differ from the terms we describe below, and the terms and provisions described in this section will apply only to the extent not superseded by the terms of the applicable prospectus supplement.

The debt securities will be our direct unsecured general obligations and may include debentures, notes, bonds or other evidences of indebtedness. The debt securities will be either senior debt securities or subordinated debt securities. The debt securities will be issued under one or more separate indentures. Senior debt securities will be issued under a senior indenture, and subordinated debt securities will be issued under a subordinated indenture. We use the term “indentures” to refer to both the senior indenture and the subordinated indenture. The indentures will be qualified under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended. We use the term “trustee” to refer to either the senior trustee or the subordinated trustee, as applicable.

The following summaries of material provisions of the debt securities are subject to, and qualified in their entirety by reference to, all the provisions of the indenture applicable to a particular series of debt securities.

General

The prospectus supplement relating to a particular series of debt securities will describe the terms of those debt securities, including, where applicable:

- the title;
- any limit on the amount that may be issued;
- whether or not we will issue the series of debt securities in global form and who the depository will be;
- the maturity date;
- the annual interest rate, which may be fixed or variable, or the method for determining the rate and the date interest will begin to accrue, the dates interest will be payable and the regular record dates for interest payment dates or the method for determining such dates;
- the terms of the subordination of any series of subordinated debt;
- the place where payments will be payable;
- our right, if any, to defer payment of interest and the maximum length of any such deferral period;
- the date, if any, after which, and the price at which, we may, at our option, redeem the series of debt securities pursuant to any optional redemption provisions;
- the date, if any, on which, and the price at which we are obligated, pursuant to any mandatory sinking fund provisions or otherwise, to redeem, or at the holder's option to purchase, the series of debt securities;
- whether the indenture will restrict our ability to pay dividends, or will require us to maintain any asset ratios or reserves;
- whether we will be restricted from incurring any additional indebtedness;
- discussion of any material U.S. federal income tax considerations applicable to the debt securities;
- the denominations in which we will issue the series of debt securities, if other than denominations of \$1,000 and any integral multiple thereof; and
- any other specific terms, preferences, rights or limitations of, or restrictions on, the debt securities.

Conversion or Exchange Rights

We will set forth in the prospectus supplement the terms on which a series of debt securities may be convertible into or exchangeable for shares of common stock or other securities of ours. We will include provisions as to whether conversion or exchange is mandatory, at the option of the holder or at our option. We may include provisions pursuant to which the number of shares of common stock or other securities of ours that the holders of the series of debt securities receive would be subject to adjustment.

Consolidation, Merger or Sale

We will set forth in the prospectus supplement the covenant, if any, that restrict our ability to merge or consolidate, or sell, convey, transfer or otherwise dispose of all or substantially all of our assets.

Events of Default Under an Indenture

We will set forth in the prospectus supplement a description of the events of default under any indenture with respect to a series of debt securities that we may issue.

Discharge

Each indenture will describe the circumstances under which we can elect to be discharged from our obligations with respect to a series of debt securities.

Form, Exchange and Transfer

We will issue the debt securities of each series only in fully registered form without coupons and, unless we otherwise specify in the applicable prospectus supplement, in denominations of \$1,000 and any integral multiple thereof. We may issue debt securities of a series in temporary or permanent global form and as book-entry securities that will be deposited with, or on behalf of, The Depository Trust Company or another depository named by us and identified in a prospectus supplement with respect to that series.

At the option of the holder, subject to the terms of the indentures and the limitations applicable to global securities described in the applicable prospectus supplement, the holder of the debt securities of any series can exchange the debt securities for other debt securities of the same series, in any authorized denomination and of like tenor and aggregate principal amount.

Subject to the terms of the indentures and the limitations applicable to global securities set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement, holders of the debt securities may present the debt securities for exchange or for registration of transfer, duly endorsed or with the form of transfer endorsed thereon duly executed if so required by us or the security registrar, at the office of the security registrar or at the office of any transfer agent designated by us for this purpose. Unless otherwise provided in the debt securities that the holder presents for transfer or exchange, we will make no service charge for any registration of transfer or exchange, but we may require payment of any taxes or other governmental charges.

We will name in the applicable prospectus supplement the security registrar, and any transfer agent in addition to the security registrar, that we initially designate for any debt securities. We may at any time designate additional transfer agents or rescind the designation of any transfer agent or approve a change in the office through which any transfer agent acts, except that we will be required to maintain a transfer agent in each place of payment for the debt securities of each series.

If we elect to redeem the debt securities of any series, we will not be required to:

- issue, register the transfer of, or exchange any debt securities of that series during a period beginning at the opening of business 15 days before the day of mailing of a notice of redemption of any debt securities that may be selected for redemption and ending at the close of business on the day of the mailing; or
- register the transfer of or exchange any debt securities so selected for redemption, in whole or in part, except the unredeemed portion of any debt securities we are redeeming in part.

Information Concerning the Trustee

The trustee, other than during the occurrence and continuance of an event of default under an indenture, will undertake to perform only those duties as are specifically set forth in the applicable indenture. Upon an event of default under an indenture, the trustee will be obligated to use the same degree of care as a prudent person would exercise or use in the conduct of his or her own affairs. Subject to this provision, a trustee will be under no obligation to exercise any of the powers given it by an indenture at the request of any holder of debt securities unless it is offered reasonable security and indemnity against the costs, expenses and liabilities that it might incur.

Payment and Paying Agents

Unless we otherwise indicate in the applicable prospectus supplement, we will make payment of the interest on any debt securities on any interest payment date to the person in whose name the debt securities, or one or more predecessor securities, are registered at the close of business on the regular record date for the interest.

We will pay principal of and any premium and interest on the debt securities of a particular series at the office of the paying agents designated by us, except that unless we otherwise indicate in the applicable prospectus supplement, we will make interest payments by check which we will mail to the holder. Unless we otherwise indicate in a prospectus supplement, we will designate the corporate trust office of the trustee in the City of New York as our sole paying agent for payments with respect to debt securities of each series. We will name in the applicable prospectus supplement any other paying agents that we initially designate for the debt securities of a particular series. We will maintain a paying agent in each place of payment for the debt securities of a particular series.

All money we pay to a paying agent or the trustee for the payment of the principal of or any premium or interest on any debt securities which remains unclaimed at the end of two years after such principal, premium or interest has become due and payable will be repaid to us, and the holder of the security thereafter may look only to us for payment thereof.

DESCRIPTION OF OUR WARRANTS

This section describes the general terms and provisions of our warrants. The applicable prospectus supplement will describe the specific terms of the warrants offered through that prospectus supplement as well as any general terms described in this section that will not apply to those warrants. The terms and provisions described in this section will apply only to the extent not superseded by the terms of the applicable prospectus supplement.

We may issue warrants for the purchase of our debt securities, preferred stock, or common stock. We may issue warrants independently or together with other securities offered by this prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement, and they may be attached to or separate from the other securities. Each series of warrants will be issued under a separate warrant agreement that we will enter into with a bank or trust company, as warrant agent, as detailed in the applicable prospectus supplement. The warrant agent will act solely as our agent in connection with the warrants and will not assume any obligation, or agency or trust relationship, with you.

The prospectus supplement relating to a particular issue of warrants will describe the terms of those warrants, including, where applicable:

- the aggregate number of the securities covered by the warrant;
- the designation, amount and terms of the securities purchasable upon exercise of the warrant;
- the exercise price for our debt securities, the amount of debt securities upon exercise you will receive, and a description of that series of debt securities;

- the exercise price for shares of our preferred stock, the number of shares of preferred stock to be received upon exercise, and a description of that series of our preferred stock;
- the exercise price for shares of our common stock and the number of shares of common stock to be received upon exercise;
- the expiration date for exercising the warrant;
- the minimum or maximum amount of warrants that may be exercised at any time;
- a discussion of any material U.S. federal income tax consequences applicable to the warrants; and
- any other material terms of the warrants.

After the warrants expire they will become void. The prospectus supplement will describe how to exercise warrants. A holder must exercise warrants through payment in U.S. dollars. All warrants will be issued in registered form. The prospectus supplement may provide for the adjustment of the exercise price of the warrants.

Until a holder exercises warrants to purchase our debt securities, preferred stock, or common stock, that holder will not have any rights as a holder of our debt securities, preferred stock, or common stock by virtue of ownership of warrants.

DESCRIPTION OF OUR UNITS

We may issue units consisting of two or more other constituent securities. These units may be issuable as, and for a specified period of time may only be transferable as, a single security, rather than as the separate constituent securities comprising such units. The statements made in this section relating to the units are summaries only. These summaries are not complete. When we offer units, we will provide the specific terms of the units in a prospectus supplement. To the extent the information contained in the prospectus supplement differs from this summary description, you should rely on the information in the prospectus supplement.

The prospectus supplement relating to a particular offering of units will describe the terms of those units, including, where applicable:

- the title of any series of units;
- identification and description of the separate constituent securities comprising the units;
- the price or prices at which the units will be issued;
- the date, if any, on and after which the constituent securities comprising the units will be separately transferable;
- information with respect to any book-entry procedures;
- a discussion of any material U.S. federal income tax consequences applicable to an investment in the units; and
- any other terms of the units and their constituent securities.

**MATERIAL PROVISIONS OF VIRGINIA LAW
AND OF OUR ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION AND BYLAWS**

The following is a summary of certain provisions of Virginia law and of our articles of incorporation and bylaws. Copies of our articles of incorporation and bylaws are filed as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part. See “Where You Can Find More Information.”

The Board of Directors

Our Board of Directors consists of seven directors. Our bylaws provide that the number of directors of our company may be increased or decreased from time to time by our Board of Directors but may not be fewer than three nor more than 15. A majority of the directors are required to be “Independent Directors.” An “Independent Director” means a director of our company who meets the independence requirements under the rules and regulations of the stock exchange upon which our common stock is then listed and the SEC, as then in effect and applicable to our company. When the chairman of the Board of Directors is not an Independent Director, a lead Independent Director will be appointed by majority vote of the Independent Directors.

Except as described below, any vacancy on our Board of Directors may be filled at any annual or special meeting called for that purpose by our shareholders or at any regular meeting or any special meeting called for that purpose by a majority of the remaining directors. Directors elected by our Board to fill a vacancy will be elected to hold office until the next annual meeting of shareholders or until a successor is elected and qualified.

Pursuant to our bylaws, all members of our Board of Directors will serve until the next annual meeting of shareholders or until their successors are elected and qualified. Holders of shares of our common stock will have no right to cumulative voting in the election of directors.

Except as otherwise specified in our articles of incorporation or bylaws or provided by applicable law, a nominee for director will be elected to our Board of Directors at any meeting of shareholders at which a quorum is present if the votes cast for such nominee’s election exceed the votes cast against such nominee’s election; provided, however, that nominees for director will be elected by a plurality of the votes cast at any meeting of shareholders for which the number of nominees exceeds the number of directors to be elected. If a nominee who is an incumbent director is not elected to our Board of Directors and no successor has been elected at such meeting of shareholders, that nominee will offer his or her resignation promptly to our Board of Directors. Within 90 days following certification of the election results, our Board of Directors will determine whether to accept or reject the offered resignation, or whether to take other action. In making such determination, our Board of Directors will consider the recommendation of the committee responsible for the nomination of directors, the factors considered by that committee and any additional information and factors that our Board of Directors believes to be relevant. A director who offers a resignation will not participate in the recommendation of the committee or the decision of our Board of Directors with respect to that director’s resignation.

If dividends on any shares of our Series C Preferred Stock are in arrears for six or more quarterly dividend periods, whether or not consecutive, the number of directors constituting our Board of Directors will automatically increase by two (if not already increased by two by reason of the election of directors by the holders of the Series C Preferred Stock, or the holders of any other class or series of our preferred stock we may issue upon which similar voting rights have been conferred and that is entitled to vote as a class with respect to the election of those two directors with the holders of the Series C Preferred Stock (such preferred stock, “Additional Preferred Stock”). The holders of our Series C Preferred Stock (together with holders of any Additional Preferred Stock) will be entitled to vote for the election of those two additional directors at a special meeting called by us at the request of the holders of record of at least 25% of the outstanding shares of such classes or series of stock; provided, however, that if such a request is received less than 90 days before the date fixed for the next annual or special meeting of our shareholders, in which case such vote will be held at the earlier of the next annual or special meeting of shareholders. If, at any time when the voting rights conferred upon the Series C Preferred Stock (together with any holders of Additional Preferred Stock) are exercisable, any vacancy in the office of a director elected as described above may be filled

only by the remaining director elected as described above or by the vote of the holders of record of the Series C Preferred Stock (together with any holders of Additional Preferred Stock).

Amendments to Our Articles of Incorporation

Our articles of incorporation provide that, except as otherwise required or authorized by the Virginia Stock Corporation Act or our articles of incorporation, the vote required to approve an amendment or restatement of the articles of incorporation will be a majority of all votes entitled to be cast by each voting group entitled to vote on the amendment, other than in the case of an amendment or restatement that amends or affects: (i) the shareholder vote required by the Virginia Stock Corporation Act to approve a merger, share exchange, sale of all or substantially all of our assets or our dissolution, or (ii) the provisions addressing the ownership of Excess Shares in the articles of incorporation.

Dissolution of Our Company

The dissolution of our company must be declared advisable by the Board of Directors and approved by the affirmative vote of the holders of more than two-thirds of all of the votes entitled to be cast on the matter, unless the Board of Directors conditions dissolution of our company on a higher shareholder vote.

Advance Notice of Director Nominations and New Business

Our bylaws provide that:

- with respect to an annual meeting of shareholders, the only business to be considered and the only proposals to be acted upon will be those properly brought before the annual meeting:
 - by, or at the direction of, our Board of Directors; or
 - by a shareholder who is entitled to vote at the meeting and has complied with the advance notice provisions set forth in our bylaws;
- with respect to special meetings of shareholders, only the business specified in our notice of the meeting may be brought before the meeting of shareholders unless otherwise provided by law; and
- nominations of persons for election to our Board of Directors at any annual or special meeting of shareholders may be made only:
 - by our Board of Directors or any committee thereof; or
 - by a shareholder who is entitled to vote at the meeting and has complied with the advance notice provisions for director nominations by shareholders as set forth in our bylaws.

Exclusive Forum Provision

Our bylaws provide that unless we consent in writing to the selection of an alternative forum, the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, Richmond Division, or in the event that court lacks jurisdiction to hear such action, the Circuit Court of the City of Richmond, Virginia, will be the sole and exclusive forum for (i) any derivative action or proceeding brought on our behalf, (ii) any action for breach of duty to the company or our shareholders by any current or former director, officer or other employee or agent of the company, (iii) any action against the company or any director or officer or other employee of the company arising pursuant to any provision of the Virginia Stock Corporation Act (as it may be amended from time to time) or our articles of incorporation or our bylaws (as either may be amended from time to time), or (iv) any action against the company or any current or former director or officer or other employee or agent of the company governed by the internal affairs doctrine. Any person or entity purchasing or otherwise acquiring or holding any interest in shares of our capital stock shall be

deemed to have notice of and consented to the forum provisions in our bylaws. It is possible that a court of law could rule that the choice of forum provision contained in our bylaws is inapplicable or unenforceable if it is challenged in a proceeding or otherwise.

Anti-Takeover Effect of Certain Provisions of Virginia Law and of Our Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws

Affiliated Transactions. The Virginia Stock Corporation Act limits “affiliated transactions” between a corporation and an “interested shareholder” for three years after the date on which the interested shareholder became an interested shareholder, except in compliance with the Virginia Stock Corporation Act. These affiliated transactions include a merger, statutory share exchange, dissolution, or, in circumstances specified in the statute, certain transfers of assets, certain stock issuances and transfers and reclassifications involving interested shareholders. Virginia law defines an interested shareholder as:

- any person who beneficially owns more than 10% of any class of our outstanding voting shares (defined as shares of a class that is entitled to vote generally in the election of directors, and thus consisting of our common stock); or
- an affiliate or associate of the corporation who, at any time within the three-year period prior to the date in question, was the beneficial owner of more than 10% of any class of our then-outstanding voting shares.

The Virginia Stock Corporation Act provides that no corporation may engage in any affiliated transaction with any interested shareholder for a period of three years following the date on which an interested shareholder becomes an interested shareholder unless, subject to certain exceptions under the statute, the affiliated transaction is approved by the affirmative vote of a majority (but not less than two) of the disinterested directors and by the affirmative vote of the holders of two-thirds of the voting shares other than shares beneficially owned by the interested shareholder. A corporation may engage in an affiliated transaction with an interested shareholder beginning three years after such interested shareholder becomes an interested shareholder, provided such transaction complies with the voting requirements for affiliated transactions provided under the Virginia Stock Corporation Act.

Control Share Acquisitions. The Virginia Stock Corporation Act provides that shares of a Virginia corporation acquired in a “control share acquisition” have no voting rights except to the extent approved by the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the voting shares entitled to vote on the matter (which exclude interested shares). “Interested shares” are the shares of a public corporation the voting of which may be exercised or directed by any of the following persons: (i) an acquiring person with respect to a control share acquisition; (ii) any officer of such corporation; or (iii) any employee of such corporation who is also a director of the corporation. A “control share acquisition” means the acquisition of shares by a person that when added to all other shares owned by such person would cause such person to become entitled, immediately upon acquisition of such shares, to vote or direct the vote of, shares having voting power within any of the following ranges of the votes entitled to be cast in an election of directors (i) one-fifth or more but less than one-third of such votes; (ii) one-third or more but less than a majority of such votes; or (iii) a majority or more of such votes.

A person who has made or proposes to make a control share acquisition, upon satisfaction of certain conditions (including an undertaking to pay expenses), may compel our Board of Directors to call a special meeting of shareholders to be held within 50 days of demand to consider the voting rights of the shares. If the acquiring person makes no request for such a meeting, but delivers, no later than 60 days before the intended date of notice of an annual meeting of shareholders, a control share acquisition statement with respect to shares acquired in a control share acquisition, the voting rights to be granted such shares shall be considered by any such annual meeting.

If voting rights for control shares are approved at a shareholders meeting and the acquiror becomes entitled to vote a majority of the shares entitled to vote in an election of directors, all other shareholders may be entitled to exercise appraisal rights. The fair value of the shares as determined for purposes of such appraisal rights may not be less than the highest price per share paid by the acquiror in the control share acquisition.

The control share acquisition statute does not apply to, among other things, shares acquired in a merger or share exchange if the corporation is a party to the transaction.

Bylaws. The advance notice provisions of our bylaws could delay, defer or prevent a transaction or a change of control of our company that might involve a premium price for holders of our common stock or otherwise be in their best interest.

Indemnification and Limitation of Directors' and Officers' Liability

The Virginia Stock Corporation Act and our articles of incorporation provide for indemnification of our directors and officers in a variety of circumstances, which may include liabilities under the Securities Act. Our articles of incorporation require indemnification of directors and officers with respect to certain liabilities, expenses, and other amounts imposed on them by reason of having been a director or officer, except in the case of willful misconduct or a knowing violation of criminal law. We also carry insurance on behalf of directors, officers, employees or agents which may cover liabilities under the Securities Act.

Under the Virginia Stock Corporation Act, a Virginia corporation may not indemnify for an adverse judgment in a suit by or in the right of the corporation or for a judgment of liability on the basis that personal benefit was improperly received, unless in either case a court orders indemnification and then only for expenses. In addition, the Virginia Stock Corporation Act permits a corporation to advance reasonable expenses to a director or officer upon the corporation's receipt of a written undertaking by the director or officer or on the director's or officer's behalf to repay the amount paid or reimbursed by the corporation if it is ultimately determined that the director or officer did not meet the standard of conduct.

Insofar as the foregoing provisions permit indemnification of directors, officers or persons controlling us for liability arising under the Securities Act, we have been informed that in the opinion of the SEC, this indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and is therefore unenforceable.

As permitted by the Virginia Stock Corporation Act, our articles of incorporation limit the liability our directors and officers in any proceeding brought by a shareholder (brought either in the right of the company, or by or on behalf of our shareholders), except for liability resulting from the director's or officer's willful misconduct or knowing violation of criminal law or any federal or state securities law.

MATERIAL U.S. FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSIDERATIONS

The following discussion is a summary of the material U.S. federal income tax considerations that may be relevant to a prospective holder of our capital stock. The prospectus supplement relating to a particular offering of securities other than our common stock will include a summary of the material U.S. federal income tax considerations, if any, that may be relevant to a prospective holder of the securities then being offered.

This summary is for general information only, and does not purport to address all aspects of U.S. federal income taxation that may be relevant to particular investors in light of their personal investment or tax circumstances, or to certain types of investors that are subject to special treatment under the U.S. federal income tax laws, such as insurance companies, financial institutions or broker-dealers, foreign corporations and persons who are not citizens or residents of the United States (except to the limited extent discussed in “— Taxation of Non-U.S. Holders”), investors who hold or will hold securities as part of hedging or conversion transactions or other integrated investment, investors subject to federal alternative minimum tax, investors who acquired their interest as compensation for services, investors holding their interest through a partnership or other pass-through entities, investors that have a principal place of business or “tax home” outside the United States, and investors whose functional currency is not the U.S. dollar. Further, this discussion does not apply to investors that are REITs or regulated investment companies for U.S. federal income tax purposes, investors subject to the special tax accounting rules under section 451(b) of the Code, or investors that are traders in securities that elect to use a mark to market method of accounting for securities. This summary assumes that shareholders will hold our capital stock as capital assets. In addition, except to the extent specifically described herein, this summary does not address the impact of state and local taxes, the estate tax or the alternative minimum tax.

The statements of law in this discussion are based on the Code, existing temporary, proposed and final Treasury regulations promulgated thereunder, current administrative interpretations, practices and rulings, and judicial decisions, all as currently in effect and available as of the date of this prospectus and all of which are subject to differing interpretations. In addition, no assurance can be given that future legislative, judicial, or administrative actions or decisions, which may be retroactive in effect, will not affect the accuracy of any statements in this prospectus with respect to the transactions entered into or contemplated prior to the effective date of such changes. No assurance can be given that the Internal Revenue Service (the “IRS”) would not assert, or that a court of competent jurisdiction would not sustain, a position contrary to any tax consequences described below, and no rulings are being or will be requested from the IRS with respect to any of the matters discussed herein.

We urge you to consult your own tax advisor regarding the specific tax consequences to you of ownership of our securities and of our election to be taxed as a REIT. Specifically, we urge you to consult your own tax advisor regarding the federal, state, local, foreign, and other tax consequences of such ownership and election and regarding potential changes in applicable tax laws.

Taxation of Our Company

We have elected to be taxed as a REIT under the U.S. federal income tax laws. We believe that, since such election, we have been and are organized and operated in such a manner as to qualify for taxation as a REIT under the Code, and we intend to continue to operate in such a manner, but no assurance can be given that we will operate in a manner so as to continue to qualify as a REIT. This section discusses the laws governing the U.S. federal income tax treatment of a REIT and its investors. These laws are highly technical and complex.

In the opinion of Mayer Brown LLP, we qualified to be taxed as a REIT for our taxable years ended December 31, 2020 through December 31, 2024, and our organization and current and proposed method of operation will enable us to continue to qualify as a REIT for our taxable year ending December 31, 2025 and in the future. We emphasize that the opinion of Mayer Brown LLP is based on various assumptions relating to our organization and operation, including that all factual representations and statements set forth in all relevant documents, records and instruments are true and correct, all actions described in this prospectus are completed in a timely fashion and that we will at all times operate in accordance with the method of operation described in our organizational documents and this prospectus. Investors should be aware that Mayer Brown LLP’s opinion is based upon customary assumptions, is

conditioned upon the accuracy of certain representations made by us as to factual matters, including representations regarding the nature of our assets and the future conduct of our business, and is not binding upon the IRS or any court. In addition, Mayer Brown LLP's opinion is based on existing U.S. federal income tax law governing qualification as a REIT, which is subject to change either prospectively or retroactively. Moreover, our continued qualification and taxation as a REIT depend upon our ability to meet on a continuing basis, through actual annual operating results, certain qualification tests set forth in the U.S. federal tax laws. Those qualification tests include the percentage of income that we earn from specified sources, the percentage of our assets that falls within specified categories, the diversity of our share ownership, and the percentage of our earnings that we distribute. While Mayer Brown LLP reviewed those matters in connection with rendering the foregoing opinion, Mayer Brown LLP will not review our compliance with those tests on a continuing basis. Accordingly, no assurance can be given that the actual results of our operation for any particular taxable year will satisfy such requirements. For a discussion of the tax consequences of our failure to qualify as a REIT, see "— Failure to Qualify."

If we qualify as a REIT, we generally will not be subject to U.S. federal income tax on the taxable income that we distribute to our shareholders. The benefit of that tax treatment is that it avoids the "double taxation," or taxation at both the corporate and shareholder levels, that generally results from owning stock in a corporation. However, we will be subject to U.S. federal tax in the following circumstances:

- We will pay U.S. federal income tax at regular corporate rates on taxable income, including net capital gain, that we do not distribute to our shareholders during, or within a specified time period after, the calendar year in which the income is earned, to the extent we cannot otherwise offset such income with our tax NOL carryforward (if any).
- We will pay income tax at the corporate rate on (1) net income from the sale or other disposition of property acquired through foreclosure ("foreclosure property") that we hold primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of business and (2) other non-qualifying income from foreclosure property.
- We will pay a 100% tax on net income from sales or other dispositions of property, other than foreclosure property, that we hold primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of business.
- If we fail to satisfy the 75% gross income test or the 95% gross income test, as described below under "— Gross Income Tests," and nonetheless continue to qualify as a REIT because we meet other requirements, we will pay a 100% tax on an amount equal to (1) the gross income attributable to the greater of the amounts by which we fail the 75% and 95% gross income tests, multiplied by (2) a fraction intended to reflect our profitability.
- After consideration of our loss carryforwards, if we fail to distribute during a calendar year at least the sum of (1) 85% of our REIT ordinary income for such year, (2) 95% of our REIT capital gain net income for such year, and (3) any undistributed taxable income from prior periods, we will pay a 4% excise tax on the excess of this required distribution over the sum of the amount we actually distributed, plus any retained amounts on which income tax has been paid at the corporate level.
- We may elect to retain and pay income tax on our net long-term capital gain. In that case a U.S. holder, as defined below under "— Taxation of U.S. Holders," would be taxed on its proportionate share of our undistributed long-term capital gain (to the extent that a timely designation of such gain is made by us to the shareholder) and would receive a credit or refund for its proportionate share of the tax we paid.
- If we acquire any asset from a C corporation, or a corporation that generally is subject to full corporate-level tax, in a merger or other transaction in which we acquire a basis in the asset that is determined by reference to the C corporation's basis in the asset, we will pay tax at the highest regular corporate rate applicable if we recognize gain on the sale or disposition of such asset during the five-

year period after we acquire such asset. The amount of gain on which we will pay tax generally is the lesser of (1) the amount of gain that we recognize at the time of the sale or disposition or (2) the amount of gain that we would have recognized if we had sold the asset at the time we acquired the asset.

- We will incur a 100% excise tax on transactions with a taxable REIT subsidiary (“TRS”) that are not conducted on an arm’s-length basis.
- If we fail to satisfy certain asset tests due to reasonable cause, described below under “—Asset Tests” and nonetheless continue to qualify as a REIT because we meet certain other requirements, we will be subject to a tax of the greater of \$50,000 or at the highest corporate rate on the net income generated by the non-qualifying assets.
- We may be subject to a \$50,000 tax for each failure if we fail to satisfy certain REIT qualification requirements, other than income tests or asset tests, and the failure is due to reasonable cause and not willful neglect.
- If we recognize “excess inclusion income” and have shareholders who are “disqualified organizations,” we may have to pay tax at the highest corporate rate on the portion of the excess inclusion income allocable to the shareholders that are disqualified organizations. See “— Taxable Mortgage Pools” below.
- We may be required to pay monetary penalties to the IRS in certain circumstances, including if we fail to meet recordkeeping requirements intended to monitor our compliance with votes relating to the composition of our shareholders.

In addition, notwithstanding our qualification as a REIT, we may also have to pay certain state and local income taxes because not all states and localities treat REITs in the same manner as they are treated for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Moreover, as further described below, any TRS in which we own an interest will be subject to U.S. federal and state corporate income tax on its taxable income.

Requirements for Qualification

A REIT is a corporation, trust, or association that meets the following requirements:

1. it is managed by one or more trustees or directors;
2. its beneficial ownership is evidenced by transferable shares or by transferable certificates of beneficial interest;
3. it would be taxable as a domestic corporation but for the REIT provisions of the U.S. federal income tax laws;
4. it is neither a financial institution nor an insurance company subject to special provisions of the U.S. federal income tax laws;
5. at least 100 persons are beneficial owners of its shares or ownership certificate;
6. no more than 50% in value of its outstanding shares or ownership certificates is owned, directly or indirectly, by five or fewer individuals, as defined in the U.S. federal income tax laws to include certain entities, during the last half of each taxable year;

7. it elects to be a REIT, or has made such election for a previous taxable year, which election has not been revoked or terminated, and satisfies all relevant filing and other administrative requirements established by the IRS that must be met to elect and maintain REIT status;
8. it uses a calendar year for U.S. federal income tax purposes and complies with the recordkeeping requirements of the U.S. federal income tax laws; and
9. it meets certain other qualification tests, described below, regarding the nature of its income and assets and the amount of its distributions.

We must meet requirements 1 through 4 and 9 during our entire taxable year and must meet requirement 5 during at least 335 days of a taxable year of 12 months, or during a proportionate part of a taxable year of less than 12 months. If we comply with all the requirements for ascertaining the ownership of our outstanding shares in a taxable year and have no reason to know that we violated requirement 6, we will be deemed to have satisfied requirement 6 for such taxable year. For purposes of determining share ownership under requirement 6, an “individual” generally includes a supplemental unemployment compensation benefits plan, a private foundation, or a portion of a trust permanently set aside or used exclusively for charitable purposes. An “individual,” however, generally does not include a trust that is a qualified employee pension or profit sharing trust under the U.S. federal income tax laws, and beneficiaries of such a trust will be treated as holding shares of our stock in proportion to their actuarial interests in the trust for purposes of requirement 6.

We have issued sufficient stock with enough diversity of ownership to satisfy requirements 5 and 6 set forth above. In addition, our articles of incorporation restrict the ownership and transfer of the stock so that we should continue to satisfy requirements 5 and 6. The provisions of our charter restricting the ownership and transfer of the stock are described in “Description of Our Capital Stock—Restrictions on Ownership and Transfer.”

If we comply with regulatory rules pursuant to which we are required to send annual letters to holders of our stock requesting information regarding the actual ownership of our stock, and we do not know, or exercising reasonable diligence would not have known, whether we failed to meet requirement 6 above, we will be treated as having met the requirement.

In addition, we must satisfy all relevant filing and other administrative requirements established by the IRS to elect and maintain REIT qualification.

Effect of Subsidiary Entities

Qualified REIT Subsidiaries. A corporation that is a “qualified REIT subsidiary” is not treated as a corporation separate from its parent REIT for U.S. federal income tax purposes. All assets, liabilities, and items of income, deduction, and credit of a “qualified REIT subsidiary” are treated as assets, liabilities, and items of income, deduction, and credit of the REIT. A “qualified REIT subsidiary” is a corporation, other than a TRS, all of the capital stock of which is owned by a REIT. Thus, in applying the requirements described in this section, any qualified REIT subsidiary that we own will be ignored for U.S. federal income tax purposes, and all assets, liabilities, and items of income, deduction, and credit of that subsidiary will be treated as our assets, liabilities, and items of income, deduction, and credit.

Investments in Partnerships. In the case of a REIT that is a partner in a partnership or a member in a limited liability company treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes, the REIT is treated as owning its proportionate share of the assets of the partnership or limited liability company and as earning its allocable share of the gross income of the entity for purposes of the applicable REIT qualification tests. The assets and gross income of the partnership or limited liability company retain the same character in the hands of the REIT. For purposes of the 10% value test (as described below under “— Asset Tests”), our proportionate share is based on our proportionate interest in the equity interests and certain debt securities issued by the partnership. For all of the other asset and income tests, our proportionate share is based on our proportionate interest in the capital interests in the partnership. Our proportionate share of the assets, liabilities, and items of income of any partnership, joint venture, or limited

liability company that is treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes in which we own or will acquire an interest, directly or indirectly, is treated as our assets and gross income for purposes of applying the various REIT qualification requirements.

Taxable REIT Subsidiaries. Subject to restrictions on the value of TRS securities held by the REIT, a REIT is permitted to own up to 100% of the stock of one or more TRSs. A TRS is a fully taxable corporation. The TRS and the REIT must jointly elect to treat the subsidiary as a TRS. A corporation of which a TRS directly or indirectly owns more than 35% of the voting power or value of the stock will be automatically treated as a TRS. Overall, no more than 20% (25% for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2025) of the value of a REIT's assets may consist of TRS securities.

Several provisions of the Code ensure that an entity taxable as a corporation, such as a TRS, will be subject to an appropriate level of U.S. federal income taxation. For example, deductions are disallowed for business interest expense (even if paid to third parties) in excess of the sum of a taxpayer's business interest income and 30% of the adjusted taxable income of the business, which is its taxable income computed without regard to business interest income or expense, net operating losses, depreciation, amortization, or the pass-through income deduction. Such limitations may also impact the amount of U.S. federal income tax paid by our TRSs. Accordingly, if we lend money to a TRS, the TRS may be unable to deduct all or a part of the interest paid on that loan, and the lack of an interest deduction could result in a material increase in the amount of tax paid by the TRS. The TRS rules also limit the deductibility of interest paid or accrued by a TRS to us to assure that the TRS is subject to an appropriate level of corporate taxation. Further, the rules impose a 100% excise tax on transactions between a TRS and us or our tenants, if any, that are not conducted on an arm's-length basis. We intend to scrutinize all of our transactions with our TRSs and to conduct such transactions on an arm's-length basis; however, we cannot assure you that we will be successful in avoiding this excise tax.

We currently have one TRS. Additionally, we may form or acquire additional TRSs in the future.

Gross Income Tests

We must satisfy two gross income tests annually to maintain our qualification as a REIT.

First, at least 75% of our gross income for each taxable year must consist of defined types of income that we derive, directly or indirectly, from investments relating to real property or mortgages on real property or qualified temporary investment income, excluding gross income from sales of inventory or dealer property in "prohibited transactions." Qualifying income for purposes of that 75% gross income test generally includes:

- rents from real property;
- interest on debt secured by mortgages on real property or on interests in real property;
- dividends and gain from the sale of shares in other REITs;
- gain from the sale of real estate assets (excluding gain from the sale of a debt instrument issued by a "publicly offered REIT" to the extent not secured by real property or an interest in real property); and
- income derived from the temporary investment of new capital or "qualified temporary investment income" that is attributable to the issuance of our stock or a public offering of our debt with a maturity date of at least five years and that we receive during the one year period beginning on the date on which we received such new capital.

Second, in general, at least 95% of our gross income, excluding gross income from prohibited transactions, for each taxable year must consist of income that is qualifying income for purposes of the 75% gross income test above, other types of dividends and interest, gain from the sale or disposition of stock or securities, or any combination of these; however, for purposes of the 95% gross income test, gain from the sale of "real estate assets" includes gain from the

sale of a debt instrument issued by a “publicly offered REIT” even if not secured by real property or an interest in real property. Gross income from our sale of property that we hold primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of business is excluded from both the numerator and the denominator in both income tests. Generally, income and gain from hedging transactions, as described in “—Hedging Transactions,” that we enter into to hedge indebtedness incurred or to be incurred to acquire or carry real estate assets and that are clearly and timely identified as such will not constitute gross income for purposes of the 75% and 95% gross income tests, and will therefore be excluded for purposes of these tests. The following paragraphs discuss the specific application of the gross income tests to us.

Rents from Real Property. Rent that we receive from any real property that we might own and lease to tenants will qualify as “rents from real property,” which is qualifying income for purposes of the 75% and 95% gross income tests, only if the several conditions are met, including the following:

- First, the rent must not be based, in whole or in part, on the income or profits of any person but may be based on a fixed percentage or percentages of gross receipts or gross sales.
- Second, neither we nor a direct or indirect owner of 10% or more of our shares of stock may own, actually or constructively, 10% or more of a tenant other than a TRS from whom we receive rent.
- Third, if the rent attributable to personal property leased in connection with a lease of any real property that we might own exceeds 15% of the total rent received under the lease, then the portion of rent attributable to that personal property will not qualify as “rents from real property.”
- Fourth, we generally must not operate or manage any real property or furnish or render services to tenants, other than through an “independent contractor” who is adequately compensated, from whom we do not derive revenue, and who does not, directly or through its shareholders, own more than 35% of our shares of stock, taking into consideration the applicable ownership attribution rules. However, we need not provide services through an “independent contractor,” but instead may provide services directly to any such tenants, if the services are “usually or customarily rendered” in the geographic area in connection with the rental of space for occupancy only and are not considered to be provided for the tenants’ convenience. In addition, we may provide a minimal amount of “non-customary” services to the tenants of a property, other than through an independent contractor, as long as our income from the services (valued at not less than 150% of our direct cost of performing such services) does not exceed 1% of our income from the related property. Furthermore, we may own up to 100% of the stock of a TRS which may provide customary and non-customary services to tenants without tainting our rental income from the related properties. See “—Taxable REIT Subsidiaries.”

Interest. The term “interest,” as defined for purposes of both the 75% and 95% gross income tests, generally does not include any amount received or accrued, directly or indirectly, if the determination of such amount depends in whole or in part on the income or profits of any person. However, an amount received or accrued generally will not be excluded from the term “interest” solely by reason of being based on a fixed percentage or percentages of receipts or sales. Furthermore, to the extent that interest from a loan that is based on the residual cash proceeds from the sale of the property securing the loan constitutes a “shared appreciation provision,” income attributable to such participation feature will be treated as gain from the sale of the secured property.

In Revenue Procedure 2003-65, the IRS established a safe harbor under which interest from loans secured by a first priority security interest in ownership interests in a partnership or limited liability company owning real property will be treated as qualifying income for both the 75% and 95% gross income tests, provided several requirements are satisfied. Although the Revenue Procedure provides a safe harbor on which taxpayers may rely, it does not prescribe rules of substantive tax law. Moreover, although we anticipate that most or all of any mezzanine loans that we make or acquire will qualify for the safe harbor in Revenue Procedure 2003-65, it is possible that we may make or acquire some mezzanine loans that do not qualify for the safe harbor.

Foreclosure Property. We will be subject to tax at the maximum U.S. federal corporate income tax rate on any income from foreclosure property, other than income that would be qualifying income for purposes of the 75% gross income test, less expenses directly connected with the production of such income. However, gross income from such foreclosure property will qualify for purposes of the 75% and 95% gross income tests. “Foreclosure property” is any real property, including interests in real property, and any personal property incident to such real property:

- that is acquired by a REIT as the result of such REIT having bid on such property at foreclosure, or having otherwise reduced such property to ownership or possession by agreement or process of law, after there was a default or default was imminent on a lease of such property or on an indebtedness that such property secured;
- for which the related loan or lease was acquired by the REIT at a time when the REIT had no intent to evict or foreclose or the REIT did not know or have reason to know that default would occur; and
- for which such REIT makes a proper election to treat such property as foreclosure property.

However, a REIT will not be considered to have foreclosed on a property where the REIT takes control of the property as a mortgagee-in-possession and cannot receive any profit or sustain any loss except as a creditor of the mortgagor. Property generally ceases to be foreclosure property with respect to a REIT at the end of the third taxable year following the taxable year in which the REIT acquired such property, or longer if an extension is granted by the Secretary of the Treasury. The foregoing grace period is terminated and foreclosure property ceases to be foreclosure property on the first day:

- on which a lease is entered into with respect to such property that, by its terms, will give rise to income that does not qualify for purposes of the 75% gross income test or any amount is received or accrued, directly or indirectly, pursuant to a lease entered into on or after such day that will give rise to income that does not qualify for purposes of the 75% gross income test;
- on which any construction takes place on such property, other than completion of a building, or any other improvement, where more than 10% of the construction of such building or other improvement was completed before default became imminent; or
- which is more than 90 days after the day on which such property was acquired by the REIT and the property is used in a trade or business which is conducted by the REIT, other than through an independent contractor from whom the REIT itself does not derive or receive any income.

As a result of the rules with respect to foreclosure property, if a lessee defaults on its obligations under a percentage lease, we terminate the lessee’s leasehold interest, and we are unable to find a replacement lessee for the property within 90 days of such foreclosure, gross income from operations conducted by us from such property could cease to qualify for the 75% and 95% gross income tests unless we are able to hire an independent contractor to manage and operate the property. In such event, we might be unable to satisfy the 75% and 95% gross income tests and, thus, might fail to qualify as a REIT.

Hedging Transactions. From time to time, we may enter into hedging transactions with respect to one or more of our assets or liabilities. Our hedging activities may include entering into interest rate swaps, caps, and floors, options to purchase such items, and futures and forward contracts. To the extent that we enter into an interest rate swap or cap contract, option, futures contract, forward rate agreement, or any similar financial instrument to hedge our indebtedness incurred or to be incurred to acquire or carry “real estate assets,” including mortgage loans, or to hedge certain foreign currency risks, any periodic income or gain from the disposition of that contract is disregarded for purposes of the 75% and 95% gross income tests. We are required to identify clearly any such hedging transaction before the close of the day on which it was acquired, originated, or entered into and satisfy other identification requirements. To the extent that we hedge for other purposes, or to the extent that a portion of our loans are not secured by real estate assets (as described under “— Asset Tests”) or in other situations, the income from those transactions will likely be treated as non-qualifying income for purposes of both gross income tests.

If we have entered into a qualifying hedging transaction as described above (an “Original Hedge”), and a portion of the hedged indebtedness is extinguished or the related property is disposed of and in connection with such extinguishment or disposition we enter into a new clearly identified hedging transaction that would counteract the Original Hedge (a “Counteracting Hedge”), income from the Original Hedge and income from the Counteracting Hedge (including gain from the disposition of the Original Hedge and the Counteracting Hedge) will not be treated as gross income for purposes of the 95% and 75% gross income tests.

We intend to structure any hedging transactions in a manner that does not jeopardize our status as a REIT.

Failure to Satisfy Gross Income Tests. We intend to monitor our sources of income so as to ensure our compliance with the gross income tests. If we fail to satisfy one or both of the gross income tests for any taxable year, we nevertheless may qualify as a REIT for such year if we qualify for relief under certain provisions of the U.S. federal income tax laws. Those relief provisions generally will be available if:

- our failure to meet such tests is due to reasonable cause and not due to willful neglect; and
- following our identification of the failure to meet one or both gross income tests for a taxable year, a description of each item of our gross income included in the 75% or 95% gross income tests is set forth in a schedule for such taxable year filed as specified by Treasury regulations.

We cannot predict, however, whether in all circumstances we would qualify for the relief provisions. In addition, as discussed above in “— Taxation of Our Company,” even if the relief provisions apply, we would incur a 100% tax on the gross income attributable to the greater of the amounts by which we fail the 75% and 95% gross income tests, multiplied by a fraction intended to reflect our profitability.

Asset Tests

To maintain our qualification as a REIT, we also must satisfy the following asset tests at the close of each quarter of each taxable year:

- First, at least 75% of the value of our total assets must consist of:
 - cash or cash items, including certain receivables;
 - U.S. government securities;
 - interests in real property, including leaseholds and options to acquire real property and leaseholds;
 - interests in mortgages on real property;
 - stock in other REITs;
 - debt instruments issued by publicly offered REITs; and
 - investments in stock or debt instruments during the one-year period following our receipt of new capital that we raise through equity offerings or offerings of debt with at least a five-year term.
- Second, of our investments not included in the 75% asset class, the value of our interest in any one issuer’s securities may not exceed 5% of the value of our total assets.
- Third, of our investments not included in the 75% asset class, we may not own more than 10% of the voting power or value of any one issuer’s outstanding securities.
- Fourth, for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2017, but on or before December 31, 2025, no more than 20% of the value of our total assets may consist of the securities of one or more TRSs. For taxable years beginning after December 31, 2025, no more than 25% of the value of our total assets may consist of securities of one or more TRSs.

- Finally, not more than 25% of the value of our total assets may be represented by debt instruments issued by publicly offered REITs to the extent not secured by real property or interests in real property.

For purposes of the second and third asset tests, the term “securities” does not include stock in another REIT, equity or debt securities of a qualified REIT subsidiary or TRS, or equity interests in a partnership.

For purposes of the 10% value test, the term “securities” does not include:

- “Straight debt” securities, which is defined as a written unconditional promise to pay on demand or on a specified date a sum certain in money if (i) the debt is not convertible, directly or indirectly, into stock, and (ii) the interest rate and interest payment dates are not contingent on profits, the borrower’s discretion, or similar factors. “Straight debt” securities do not include any securities issued by a partnership or a corporation in which we or any controlled TRS (i.e., a TRS in which we own directly or indirectly more than 50% of the voting power or value of the stock) hold non-“straight debt” securities that have an aggregate value of more than 1% of the issuer’s outstanding securities. However, “straight debt” securities include debt subject to the following contingencies:
 - a contingency relating to the time of payment of interest or principal, as long as either (i) there is no change to the effective yield of the debt obligation, other than a change to the annual yield that does not exceed the greater of 0.25% or 5% of the annual yield, or (ii) neither the aggregate issue price nor the aggregate face amount of the issuer’s debt obligations held by us exceeds \$1 million and no more than 12 months of unaccrued interest on the debt obligations can be required to be prepaid; and
 - a contingency relating to the time or amount of payment upon a default or prepayment of a debt obligation, as long as the contingency is consistent with customary commercial practice.
- Any loan to an individual or an estate.
- Any “section 467 rental agreement,” other than an agreement with a related party tenant.
- Any obligation to pay “rents from real property.”
- Certain securities issued by governmental entities.
- Any security issued by a REIT.
- Any debt instrument of an entity treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes to the extent of our interest as a partner in the partnership.
- Any debt instrument of an entity treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes not described in the preceding bullet points if at least 75% of the partnership’s gross income, excluding income from prohibited transactions, is qualifying income for purposes of the 75% gross income test described above in “—Gross Income Tests.”

We will monitor the status of our assets for purposes of the various asset tests and will seek to manage our assets to comply at all times with such tests. There can be no assurances, however, that we will be successful in this effort. In this regard, to determine our compliance with these requirements, we will need to estimate the value of the real estate securing our mortgage loans at various times. In addition, we will have to value our investment in our other assets to ensure compliance with the asset tests. Although we will seek to be prudent in making these estimates, there can be no assurances that the IRS might not disagree with these determinations and assert that a different value is applicable, in which case we might not satisfy the 75% and the other asset tests and would fail to qualify as a REIT. If we fail to satisfy the asset tests at the end of a calendar quarter, we will not lose our REIT qualification if:

- we satisfied the asset tests at the end of the preceding calendar quarter; and

- the discrepancy between the value of our assets and the asset test requirements arose from changes in the market values of our assets and was not wholly or partly caused by the acquisition of one or more non-qualifying assets.

If we did not satisfy the condition described in the second item, above, we still could avoid disqualification by eliminating any discrepancy within 30 days after the close of the calendar quarter in which it arose.

In the event that we violate the second or third asset tests described above at the end of any calendar quarter, we will not lose our REIT qualification if (i) the failure is de minimis (up to the lesser of 1% of our assets or \$10 million) and (ii) we dispose of assets or otherwise comply with the asset tests within six months after the last day of the quarter in which we identified such failure. In the event of a more than de minimis failure of any of the asset tests, as long as the failure was due to reasonable cause and not to willful neglect, we will not lose our REIT qualification if we (i) dispose of assets or otherwise comply with the asset tests within six months after the last day of the quarter in which we identified such failure, (ii) file a schedule with the IRS describing the assets that caused such failure in accordance with regulations promulgated by the Secretary of Treasury and (iii) pay a tax equal to the greater of \$50,000 or 35% of the net income from the non-qualifying assets during the period in which we failed to satisfy the asset tests.

Distribution Requirements

Each taxable year we must distribute dividends, other than capital gain dividends and deemed distributions of retained capital gain, to our shareholders in an aggregate amount at least equal to:

- the sum of (1) 90% of our “REIT taxable income,” computed without regard to the dividends paid deduction and net capital gains, and (2) 90% of our after-tax net income, if any, from foreclosure property; minus
- the sum of certain items of non-cash income.

These distributions must be paid in the taxable year to which they relate or in the following taxable year if such distributions are declared in October, November or December of the taxable year, are payable to shareholders of record on a specified date in any such month and are actually paid before the end of January of the following year. Such distributions are treated as both paid by us and received by each shareholder on December 31 of the year in which they are declared. In addition, at our election, a distribution for a taxable year may be declared before we timely file our tax return for the year and be paid with or before the first regular dividend payment after such declaration, provided that such payment is made during the 12-month period following the close of such taxable year. These distributions are taxable to our shareholders in the year in which paid, even though the distributions relate to our prior taxable year for purposes of the 90% distribution requirement.

We will pay U.S. federal income tax at the ordinary corporate tax rate on taxable income, including net capital gain, that we do not distribute to our shareholders. Furthermore, we must distribute during a calendar year, or by the end of January following such calendar year in the case of distributions with declaration and record dates falling in the last three months of the calendar year, at least the sum of:

- 85% of our REIT ordinary income for such year;
- 95% of our REIT capital gain income for such year; and
- any undistributed taxable income from prior periods.

If we fail to distribute such amounts within the proscribed timeframe, then we will incur a 4% nondeductible excise tax on the excess of such required distribution over the amounts we actually distributed. We may elect to retain and pay income tax on the net long-term capital gain we receive in a taxable year. See “— Taxation of Taxable U.S. Holders of Stock.” If we so elect, we will be treated as having distributed any such retained amount for purposes of

the 4% excise tax described above. We intend to make timely distributions sufficient to satisfy the annual distribution requirements.

It is possible that, from time to time, we may experience timing differences between (1) the actual receipt of income and actual payment of deductible expenses, and (2) the inclusion of that income and deduction of such expenses in arriving at our REIT taxable income. In addition, we may not deduct recognized net capital losses from our REIT taxable income. As a result of the foregoing, we may have less cash than is necessary to distribute all of our taxable income and thereby avoid corporate income tax and the excise tax imposed on certain undistributed income. In such a situation, we may need to borrow funds or issue additional common or preferred shares.

Under certain circumstances, we may be able to correct a failure to meet the distribution requirement for a year by paying “deficiency dividends” to our shareholders in a later year. We may include such deficiency dividends in our deduction for dividends paid for the earlier year. Although we may be able to avoid income tax on amounts distributed as deficiency dividends, we will be required to pay interest to the IRS based upon the amount of any deduction we take for deficiency dividends.

Recordkeeping Requirements

To avoid a monetary penalty, we must request on an annual basis information from our shareholders designed to disclose the actual ownership of our outstanding shares of stock. We intend to comply with such requirements.

Prohibited Transactions

A REIT will incur a 100% tax on the net income derived from any sale or other disposition of property, other than foreclosure property, that the REIT holds primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of a trade or business. Whether a REIT holds an asset “primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of a trade or business” depends on the facts and circumstances in effect from time to time, including those related to a particular asset. We do not own assets that are held primarily for sale to customers. We will attempt to comply with the terms of safe harbor provisions in the U.S. federal income tax laws prescribing when an asset sale will not be characterized as a prohibited transaction. We cannot provide assurance, however, that we can comply with such safe harbor provisions or that we or our subsidiaries will avoid owning property that may be characterized as property held “primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of a trade or business.”

Failure to Qualify

If we fail to satisfy one or more requirements for REIT qualification, other than the gross income tests and the asset tests, we could avoid disqualification if our failure is due to reasonable cause and not to willful neglect and we pay a penalty of \$50,000 for each such failure. In addition, there are relief provisions for a failure of the gross income tests and asset tests, as described in “—Gross Income Tests” and “—Asset Tests.”

If we were to fail to qualify as a REIT in any taxable year, and no relief provision applied, we would be subject to U.S. federal income tax on our taxable income at regular corporate rates and any applicable alternative minimum tax. In calculating our taxable income in a year in which we failed to qualify as a REIT, we would not be able to deduct amounts paid out to shareholders. In fact, we would not be required to distribute any amounts to shareholders in such year. In such event, to the extent of our current and accumulated earnings and profits, all distributions to shareholders would be taxable as regular corporate dividends. The excess inclusion income rules (which are described under “—Taxable Mortgage Pools” below) will not apply to the distributions we make. Subject to certain limitations of the U.S. federal income tax laws, corporate shareholders might be eligible for the dividends received deduction, and individual and certain non-corporate trust and estate shareholders may be eligible for a reduced U.S. federal income tax rate on such dividends. Unless we qualified for relief under specific statutory provisions, we also would be disqualified from taxation as a REIT for the four taxable years following the year during which we ceased to qualify as a REIT. We cannot predict whether in all circumstances we would qualify for such statutory relief.

Taxation of U.S. Holders

The term “U.S. holder” means a holder of our securities that for U.S. federal income tax purposes is:

- a citizen or resident of the United States;
- a corporation (including an entity treated as a corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes) created or organized in or under the laws of the United States, any of its states, or the District of Columbia;
- an estate whose income is subject to U.S. federal income taxation regardless of its source; or
- any trust if (1) a U.S. court is able to exercise primary supervision over the administration of such trust and one or more U.S. persons have the authority to control all substantial decisions of the trust or (2) it has a valid election in place to be treated as a U.S. person.

If a partnership, entity or arrangement treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes holds our securities, the U.S. federal income tax treatment of a partner in the partnership generally will depend on the status of the partner and the activities of the partnership. If you are a partner in a partnership holding our securities, you should consult your tax advisor regarding the consequences of the purchase, ownership and disposition of our securities by the partnership.

Taxation of Taxable U.S. Holders of Stock. As long as we qualify as a REIT, a taxable U.S. holder of our stock must report as ordinary income distributions or retained long-term capital gain that are made out of our current or accumulated earnings and profits and that we do not designate as capital gain dividends. Dividends paid to a corporate U.S. holder of our stock will not qualify for the dividends received deduction generally available to corporations. In addition, dividends paid to a U.S. holder generally will not qualify for the capital gains tax rate for “qualified dividend income.” However, our ordinary REIT dividends may qualify as qualified dividend income, if they are (1) attributable to dividends received by us from non-REIT corporations, such as our TRSs, and (2) attributable to income upon which we have paid corporate income tax (e.g., to the extent that we distribute less than 100% of our taxable income). In general, to qualify for the reduced tax rate on qualified dividend income, a shareholder must hold our stock for more than 60 days during the 121-day period beginning on the date that is 60 days before the date on which our stock becomes ex-dividend. Under current law, individuals, trusts, and estates may deduct a portion of certain pass-through income, including ordinary REIT dividends that are not “capital gain dividends” or “qualified dividend income,” subject to certain limitations. Certain individuals, trusts, and estates whose income exceeds certain thresholds are also subject to a Medicare tax on dividends received from us, discussed below.

A U.S. holder generally will report distributions that we designate as capital gain dividends as long-term capital gain without regard to the period for which the U.S. holder has held our stock. A corporate U.S. holder, however, may be required to treat a portion of certain capital gain dividends as ordinary income. If we properly designate any portion of a dividend as a capital gain dividend then, except as otherwise required by law, we presently intend to allocate a portion of the total capital gain dividends paid or made available to holders of all classes of our stock for the year to the holders of our common stock and Series C Preferred Stock in proportion to the amount that our total dividends, as determined for U.S. federal income tax purposes, paid or made available to the holders of our common stock and Series C Preferred Stock for the year bears to the total dividends, as determined for U.S. federal income tax purposes, paid or made available to holders of all classes of our stock for the year.

We may elect to retain and pay income tax on the net long-term capital gain that we receive in a taxable year. In that case, a U.S. holder would be taxed on its proportionate share of our undistributed long-term capital gain, to the extent that we designate such amount in a timely notice to such shareholder. The U.S. holder would receive a credit or refund for its proportionate share of the tax we paid. The U.S. holder would increase the basis in its stock by the amount of its proportionate share of our undistributed long-term capital gain, minus its share of the tax we paid.

To the extent that we make a distribution in excess of our current and accumulated earnings and profits, such distribution will not be taxable to a U.S. holder to the extent that it does not exceed the adjusted tax basis of the U.S. holder's stock. Instead, such distribution will reduce the adjusted tax basis of such stock. Our earnings and profits generally will be allocated first to distributions on shares of our preferred stock before being allocated to distributions on our common stock. To the extent that we make a distribution in excess of both our current and accumulated earnings and profits and the U.S. holder's adjusted tax basis in its stock, such shareholder will recognize long-term capital gain, or short-term capital gain if the stock has been held for one year or less, assuming the stock is a capital asset in the hands of the U.S. holder. The IRS has ruled that if total distributions for two or more classes of stock are in excess of current and accumulated earnings and profits, dividends must be treated as having been distributed to those shareholders having a priority under the corporate charter before any distribution to shareholders with lesser priority. If we declare a dividend in October, November, or December of any year that is payable to a U.S. holder of record on a specified date in any such month, such dividend will be treated as both paid by us and received by the U.S. holder on December 31 of such year, provided that we actually pay the dividend during January of the following calendar year.

The aggregate amount of dividends that we may designate as "capital gain dividends" or "qualified dividends" with respect to any taxable year may not exceed the dividends paid by us with respect to such year, including dividends that are paid in the following year and if made with or before the first regular dividend payment after such declaration) are treated as paid with respect to such year.

Shareholders may not include in their individual income tax returns any of our NOLs or capital losses. Instead, we would carry over such losses for potential offset against our future income generally. Taxable distributions from us and gain from the disposition of our stock will not be treated as passive activity income, and, therefore, shareholders generally will not be able to apply any "passive activity losses," such as losses from certain types of limited partnerships in which the shareholder is a limited partner, against such income. In addition, taxable distributions from us and gain from the disposition of the stock generally will be treated as investment income for purposes of the investment interest limitations.

We will notify shareholders after the close of our taxable year as to the portions of the distributions attributable to that year that constitute ordinary income, return of capital, and capital gain.

Taxation of U.S. Holders on the Disposition of Stock. In general, a U.S. holder who is not a dealer in securities must treat any gain or loss realized upon a taxable disposition of our stock as long-term capital gain or loss if the U.S. holder has held the stock for more than one year, and otherwise as short-term capital gain or loss. However, a U.S. holder must treat any loss upon a sale or exchange of stock held by such shareholder for six months or less as a long-term capital loss to the extent of any actual or deemed distributions from us that such U.S. holder previously has characterized as long-term capital gain. All or a portion of any loss that a U.S. holder realizes upon a taxable disposition of the stock may be disallowed if the U.S. holder purchases the same type of stock within 30 days before or after the disposition.

Capital Gains and Losses. The applicable tax rate will depend on the U.S. holder's holding period in the asset (generally, if the U.S. holder has held the asset for more than one year, it will produce long-term capital gain) and the holder's tax bracket. Thus, the tax rate differential between capital gain and ordinary income for non-corporate taxpayers may be significant. In addition, the characterization of income as capital gain or ordinary income may affect the deductibility of capital losses. A non-corporate taxpayer may deduct capital losses not offset by capital gains against its ordinary income only up to a maximum annual amount of \$3,000. A non-corporate taxpayer may carry forward unused capital losses indefinitely. A corporate taxpayer must pay tax on its net capital gain at ordinary corporate rates. A corporate taxpayer may deduct capital losses only to the extent of capital gains, with unused losses being carried back three years and forward five years.

Taxation of U.S. Holders on the Redemption of Series C Preferred Stock. A redemption of shares of Series C Preferred Stock will be treated under Section 302 of the Code as a distribution (and taxable as a dividend to the extent of our current and accumulated earnings and profits as described under "—Taxation of Taxable U.S. Holders of Stock" above) unless the redemption satisfies one of the tests set forth in Section 302(b) of the Code and is

therefore treated as a sale or exchange of the redeemed shares. A redemption of shares of Series C Preferred Stock generally will be treated as a sale or exchange of the redeemed shares if it, within the meaning of Section 302(b) of the Code:

- is “substantially disproportionate” with respect to the U.S. holder;
- results in a “complete termination” of the U.S. holder’s stock interest in us; or
- is “not essentially equivalent to a dividend” with respect to the U.S. holder.

In determining whether any of these tests have been met, shares of stock, including common stock and other equity interests in us, considered to be owned by the U.S. holder by reason of certain constructive ownership rules set forth in the Code, as well as shares of our stock actually owned by the U.S. holder, must generally be taken into account. Because the determination as to whether any of the alternative tests of Section 302(b) of the Code will be satisfied with respect to a U.S. holder depends upon the facts and circumstances at the time that the determination must be made, U.S. holders are advised to consult their tax advisors to determine such tax treatment.

If a redemption of shares of the Series C Preferred Stock is treated as a distribution, the amount of the distribution will be measured by the amount of cash and the fair market value of any property received. See “—Taxation of Taxable U.S. Holders of Stock” above. A U.S. holder’s adjusted tax basis in the redeemed shares of the Series C Preferred Stock will be transferred to the U.S. holder’s remaining shares of our stock, if any. If the U.S. holder owns no other shares of our stock, under certain circumstances, such basis may be transferred to a related person or it may be lost entirely. With respect to a redemption of our Series C Preferred Stock that is treated as a distribution but that is not otherwise taxable as a dividend because it exceeds our earnings and profits, the method by which a holder must reduce its basis is uncertain in situations where the holder owns different blocks of stock that were acquired at different prices and thus have different bases.

If a redemption of shares of Series C Preferred Stock is not treated as a distribution, it will be treated as a taxable sale or exchange of the redeemed shares in the manner described under “—Taxation of U.S. Holders on the Disposition of Stock” above.

Taxation of U.S. Holders upon the Conversion of Series C Preferred Stock. Except as provided below, (i) a U.S. holder generally will not recognize gain or loss upon the conversion of Series C Preferred Stock into our common stock, and (ii) a U.S. holder’s basis and holding period in our common stock received upon conversion generally will be the same as those of the converted Series C Preferred Stock (but the basis will be reduced by the portion of adjusted tax basis allocated to any fractional share exchanged for cash). Common stock received in a conversion that is attributable to accumulated and unpaid dividends on the converted Series C Preferred Stock will be treated as a distribution that is potentially taxable as a dividend. Cash received upon conversion in lieu of a fractional share generally will be treated as a payment in a taxable exchange for such fractional share, and gain or loss will be recognized on the receipt of cash in an amount equal to the difference between the amount of cash received and the adjusted tax basis allocable to the fractional share deemed exchanged. This gain or loss will be long-term capital gain or loss if the U.S. holder has held the Series C Preferred Stock for more than one year at the time of conversion. Holders are urged to consult with their tax advisors regarding the U.S. federal income tax consequences of any transaction by which such holder exchanges shares received on a conversion of the Series C Preferred Stock for cash or other property.

Information Reporting Requirements and Backup Withholding. We will report to our shareholders and to the IRS the amount of distributions we pay during each calendar year and the amount of tax we withhold, if any. Under the backup withholding rules, a shareholder may be subject to backup withholding with respect to distributions unless such holder:

- is a corporation or comes within certain other exempt categories and, when required, demonstrates this fact; or

- provides a taxpayer identification number, certifies as to no loss of exemption from backup withholding, and otherwise complies with the applicable requirements of the backup withholding rules.

A shareholder that does not provide us with its correct taxpayer identification number also may be subject to penalties imposed by the IRS. Any amount paid as backup withholding will be creditable against the shareholder's income tax liability. In addition, any U.S. holders that fail to certify their non-foreign status to us may be subject to withholding on a portion of capital gain distributions. See “— Taxation of Non-U.S. Holders.”

Backup withholding is not an additional tax. Any amounts withheld under the backup withholding rules may be allowed as a refund or a credit against such U.S. holder's U.S. federal income tax liability, provided the required information is timely furnished to the IRS.

Taxation of Tax-Exempt U.S. Holders

Tax-exempt U.S. holders, including qualified employee pension and profit sharing trusts and individual retirement accounts, generally are exempt from U.S. federal income taxation, thus typically dividends received by such entities are not subject to taxation when received. However, these entities or accounts are subject to taxation on any unrelated business taxable income generated. While many investments in real estate generate unrelated business taxable income, the IRS has issued a published ruling that dividend distributions from a REIT to an exempt employee pension trust do not constitute unrelated business taxable income, provided that the exempt employee pension trust does not otherwise use the shares of the REIT in an unrelated trade or business of the pension trust. Based on that ruling, amounts that we distribute to tax-exempt shareholders generally should not constitute unrelated business taxable income.

However, if a tax-exempt shareholder were to finance its acquisition of our stock with debt, a portion of the income that it receives from us would constitute unrelated business taxable income pursuant to the “debt-financed property” rules. Furthermore, social clubs, voluntary employee benefit associations, supplemental unemployment benefit trusts, and qualified group legal services plans that are exempt from taxation under special provisions of the federal income tax laws are subject to different unrelated business taxable income rules, which generally will require them to characterize distributions that they receive from us as unrelated business taxable income. Finally, if we are a “pension-held REIT,” a qualified employee pension or profit sharing trust that owns more than 10% of our shares of stock is required to treat a percentage of the dividends that it receives from us as unrelated business taxable income. That percentage is equal to the gross income that we derive from an unrelated trade or business, if any, determined as if we were a pension trust, divided by our total gross income for the year in which we pay the dividends. That rule applies to a pension trust holding more than 10% of our shares of stock only if:

- the percentage of our dividends that the tax-exempt trust would be required to treat as unrelated business taxable income is at least 5%;
- we qualify as a REIT by reason of the modification of the rule requiring that no more than 50% of our stock be owned by five or fewer individuals that allows the beneficiaries of the pension trust to be treated as holding our stock in proportion to their actuarial interests in the pension trust (see “— Requirements for Qualification” above); and
- either (1) one pension trust owns more than 25% of the value of our stock or (2) a group of pension trusts each individually holding more than 10% of the value of our stock collectively owns more than 50% of the value of our stock.

The ownership and transfer restrictions in our charter reduce the risk that we may become a “pension-held REIT.”

A tax-exempt U.S. holder may also be required to treat any excess inclusion income as unrelated business taxable income as described in “— Taxable Mortgage Pools.”

Taxation of Non-U.S. Holders

The rules governing the U.S. federal income taxation of holders of our securities that are not U.S. holders and are not partnerships or other pass-through entities (collectively, “non-U.S. holders”) are complex. We urge non-U.S. holders to consult their own tax advisors to determine the impact of U.S. federal, state, and local income tax laws on the ownership of our stock, including any reporting requirements.

A non-U.S. holder that receives a distribution that is not attributable to gain from our sale or exchange of U.S. real property interests, as defined below, and that we do not designate as a capital gain dividend will recognize ordinary income to the extent that we pay such distribution out of our current or accumulated earnings and profits. Our earnings and profits generally will be allocated first to distributions on shares of our preferred stock before being allocated to distributions on our common stock. A withholding tax equal to 30% of the gross amount of the distribution ordinarily will apply to such distribution unless an applicable tax treaty reduces or eliminates the tax. Under some treaties, however, lower rates generally applicable to dividends do not apply to dividends from REITs. In general, non-U.S. holders are not considered to be engaged in a U.S. trade or business solely as a result of their ownership of our stock. However, if a distribution is treated as effectively connected with the non-U.S. holder’s conduct of a U.S. trade or business, the non-U.S. holder generally will be subject to U.S. federal income tax on the distribution at graduated rates, in the same manner as U.S. holders are taxed with respect to such distributions. A non-U.S. holder that is a corporation also may be subject to the 30% branch profits tax with respect to the distribution. Generally, a non-U.S. holder will be subject to U.S. income tax withholding at the rate of 30% on the gross amount of any such distribution paid to a non-U.S. holder unless either:

- a lower treaty rate applies and the non-U.S. holder files an IRS Form W-8BEN or successor form evidencing eligibility for that reduced rate with the payor; or
- the non-U.S. holder files an IRS Form W-8ECI or successor form with the payor claiming that the distribution is effectively connected income.

Generally, a non-U.S. holder will not be liable for tax on a distribution in excess of our current and accumulated earnings and profits if the excess portion of such distribution does not exceed the adjusted basis of its stock. Instead, the excess portion of such distribution will reduce the adjusted basis of such stock. A non-U.S. holder will be subject to tax on a distribution that exceeds both our current and accumulated earnings and profits and the adjusted basis of its stock, if the non-U.S. holder otherwise would be subject to tax on gain from the sale or disposition of its stock, as described below. Because we generally cannot determine at the time we make a distribution whether or not the distribution will exceed our current and accumulated earnings and profits, the entire amount of any distribution may be subject to withholding as a taxable dividend. In addition, a distribution in excess of our current and accumulated earnings and profits (but not in excess of the holders adjusted tax basis in its stock) is subject to withholding in the manner described in the immediately succeeding paragraph. A non-U.S. holder may obtain a full or partial refund, as appropriate, of amounts that are withheld if we later determine that a distribution in fact exceeded our current and accumulated earnings and profits.

Unless we are a “domestically-controlled REIT,” as defined below, withholding at a rate of 15% is required on any distribution that exceeds our current and accumulated earnings and profits. Consequently, although we intend to withhold at a rate of 30% on the entire amount of any distribution, to the extent that we do not do so, it is possible that if we are able to determine that a particular distribution (or portion thereof) exceeds our current and accumulated earnings and profits, we may withhold at the lower rate of 15% on such distribution (or portion thereof).

For any year in which we qualify as a REIT, a non-U.S. holder may incur tax on distributions that are attributable to gain from any sale or exchange of “United States real property interests” under special provisions of the U.S. federal income tax laws referred to as “FIRPTA.” The term “United States real property interests” includes certain interests in real property and stock in corporations at least 50% of whose assets consists of interests in real property. The term “United States real property interests” generally does not include mortgage loans or MBS. Under those rules, a non-U.S. holder is taxed on distributions attributable to gain from sales of United States real property interests as if such

gain were effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business of the non-U.S. holder. A non-U.S. holder thus would be taxed on such a distribution at the normal capital gains rates applicable to U.S. holders, subject to applicable alternative minimum tax and a special alternative minimum tax in the case of a nonresident alien individual. A non-U.S. corporate holder not entitled to treaty relief or exemption also may be subject to the 30% branch profits tax on such a distribution. Except as described below with respect to regularly traded stock, withholding is required at a rate of 21% of any distribution that we could designate as a capital gain dividend. A non-U.S. holder may receive a credit against its tax liability for the amount we withhold. Any distribution with respect to any class of stock which is regularly traded on an established securities market located in the United States, such as our stock, will not be treated as gain recognized from the sale or exchange of a United States real property interest if the non-U.S. holder did not own more than 10% of such class of stock at any time during the taxable year within which the distribution is received. The distribution will be treated as an ordinary dividend to the non-U.S. holder and taxed as an ordinary dividend that is not a capital gain. A non-U.S. holder is not required to file a U.S. federal income tax return by reason of receiving such a distribution, and the branch profits tax no longer applies to such a distribution. However, the distribution will be subject to U.S. federal income tax withholding as an ordinary dividend as described above.

A non-U.S. holder generally will not incur tax under FIRPTA with respect to gain realized upon a disposition of our stock as long as we are a “domestically-controlled REIT.” A domestically controlled REIT is a REIT in which, at all times during a specified testing period, less than 50% in value of its shares are held directly or indirectly by non-U.S. holders. We cannot assure you that that test will be met. However, a non-U.S. holder that owned, actually or constructively, 10% or less of our stock at all times during a specified testing period will not incur tax under FIRPTA with respect to any such gain if the stock is “regularly traded” on an established securities market. We believe our common stock and Series C Preferred Stock are each treated as regularly traded on an established securities market, although no assurances can be provided in this regard. To the extent that our stock is regularly traded on an established securities market, a non-U.S. holder will not incur tax under FIRPTA unless it owns more than 10% of our stock. If the gain on the sale of the stock were taxed under FIRPTA, a non-U.S. holder would be taxed in the same manner as U.S. holders with respect to such gain, subject to applicable alternative minimum tax and a special alternative minimum tax in the case of nonresident alien individuals. Furthermore, a non-U.S. holder generally will incur tax on gain not subject to FIRPTA if (1) the gain is effectively connected with the non-U.S. holder’s U.S. trade or business, in which case the non-U.S. holder will be subject to the same treatment as U.S. holders with respect to such gain, or (2) the non-U.S. holder is a nonresident alien individual who was present in the United States for 183 days or more during the taxable year and has a “tax home” in the United States, in which case the non-U.S. holder will incur a 30% tax on his capital gains.

In addition, amendments to FIRPTA create certain exemptions from FIRPTA and otherwise modify the application of the foregoing FIRPTA rules for particular types of non-U.S. stockholders, including “qualified shareholders,” “qualified foreign pension funds” and their wholly owned foreign subsidiaries and certain widely held, publicly traded “qualified collective investment vehicles.” Non-U.S. holders are urged to consult their own tax advisors regarding the applicability of these or any other special FIRPTA rules to their particular investment in our capital stock.

A non-U.S. holder could recognize gain or loss upon the conversion of our Series C Preferred Stock into our common stock, if our Series C Preferred Stock constituted a “United States real property interest.” However, gain would not be recognized if our common shares also constitute a United States real property interest provided certain reporting requirements are satisfied. A holder’s basis and holding period in the common stock received upon conversion generally will be the same as those of the converted Series C Preferred Stock (but the basis will be reduced by the portion of adjusted tax basis allocated to any fractional share of common stock exchanged for cash or adjusted to the extent that a non-U.S. holder’s disposition of the Series C preferred stock is treated as a disposition of a United States real property interest).

Under current Treasury regulations, information reporting and backup withholding will not generally apply to payments on our capital stock made by us or our paying agent (in its capacity as such) to a non-U.S. holder, or on payments of sales proceeds upon a disposition of Series C Preferred Stock, if such holder has provided the proper certification that it is a non-U.S. holder (generally, the appropriate IRS Form W-8BEN). Non-U.S. holders are

encouraged to consult their own tax advisors with respect to the potential for information reporting and backup withholding.

Taxable Mortgage Pools

A taxable mortgage pool is any entity (or in certain cases, a portion of an entity) other than a “real estate mortgage investment conduit” (as defined in the Code) that has the following characteristics:

- Substantially all (generally, more than 80%) of the assets of such entity consists of debt obligations and more than 50% of such debt obligations are real estate mortgages;
- Such entity issues two or more classes of debt obligations having different maturities; and
- The timing and amount of payments or projected payments on the debt obligations issued by the entity are determined in large part by the timing and amount of payments the entity receives on the debt obligations it holds as assets.

If a REIT is a taxable mortgage pool, or if a REIT owns a qualified REIT subsidiary that is a taxable mortgage pool, then a portion of the REIT’s income will be treated as excess inclusion income and a portion of the dividends the REIT pays to its shareholders will be considered to be excess inclusion income. You cannot offset excess inclusion income with NOLs or otherwise allowable deductions. Moreover, if you are a tax-exempt shareholder, such as a domestic pension fund, you must treat excess inclusion income as unrelated business taxable income. If you are not a U.S. holder, your dividend distributions may be subject to withholding tax, without regard to any exemption or reduction in rate that might otherwise apply, with respect to your share of excess inclusion income. The manner in which excess inclusion income would be allocated among shares of different classes of our stock or how such income is to be reported to shareholders is not clear under current law.

Several of our investments are contained in securitization trusts which are considered taxable mortgage pools. To the extent that these taxable mortgage pools have excess inclusion income, we will report these amounts annually.

Medicare Tax

Certain net investment income earned by U.S. holders that are U.S. citizens, resident aliens or certain estates or trusts is subject to a 3.8% Medicare tax. Net investment income includes, among other things, dividends on and capital gains from the sale or other disposition of shares of stock. Holders of shares of our capital stock should consult their tax advisors regarding the effect, if any, of this tax on their ownership and disposition of such shares.

Foreign Accounts

Under Sections 1471 through 1474 of the Code and the Treasury Regulations and administrative guidance promulgated thereunder (collectively, “FATCA”), withholding taxes may apply to certain types of payments made to “foreign financial institutions” (as defined in the Code) and certain other non-U.S. entities. A withholding tax of 30% generally may be imposed on dividends on, and gross proceeds from the sale or other disposition of, our capital stock paid to (a) a foreign financial institution unless such foreign financial institution agrees to verify, report and disclose its U.S. account holders and meets certain other specified requirements or (b) a non-financial foreign entity that is the beneficial owner of the payment unless such entity certifies that it does not have any substantial U.S. owners or furnishes identifying information regarding each substantial U.S. owner and such entity meets certain other specified requirements.

Under the applicable Treasury Regulations and administrative guidance, withholding under FATCA generally applies to dividends on our capital stock. While withholding under FATCA would have applied also to payments of gross proceeds from the sale or other disposition of our capital stock on or after January 1, 2019, proposed Treasury Regulations eliminate FATCA withholding on payments of gross proceeds entirely. Taxpayers generally may rely on these proposed Treasury Regulations until final Treasury Regulations are issued. We will not pay any additional

amounts in respect of any amounts withheld. Non-U.S. holders are encouraged to consult their tax advisors regarding the effect, if any, of the FATCA rules based on their particular circumstances.

State and Local Taxes

We and/or you may be subject to state and local tax in various states and localities, including those states and localities in which we or you transact business, own property, or reside. The state and local tax treatment in such jurisdictions may differ from the U.S. federal income tax treatment described above. Consequently, you should consult your own tax advisor regarding the effect of state and local tax laws upon an investment in our securities.

Legislative or Other Actions Affecting REITs

The rules dealing with U.S. federal income taxation, and in particular the U.S. federal income tax treatment of REITs, are constantly under review by persons involved in the legislative process and by the IRS and the U.S. Treasury Department. No assurance can be given as to whether, when, or in what form, U.S. federal income tax laws applicable to us and our shareholders may be modified or enacted, possibly with retroactive effect. Changes to the U.S. federal income tax laws and interpretations of U.S. federal income tax laws could adversely affect an investment in our shares of common stock.

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

We may sell the securities offered pursuant to this prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplements from time to time in one or more transactions through underwriters, dealers or agents, or directly, or through any combination of those methods. The applicable prospectus supplement will describe the terms of the offering that it applies to, including the names of any underwriters, dealers or agents, the purchase price for our securities, and the proceeds we expect to receive. It will also include any delayed delivery arrangements, the initial public offering price, the proceeds we expect to receive from the offering and any underwriting discounts and other items constituting underwriters' compensation, any discounts or concessions allowed or re-allowed or paid to dealers, and a list of any securities exchanges on which the securities offered may be listed.

If we use underwriters in any sale, our securities will be purchased by the underwriters or dealers for their own account and may be resold from time to time in one or more transactions, including negotiated transactions, at a fixed public offering price or at varying prices determined at the time of sale. Our securities may be offered to the public either through underwriting syndicates represented by one or more managing underwriters or directly by one or more firms acting as underwriters. The underwriters with respect to a particular underwritten offering will be named in the applicable prospectus supplement relating to that offering. If an underwriting syndicate is used, the managing underwriter or underwriters will be disclosed on the cover of the applicable prospectus supplement. Generally, the obligations of the underwriters or agents to purchase the securities that we offer will be subject to conditions precedent, and the underwriters will have to purchase all of the offered securities if any are purchased. The initial public offering price and any discounts or concessions allowed or re-allowed or paid to dealers may be changed from time to time. In no event will the maximum commission or discount to be received by any Financial Industry Regulatory Authority member or independent broker-dealer exceed 8% for the sale of the securities registered hereunder.

If we use dealers to sell our securities, we will sell our securities to the dealers as principals. The dealers may then resell our securities to the public at varying prices that they determine at the time of resale. We will disclose the names of the dealers and the terms of the transaction in the applicable prospectus supplement.

We may sell the securities through agents that we designate from time to time at fixed prices that may be changed, or at varying prices determined at the time of sale. We will name any agent involved in the offer or sale of our securities in the applicable prospectus supplement, and specify any commissions that we will pay them. Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, any agent will be acting on a best efforts basis for the period of its appointment.

We may engage in at-the-market offerings into an existing trading market in accordance with Rule 415(a)(4) of the Securities Act.

Underwriters or agents may be paid by us or by purchasers of our securities for whom they act as agents in the form of discounts, concessions or commissions. Underwriters, agents and dealers participating in the distribution of our securities may all be deemed to be underwriters, and any discounts or commissions that they receive, as well as profit they receive on the resale of our securities, may be deemed to be underwriting discounts or commissions under the Securities Act.

A prospectus supplement may indicate that we will authorize agents, underwriters or dealers to solicit from specified types of institutions offers to purchase our securities at the public offering price set forth in the prospectus supplement pursuant to delayed delivery contracts permitting payment and delivery on a specified future date. The prospectus supplement will describe conditions of any delayed delivery contracts, as well as the commission we will pay for solicitation of these contracts.

Some or all of the securities that we offer through this prospectus and accompanying prospectus supplements may be new issues of securities with no established trading market. Any underwriters to whom we sell our securities for

public offering and sale may make a market in those securities, but they will not be obligated to and they may discontinue any market making at any time without notice. Accordingly, we cannot assure you of the liquidity of, or continued trading markets for, any securities that we offer.

In order to facilitate the offering of our securities, any underwriters or agents involved in the offering may engage in transactions that stabilize, maintain or otherwise affect the price of our securities, or other securities that affect payments on our securities. These transactions may include stabilization transactions effected in accordance with Rule 104 of Regulation M promulgated by the SEC. Specifically, the underwriters or agents may overallocate in connection with the offering, creating a short position for their own account. In addition, to cover overallocations or to stabilize the price of our securities, or other securities that affect payments on our securities, the underwriters or agents may bid for and purchase the securities in the open market. In any offering of our securities through a syndicate of underwriters, the underwriting syndicate may reclaim selling concessions allowed to an underwriter or dealer for distributing our securities if the syndicate repurchases previously distributed securities in transactions to cover syndicate short positions, in stabilizing transactions or otherwise. Any of these activities may stabilize or maintain the market price of our securities above independent market levels. The underwriters or agents are not required to engage in these activities, and may end any of these activities at any time.

Agents, dealers and underwriters may be entitled to be indemnified by us against specified civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act, or to contribution with respect to payments that they may be required to make.

Any underwriters, dealers or agents that we use, as well as their affiliates, may engage in transactions with us or perform services for us in the ordinary course of business. Underwriters have from time to time in the past provided, and may from time to time in the future provide, investment banking services to us for which they have in the past received, and may in the future receive, customary fees.

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements of the company as of December 31, 2024, and 2023, and for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2024, and management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2024, incorporated by reference in this prospectus have been so incorporated in reliance on the reports of BDO USA, P.C., an independent registered public accounting firm, given on the authority of said firm as experts in auditing and accounting.

LEGAL MATTERS

The validity of the securities offered hereby and certain U.S. federal income tax matters are being passed upon for us by Mayer Brown LLP, New York, New York.

PART II
INFORMATION NOT REQUIRED IN PROSPECTUS

Item 14. Other Expenses of Issuance and Distribution.

The following table itemizes the expenses incurred by us in connection with the issuance and registration of the securities being registered hereunder. All amounts shown are estimates except the SEC registration fee.

SEC Registration Fee	(1)
FINRA Fee	(2)
Printing Expenses	(2)
Legal Fees and Expenses	(2)
Accounting Fees and Expenses	(2)
Miscellaneous Expenses	(2)
Total	(2)

(1) In accordance with Rules 456(b) and 457(r) under the Securities Act, the registrant is deferring payment of all applicable registration fees for the securities offered by this registration statement.

(2) These fees and expenses are calculated based on the number of issuances and amount of securities offered and accordingly cannot be estimated at this time.

Item 15. Indemnification of Directors and Officers.

The Virginia Stock Corporation Act and the Company's restated articles of incorporation provide for indemnification of the Company's directors and officers in a variety of circumstances, which may include liabilities under the Securities Act. The Company's restated articles of incorporation require indemnification of directors and officers with respect to certain liabilities, expenses, and other amounts imposed on them by reason of having been a director or officer, except in the case of willful misconduct or a knowing violation of criminal law. The Company also carries insurance on behalf of directors, officers, employees or agents which may cover liabilities under the Securities Act.

Under the Virginia Stock Corporation Act, a Virginia corporation may not indemnify for an adverse judgment in a suit by or in the right of the corporation or for a judgment of liability on the basis that personal benefit was improperly received, unless in either case a court orders indemnification and then only for expenses. In addition, the Virginia Stock Corporation Act permits a corporation to advance reasonable expenses to a director or officer upon the corporation's receipt of a written undertaking by the director or officer or on the director's or officer's behalf to repay any funds advanced by the corporation if it is ultimately determined that the director or officer is not entitled to indemnification.

Insofar as the foregoing provisions permit indemnification of directors, officers or persons controlling the Company for liability arising under the Securities Act, the Company has been informed that in the opinion of the SEC, this indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and is therefore unenforceable.

Item 16. Exhibits.

1.1*	Form of Underwriting Agreement
3.1	Restated Articles of Incorporation, effective May 14, 2021 (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K, filed with the SEC on May 18, 2021)
3.2	Articles of Amendment to the Restated Articles of Incorporation, effective May 18, 2023 (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3.1.1 to the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2023, filed with the SEC on July 28, 2023)
3.3	Second Articles of Amendment to the Restated Articles of Incorporation, effective May 21, 2025 (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3.1.1 to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K, filed with the SEC on May 21, 2025)
3.4	Amended and Restated Bylaws, effective May 11, 2021 (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3.2 to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K, filed with the SEC on May 12, 2021)
4.1	Specimen of Common Stock Certificate (incorporated herein by reference to Amendment No.1 to the Company's Registration Statement on Form 8-A, filed with the SEC on June 24, 2019)
4.2	Specimen of 6.900% Series C Fixed-to-Floating Rate Cumulative Redeemable Preferred Stock (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.4 to the Company's Registration Statement on Form 8-A, filed with the SEC on February 18, 2020)
4.4*	Form of Preferred Stock Certificate
4.5	Form of Senior Indenture (open ended) (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.3 to the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-3 (File No. 333-173551) filed with the SEC on April 15, 2011)
4.6	Form of Subordinated Indenture (open ended) (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.4 to the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-3 (File No. 333-173551) filed with the SEC on April 15, 2011)
4.7*	Form of Debt Security
4.8*	Form of Warrant Agreement
5.1#	Opinion of Mayer Brown LLP with respect to the legality of securities being registered
8.1#	Opinion of Mayer Brown LLP with respect to certain tax matters
23.1#	Consent of BDO USA, P.C.
23.2#	Consent of Mayer Brown LLP (included in its opinion filed as Exhibit 5.1 incorporated herein)
23.3#	Consent of Mayer Brown LLP (included in its opinion filed as Exhibit 8.1 incorporated herein)
24.1#	Powers of Attorney (included in signature pages hereto)
25.1†	Form T-1 Statement of Eligibility of the Trustee
107#	Filing Fee Table
*	To be filed by amendment or as an exhibit to a Current Report on Form 8-K and incorporated by reference herein, in each case in connection with the offering of the securities hereunder.
#	Filed herewith.
†	Where applicable, to be incorporated by reference from a subsequent filing in accordance with Section 305(b)(2) of the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended.

Item 17. Undertakings.

(a) The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes:

(1) To file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this registration statement:

- (i) To include any prospectus required by Section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act");
- (ii) To reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of the registration statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which,

individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in the registration statement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any increase or decrease in the volume of securities offered (if the total dollar value of securities offered would not exceed that which was registered) and any deviation from the low or high end of the estimated maximum offering range may be reflected in the form of prospectus filed with the Commission pursuant to Rule 424(b) if, in the aggregate, the changes in the volume and price represent no more than a 20% change in the maximum aggregate offering price set forth in the "Calculation of Filing Fee Tables" or "Calculation of Registration Fee" table, as applicable, in the effective registration statement; and

- (iii) To include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in the registration statement or any material change to such information in the registration statement;

provided, however, that paragraphs (a)(1)(i), (a)(1)(ii), and (a)(1)(iii) do not apply if the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in reports filed with or furnished to the Commission by the registrant pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, that are incorporated by reference in this registration statement or is contained in a form of prospectus filed pursuant to Rule 424(b) that is part of this registration statement.

- (2) That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial *bona fide* offering thereof.
- (3) To remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering.
- (4) [Reserved]
- (5) That, for the purpose of determining liability under the Securities Act to any purchaser:
 - (i) Each prospectus filed by the registrant pursuant to Rule 424(b)(3) shall be deemed to be part of the registration statement as of the date the filed prospectus was deemed part of and included in the registration statement; and
 - (ii) Each prospectus required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424(b)(2), (b)(5) or (b)(7) as part of a registration statement in reliance on Rule 430B relating to an offering made pursuant to Rule 415(a)(1)(i), (vii) or (x) for the purpose of providing the information required by Section 10(a) of the Securities Act shall be deemed to be part of and included in the registration statement as of the earlier of the date such form of prospectus is first used after effectiveness or the date of the first contract of sale of securities in the offering described in the prospectus. As provided in Rule 430B, for liability purposes of the issuer and any person that is at that date an underwriter, such date shall be deemed to be a new effective date of the registration statement relating to the securities in the registration statement to which the prospectus relates, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial *bona fide* offering thereof; provided, however, that no statement made in a registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement or made in a document incorporated or deemed incorporated by reference into the registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement will, as to a purchaser with a time of contract of sale prior to such effective date, supersede or modify any statement that was made in the registration statement or prospectus that was

part of the registration statement or made in any such document immediately prior to such effective date.

- (6) That, for the purpose of determining liability of the registrant under the Securities Act to any purchaser in the initial distribution of the securities, the undersigned registrant undertakes that in a primary offering of securities of the undersigned registrant pursuant to this registration statement, regardless of the underwriting method used to sell the securities to the purchaser, if the securities are offered or sold to such purchaser by means of any of the following communications, the undersigned registrant will be a seller to the purchaser and will be considered to offer or sell such securities to such purchaser:
- (i) Any preliminary prospectus or prospectus of the undersigned registrant relating to the offering required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424;
 - (ii) Any free writing prospectus relating to the offering prepared by or on behalf of the undersigned registrant or used or referred to by the undersigned registrant;
 - (iii) The portion of any other free writing prospectus relating to the offering containing material information about an undersigned registrant or its securities provided by or on behalf of the undersigned registrant; and
 - (iv) Any other communication that is an offer in the offering made by the undersigned registrant to the purchaser.
- (b) That, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act, each filing of the registrant's annual report pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (and, where applicable, each filing of an employee benefit plan's annual report pursuant to Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934) that is incorporated by reference in the registration statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial *bona fide* offering thereof.
- (c) Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the registrant pursuant to the foregoing provisions, or otherwise, the registrant has been advised that in the opinion of the Securities and Exchange Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Act and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by the registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of the registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, the registrant will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Act and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.
- (d) The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes to file an application for the purpose of determining the eligibility of the trustee to act under subsection 310 of the Trust Indenture Act in accordance with the rules and regulations prescribed by the Commission under section 305(b)(2) of the Trust Indenture Act.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, the registrant certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-3 and has duly caused this registration statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the County of Henrico, Commonwealth of Virginia, on this 28th day of July, 2025.

DYNEX CAPITAL, INC.

By: /s/ Robert S. Colligan

Name: Robert S. Colligan

Title: Chief Financial Officer and Chief Operating Officer

POWER OF ATTORNEY

Each person whose signature appears below constitutes and appoints Michael A. Angelo, Byron L. Boston, Robert S. Colligan, and Smriti L. Popenoe, and each of them, with full power to act without the others, such person's true and lawful attorneys-in-fact and agents, with full power of substitution and resubstitution, for him or her and in his or her name, place and stead, in any and all capacities, to sign this registration statement, and any and all pre-effective and post-effective amendments thereto as well as any related registration statements (or amendment thereto) filed pursuant to Rule 462(b) promulgated under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and to file the same, with exhibits and schedules thereto, and other documents in connection therewith, with the Securities and Exchange Commission, granting unto said attorneys-in-fact and agents, and each of them, full power and authority to do and perform each and every act and thing necessary or desirable to be done in and about the premises, as fully to all intents and purposes as he or she might or could do in person, hereby ratifying and confirming all that said attorneys-in-fact and agents, or any of them, or their or his substitute or substitutes, may lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

This Power of Attorney may be executed in multiple counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original, but which taken together shall constitute one instrument.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, this Registration Statement has been signed below by the following persons in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

Signature	Title	Date
<u>/s/ Byron L. Boston</u> Byron L. Boston	Co-Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board (Co-Principal Executive Officer)	<u>July 28, 2025</u>
<u>/s/ Smriti L. Popenoe</u> Smriti L. Popenoe	Co-Chief Executive Officer and President (Co-Principal Executive Officer)	<u>July 28, 2025</u>
<u>/s/ Robert S. Colligan</u> Robert S. Colligan	Chief Financial Officer and Chief Operating Officer (Principal Financial Officer)	<u>July 28, 2025</u>
<u>/s/ Jeffrey L. Childress</u> Jeffrey L. Childress	Chief Accounting Officer (Principal Accounting Officer)	<u>July 28, 2025</u>

<u>/s/ Julia L. Coronado</u> Julia L. Coronado	Lead Independent Director	<u>July 28, 2025</u>
<u>/s/ Marie A. Chandoha</u> Marie A. Chandoha	Director	<u>July 28, 2025</u>
<u>/s/ Alec I. Crawford</u> Alec I. Crawford	Director	<u>July 28, 2025</u>
<u>/s/ Andrew I. Gray</u> Andrew I. Gray	Director	<u>July 28, 2025</u>
<u>/s/ Joy D. Palmer</u> Joy D. Palmer	Director	<u>July 28, 2025</u>

Calculation of Filing Fee Table

FORM S-3

(Form Type)

DYNEX CAPITAL, INC.

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)

Table 1: Newly Registered and Carry Forward Securities

	Security Type	Security Class Title	Fee Calculation or Carry Forward Rule	Amount Registered	Proposed Maximum Offering Price Per Unit	Maximum Aggregate Offering Price	Fee Rate	Amount of Registration Fee	Carry Forward Form Type	Carry Forward File Number	Carry Forward Initial Effective Date	Filing Fee Previously Paid In Connection with Unsold Securities to be Carried Forward
Newly Registered Securities												
Fees to be Paid	Equity	Common Stock, par value \$0.01 per share	Rule 456(b) and Rule 457(r)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(2)	(2)				
Fees to be Paid	Equity	Preferred Stock, par value \$0.01 per share	Rule 456(b) and Rule 457(r)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(2)	(2)				
Fees to be Paid	Debt	Debt Securities	Rule 456(b) and Rule 457(r)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(2)	(2)				
Fees to be Paid	Other	Warrants ⁽³⁾	Rule 456(b) and Rule 457(r)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(2)	(2)				
Fees to be Paid	Other	Units	Rule 456(b) and Rule 457(r)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(2)	(2)				
Fees Previously Paid	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—				
Carry Forward Securities												
Carry Forward Securities	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total Offering Amounts						\$— (1)		\$— (2)				
Total Fees Previously Paid								—				
Total Fee Offsets								—				
Net Fee Due								\$— (2)				

- (1) An indeterminate aggregate initial offering price and number or amount of the securities is being registered as may be offered from time to time at indeterminate prices. Any of the securities may be sold separately or as units with other securities registered under this Registration Statement. The securities registered also include such indeterminate amounts and numbers of securities as may be issued upon conversion of or exchange for securities offered or sold hereunder. Pursuant to Rule 416 under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, (the "Securities Act"), this Registration Statement also covers any additional securities that may be offered or issued in connection with any stock split, stock dividend or pursuant to the anti-dilution provisions of any of the securities. Separate consideration may or may not be received for securities that are issuable upon conversion, exercise or exchange of other securities.
- (2) The Registrant is relying on Rule 456(b) and Rule 457(r) under the Securities Act to defer payment of all registration fees. In connection with the securities offered hereby, the Registrant will pay "pay-as-you-go registration fees" in accordance with Rule 456(b). The Registrant will calculate the registration fee applicable to an offer of securities pursuant to this Registration Statement based on the fee payment rate in effect on the date of such fee payment. The Registrant previously registered securities having an aggregate offering price of up to \$750,000,000.00 pursuant to a registration statement on Form S-3 (File No. 333-281180) (the "prior registration statement"), which was declared effective by the Securities and Exchange Commission on October 25, 2024. As of the date of this Registration Statement, securities having an aggregate offering price of up to \$74,441,939 remain unsold under the prior registration statement. The prior registration statement will be terminated as of the date of this Registration Statement. Pursuant to Rule 457(p), \$11,397.06 in filing fees previously paid and associated with such unsold securities (calculated at the fee rate in effect on the filing date of the prior registration statement) will be applied to the fees payable pursuant to this Registration Statement and its related prospectus supplements on a pay-as-you-go basis. The prior registration statement is terminated and the unsold securities on the prior registration statement are deemed deregistered as of the date of this Registration Statement.
- (3) The warrants represent rights to purchase other securities of the Registrant registered hereunder.



Mayer Brown LLP
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New York, New York 10020-1001
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July 28, 2025

Dynex Capital, Inc.
4991 Lake Brook Drive, Suite 100
Glen Allen, Virginia 23060

Re: Dynex Capital, Inc. – Registration Statement on Form S-3

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We have acted as counsel to Dynex Capital, Inc., a Virginia corporation (the “**Company**”), in connection with the preparation and filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “**Commission**”) under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the “**Securities Act**”), of a registration statement on Form S-3 (the “**Registration Statement**”) relating to the offering from time to time, together or separately and in one or more series (if applicable), of any or all of the following securities: (i) shares of the Company’s common stock, par value \$0.01 per share (the “**Common Stock**”); (ii) shares of the Company’s preferred stock, par value \$0.01 per share (the “**Preferred Stock**”); (iii) debt securities of the Company (the “**Debt Securities**”); (iv) warrants of the Company (the “**Warrants**”); and (v) units consisting of two or more securities of the Company described in clauses (i) through (iv) above, or any combination thereof (the “**Units**,” and together with the Common Stock, Preferred Stock, Debt Securities and Warrants, the “**Securities**”). The Securities being registered under the Registration Statement will be offered by the Company on a continuous or delayed basis pursuant to the provisions of Rule 415 under the Securities Act.

The Debt Securities are to be issued from time to time pursuant to an indenture (the “**Indenture**”) to be entered into between the Company and an institution to be identified therein, as trustee (the “**Trustee**”) in the forms filed as Exhibits 4.5 or 4.6 to the Registration Statement and as amended or supplemented from time to time in accordance with its terms.

The Warrants may be issued from time to time pursuant to one or more warrant agreements (each, a “**Warrant Agreement**”) to be entered into by the Company and one or more

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institutions, as warrant agents (each, a “**Warrant Agent**”), each to be identified in the applicable Warrant Agreement.

The Units may be issued from time to time pursuant to one or more unit agreements (each, a “**Unit Agreement**”) to be entered into by the Company and one or more institutions, as unit agents (each, a “**Unit Agent**”), each to be identified in the applicable Unit Agreement.

In connection with this opinion, we have examined such corporate records, documents, instruments, certificates of public officials and of the Company and considered such questions of law as we have deemed necessary for the purpose of rendering the opinions set forth herein. We also have examined the Registration Statement.

In such examination, we have assumed the genuineness of all signatures and the authenticity, accuracy and completeness of all items submitted to us as originals and the conformity with originals of all items submitted to us as copies.

The opinions hereinafter expressed are subject to the following qualifications and exceptions:

- (i) the effect of bankruptcy, insolvency, reorganization, arrangement, moratorium or other similar laws relating to or affecting the rights of creditors generally, including, without limitation, laws relating to fraudulent transfers or conveyances, preferences and equitable subordination;
- (ii) limitations imposed by general principles of equity upon the availability of equitable remedies or the enforcement of provisions of any Securities, and the effect of judicial decisions which have held that certain provisions are unenforceable where their enforcement would violate the implied covenant of good faith and fair dealing, or would be commercially unreasonable, or where their breach is not material; and
- (iii) our opinion is based upon current statutes, rules, regulations, cases and official interpretive opinions, and it covers certain items that are not directly or definitively addressed by such authorities.

Based on the foregoing, and subject to the further assumptions and qualifications set forth below, it is our opinion that:

1. When the Registration Statement has become effective under the Securities Act and any and all required filings relating to the Common Stock and when the necessary corporate action on the part of the Company has been taken to authorize the issuance and sale of such shares of Common Stock proposed to be sold by the Company, and when such shares of Common Stock are issued and delivered in accordance with the applicable definitive purchase, underwriting or similar agreement against payment therefor (in excess of par value thereof) or upon conversion or exercise of any security offered under the Registration Statement (the “**Offered Security**”), in accordance with the terms of such Offered Security or the instrument governing such Offered Security providing for such conversion or exercise as approved by the Board of Directors of the Company (the “**Board**”), for the consideration approved by the Board

(which consideration is not less than the par value of the Common Stock), such shares of Common Stock will be validly issued, fully-paid and non-assessable.

2. When the Registration Statement has become effective under the Securities Act and upon designation of the relative rights, preferences and limitations of any series of Preferred Stock by the Board and the proper filing with the State Corporation Commission of the Commonwealth of Virginia of Articles of Amendment and any and all required filings relating to such series of Preferred Stock, all necessary corporate action on the part of the Company will have been taken to authorize the issuance and sale of such series of Preferred Stock proposed to be sold by the Company, and when such shares of Preferred Stock are issued and delivered in accordance with the applicable definitive purchase, underwriting or similar agreement against payment therefor (in excess of par value thereof), such shares of Preferred Stock will be validly issued, fully paid and non-assessable.

3. When the Registration Statement has become effective under the Securities Act and when the terms of the Debt Securities to be issued under the applicable Indenture and their issuance and sale have been duly established in conformity with the applicable Indenture so as not to violate any applicable law or result in a default under or breach of any agreement or instrument binding upon the Company, and so as to comply with any requirement or restriction imposed by any court or governmental body having jurisdiction over the Company, and when the Debt Securities have been duly executed and authenticated in accordance with the applicable Indenture and issued and sold as contemplated in the Registration Statement, and if all the foregoing actions are taken pursuant to the authority granted in the resolutions of the Board, the Debt Securities will be valid, binding and enforceable obligations of the Company, entitled to the benefits of the applicable Indenture.

4. When the Registration Statement has become effective under the Securities Act and when the terms of the Warrant Agreements under which the Warrants of the Company are to be issued have been duly established and the Warrant Agreements have been duly executed and delivered and when the terms of such Warrants and of their issuance and sale have been duly established in conformity with the applicable Warrant Agreement and when such Warrants have been duly executed and authenticated in accordance with the applicable Warrant Agreement and issued and sold as contemplated in the Registration Statement, and if all the foregoing actions are taken pursuant to the authority granted in the resolutions of the Board and so as not to violate any applicable law or result in a default under or breach of any agreement or instrument binding upon the Company and so as to comply with any requirement or restriction imposed by any court or governmental body having jurisdiction over the Company, such Warrants will constitute valid and legally binding obligations of the Company.

5. When the Registration Statement has become effective under the Securities Act and when the terms of the Unit Agreements under which the Units of the Company are to be issued have been duly established and the Unit Agreements have been duly executed and delivered and when the terms of such Units and of their issuance and sale have been duly established in conformity with the applicable Unit Agreement and when such Units have been

duly executed and authenticated in accordance with the applicable Unit Agreement and issued and sold as contemplated in the Registration Statement, and if all the foregoing actions are taken pursuant to the authority granted in the resolutions of the Board and so as not to violate any applicable law or result in a default under or breach of any agreement or instrument binding upon the Company and so as to comply with any requirement or restriction imposed by any court or governmental body having jurisdiction over the Company, such Units will constitute valid and legally binding obligations of the Company.

In rendering the opinions expressed above, we have further assumed that: (i) the Registration Statement and any amendments thereto (including post-effective amendments) will have become effective and comply with all applicable laws; (ii) the Registration Statement will be effective and will comply with all applicable laws at the time the Securities are offered or issued as contemplated by the Registration Statement; (iii) the terms of the Securities will conform, where applicable, to the respective forms thereof filed as exhibits to the Registration Statement and the terms of all Securities will conform in all material respects to the respective descriptions thereof in the Prospectus which is part of the Registration Statement (the “**Prospectus**”); (iv) the Securities will be sold and delivered to, and paid for by, the purchasers at the price specified in, and in accordance with the terms of, an agreement or agreements duly authorized, executed and delivered by the parties thereto; and (v) certificates, if required, representing the Securities will be duly executed and delivered and, to the extent required by any applicable agreement, duly authenticated and countersigned.

It is understood that this opinion is to be used only in connection with the offer and sale of Securities while the Registration Statement is in effect.

Please note that we are opining only as to the matters expressly set forth herein, that no opinion should be inferred as to any other matter. We are opining herein as to the Virginia Stock Corporation Act as in effect on the date hereof, and we express no opinion with respect to any other laws, statutes, rules or regulations. This opinion is based upon currently existing laws, statutes, rules, regulations and judicial decisions, and we disclaim any obligation to advise you of any change in any of these sources of law or subsequent legal or factual developments which might affect any matters or opinions set forth herein.

We hereby consent to the use of this opinion as Exhibit 5.1 to the Registration Statement and to the reference to us under the caption “Legal Matters” in the prospectus included in the Registration Statement. In giving such consent, we do not hereby admit that we are acting within the category of persons whose consent is required under Section 7 of the Securities Act or the rules or regulations of the Commission thereunder.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Mayer Brown LLP

Mayer Brown LLP



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July 28, 2025

Dynex Capital, Inc.
4991 Lake Brook Drive, Ste. 100
Glen Allen, Virginia 23060

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We have acted as counsel to Dynex Capital, Inc., a Virginia corporation (the “**Company**”), in connection with the preparation and filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “**Commission**”) of a registration statement on Form S-3 (the “**Registration Statement**”), including a prospectus and all documents incorporated by reference therein (the “**Prospectus**”), relating to the offering from time to time, together or separately and in one or more series (if applicable), of any or all of the following securities: (i) shares of the Company’s common stock, par value \$0.01 per share; (ii) shares of the our preferred stock, par value \$0.01 per share; (iii) our debt securities; (iv) our warrants; and (v) units consisting of two or more securities described in clauses (i) through (iv) above, or any combination thereof. Capitalized terms used herein and not otherwise defined have the meanings set forth in the Registration Statement. As tax counsel to the Company, we have examined and relied upon originals or copies of such agreements, instruments, certificates, records and other documents and have made such examination of law as we have deemed necessary or appropriate for the purpose of this letter, including the following:

1. Copy of the Articles of Incorporation of the Company, as amended, in the form filed with the Commission.
2. Copy of the Amended and Restated Bylaws of the Company in the form filed with the Commission.
3. A certificate containing certain factual representations and covenants of the Company (the “**Officer’s Certificate**”) relating to, among other things, the past, current, and proposed operations of the Company and the entities in which it holds a direct or indirect interest.

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4. A copy of the Registration Statement.

5. Such other documentation or information provided to us by the Company, as we have deemed necessary or appropriate as a basis for our opinion set forth herein.

Although we have made such inquiries and performed such investigations as we have deemed necessary for purposes of our opinion, we have not independently verified all of the facts, representations and covenants set forth in the Officer's Certificate, the Registration Statement or in any other document.

We have assumed and relied on representations of the Company, that the facts, representations and covenants contained in the Officer's Certificate, the Registration Statement and other documents are accurate. We have assumed that such factual statements, representations and covenants are true without regard to any qualification as to knowledge or belief.

Our opinion is conditioned on, among other things, the initial and continuing accuracy of the factual information, covenants and representations set forth in the Registration Statement and the Officer's Certificate and the representations made by representatives of the Company, without regard to any qualifications therein. Any change or inaccuracy in the facts referred to, set forth or assumed herein or in the Officer's Certificate may affect our conclusions set forth herein.

Our opinion is also based on the correctness of the following assumptions: (i) the Company and each of the entities in which the Company holds a direct or indirect interest have been and will continue to be operated in accordance with the laws of the jurisdictions in which they were formed and in the manner described in the relevant organizational documents, (ii) there will be no changes in the applicable laws of the State of Virginia or of any other jurisdiction under the laws of which any such entity has been formed, and (iii) each of the written agreements to which the Company or any such entity is a party will be implemented, construed and enforced in accordance with its terms.

In rendering our opinion, we have also considered the applicable provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "**Code**"), the Treasury Regulations promulgated thereunder, judicial decisions, administrative rulings and other applicable authorities, in each case as in effect on the date hereof. The statutory provisions, regulations, decisions, rulings and other authorities on which this opinion is based are subject to change, and such changes could apply retroactively. A material change that is made after the date hereof in any of the foregoing bases for our opinion could affect our conclusions set forth herein.

In our examination, we have assumed (i) the legal capacity of all natural persons, (ii) the genuineness of all signatures, (iii) the authenticity of all documents submitted to us as originals, (iv) the conformity to original documents of all documents submitted to us as certified, conformed, or photostatic copies, and (v) the authenticity of the originals of such copies.

This opinion shall not be construed as or deemed to be a guaranty or insuring agreement. Opinions of special tax counsel represent only special tax counsel's best legal judgment and are

not binding on the Internal Revenue Service (“**IRS**”) or on any court. Accordingly, no assurance can be given that the IRS will not challenge the conclusions of the opinion set forth herein or that such a challenge would not be successful.

Based on and subject to the foregoing, we are of the opinion that:

1. Commencing with the Company’s taxable year ending on December 31, 2020, the Company has been organized and operated in conformity with the requirements for qualification and taxation as a real estate investment trust (a “**REIT**”) under the Code, and its current organization and proposed method of operation will enable it to continue to meet the requirements for qualification and taxation as a REIT under the Code for the Company’s current taxable year.
2. Although the discussion in the Prospectus under the heading “Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations” does not purport to summarize all possible U.S. federal income tax consequences of the purchase, ownership and disposition of the Company’s capital stock, such discussion, though general in nature, constitutes in all material respects a fair and accurate summary of the material U.S. federal income tax consequences of the purchase, ownership, and disposition of the Company’s capital stock, subject to the qualifications set forth therein. The U.S. federal income tax consequences of the purchase, ownership and disposition of the Company’s capital stock by an investor will depend upon that investor’s particular situation, and we express no opinion as to the completeness of the discussion in the Prospectus under the heading “Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations” as applied to any particular investor.

Other than as expressly stated above, we express no opinion on any issue relating to the Company or to any investment therein or under any other law. Furthermore, the Company’s qualification as a REIT will depend upon the Company’s meeting, in its actual operations, the applicable asset composition, source of income, stockholder diversification, distribution and other requirements of the Code and Treasury Regulations necessary for a corporation to qualify as a REIT. We will not review these operations and no assurance can be given that the actual operations of the Company and any applicable affiliates will meet these requirements or the representations made to us with respect thereto.

This opinion has been prepared for you in connection with the Prospectus. We consent to the filing of this opinion as an exhibit to the Form 8-K to be filed by the Company in connection with the filing of the Prospectus and to the reference to Mayer Brown LLP under the caption “Legal Matters” in the Prospectus. In giving this consent, we do not thereby admit that we are in the category of persons whose consent is required under Section 7 of the Securities Act or the rules and regulations of the Commission.

This opinion is expressed as of the date hereof, and we are under no obligation to supplement or revise our opinion to reflect any legal developments or factual matters arising subsequent to the date hereof, or the impact of any information, document, certificate, record,

statement, representation, covenant, or assumption relied upon herein that becomes incorrect or untrue.

Very truly yours,

/s/ **Mayer Brown LLP**

Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

We hereby consent to the incorporation by reference in the Prospectus constituting a part of this Registration Statement of our reports dated February 28, 2025, relating to the consolidated financial statements and the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting, of Dynex Capital, Inc. (the Company) appearing in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2024.

We also consent to the reference to us under the caption "Experts" in the Prospectus.

/s/ BDO USA, P.C.

Richmond, VA
July 28, 2025