

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

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

Filed by the Registrant
Check the appropriate box:

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

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

INDEPENDENCE REALTY TRUST, INC.

(Name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)

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

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

- No fee required.
- Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.
- Fee computed on table in exhibit required by Item 25(b) per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11.

NOTICE OF 2026 ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS



YOUR VOTE IS VERY IMPORTANT. WHETHER OR NOT YOU ATTEND THE ANNUAL MEETING IN PERSON, WE URGE YOU TO VOTE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO VOTE ARE CONTAINED IN THE PROXY STATEMENT.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

1. The election of nine persons to our Board of Directors, each to serve for a term expiring at the 2027 annual meeting of stockholders and until his or her successor is duly elected and qualified.
2. The ratification of the appointment of KPMG LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for calendar year 2026.
3. An advisory, non-binding resolution on our executive compensation.
4. An advisory, non-binding resolution on the frequency of future advisory votes on our executive compensation.
5. Such other business as may properly come before the annual meeting and any adjournment or postponement thereof.

By order of the Board of Directors,

Shelle Weisbaum
Secretary

March 26, 2026

Wednesday, May 13, 2026

9:00 a.m. Eastern time

*3000 Two Logan Square
Eighteenth and Arch Streets
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103*

RECORD DATE

March 16, 2026.

Only stockholders of record at the close of business on the record date are entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the annual meeting or any adjournment or postponement thereof.

HOW TO CAST YOUR VOTE



BY INTERNET

www.voteproxy.com



BY MAIL

Sign, date and mail your proxy card



IN PERSON

Vote in person at the Annual Meeting

If you are a **BENEFICIAL STOCKHOLDER** of IRT common stock, you should follow any instructions provided by your bank, broker or other nominee.

Important Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials for the Annual Meeting of Stockholders to be Held on May 13, 2026

This notice of annual meeting, proxy statement, form of proxy and our 2025 Annual Report on Form 10-K for our fiscal year ended December 31, 2025 (the "Annual Report") to stockholders are available at <http://www.astproxyportal.com/ast/18286/>.

Important Notice Regarding Internet Availability of Proxy Materials



We will send a full set of proxy materials or a Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials (the “Notice of Internet Availability”) on or about March 26, 2026, and provide access to our proxy materials over the Internet, beginning on March 26, 2026, for the holders of record and beneficial owners of our shares of common stock as of the close of business March 16, 2026 (the “Record Date”). The Notice of Internet Availability instructs you on how to access and review the Proxy Statement and our Annual Report. The Notice of Internet Availability also instructs you on how you may authorize a proxy to vote your shares over the Internet and provides instructions on how you can request a paper copy of these documents if you desire, and how you can enroll in e-delivery. If you received your annual meeting materials via email, the email contains voting instructions and links to our Annual Report and proxy statement on the Internet.

Forward-Looking Statements

This proxy statement (this "Proxy Statement") contains certain forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"), and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"). Such forward-looking statements can generally be identified by our use of forward-looking terminology such as "will," "strategy," "expects," "seeks," "believes," "potential," or other similar words that predict or indicate future events and trends and that do not report historical matters.

Our forward-looking statements are not guarantees of future performance and involve estimates, projections, forecasts and assumptions, including as to matters that are not within our control, and are subject to risks and uncertainties including, without limitation, risks and uncertainties related to changes in market demand for rental apartment homes and pricing pressures, including from competitors, that could lead to declines in occupancy and rent levels, uncertainty and volatility in capital and credit markets, including changes that reduce availability and increase costs of capital, unexpected changes in our intention or ability to repay certain debt prior to maturity, increased costs on account of inflation, increased competition in the labor market, delays in the completion of, and failure to achieve anticipated benefits of, our projects with our joint venture partners, inability to sell certain assets, including those assets designated as held for sale, within the time frames or at the pricing levels expected, failure to achieve expected benefits from the redeployment of proceeds from asset sales, inability or failure to achieve anticipated benefits from future acquisitions and dispositions, delays in stabilizing projects in lease-up, delays in completing, and cost overruns incurred in connection with, our value add initiatives and failure to achieve rent increases and occupancy levels on account of the value add initiatives, unexpected impairments or impairments in excess of our estimates, increased regulations generally and specifically on the rental housing market, including legislation that may regulate rents and fees or delay or limit our ability to evict non-paying residents, risks endemic to real estate and the real estate industry generally, the impact of potential outbreaks of infectious diseases and measures intended to prevent the spread or address the effects thereof, economic conditions, including inflation and recessionary conditions and their related impacts on the real estate industry, U.S. and global trade policies and tensions, including changes in, or the imposition of, tariffs and/or trade barriers and the economic impacts, volatility and uncertainty resulting therefrom, the impacts from a new or prolonged U.S. government shutdown, disruptions or increased costs resulting from international military conflicts or geopolitical tensions, the effects of natural and other disasters, unknown or unexpected liabilities, including the cost of legal proceedings, costs and disruptions as the result of a cybersecurity incident or other technology disruption, including but not limited to a third party's unauthorized access to our data or data of our residents, unexpected capital needs, inability to obtain appropriate insurance coverages at reasonable rates, or at all, or losses from catastrophes in excess of our insurance coverages, and share price fluctuations. Please refer to the documents filed by us with the SEC, including specifically the "Risk Factors" sections of our Annual Report, and our other filings with the SEC, which identify additional factors that could cause actual results to differ from those contained in forward-looking statements.

These forward-looking statements are based upon the beliefs and expectations of our management at the time of this proxy statement and our actual results may differ materially from the expectations, intentions, beliefs, plans or predictions of the future expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements. We undertake no obligation to update these forward-looking statements to reflect events or circumstances after the date hereof or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events, except as may be required by law.

These proxy materials are first being made available to our stockholders on or about March 26, 2026.

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INFORMATION ABOUT THE MEETING AND VOTING

What am I Voting on?

Our Board of Directors (the "Board") is soliciting your vote for:

- The election of nine persons to our Board, each to serve for a term expiring at the 2027 annual meeting of stockholders and until his or her successor is duly elected and qualified. All of the individuals nominated for election are currently serving on our Board.
- The ratification of the appointment of KPMG LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for calendar year 2026.

Our Board is also requesting you to cast an advisory, non-binding vote on each of:

- Our executive compensation.
- The frequency of future votes on our executive compensation.

If any other matter should be properly presented at the 2026 annual meeting of stockholders (the "Annual Meeting") or any adjournment or postponement of the Annual Meeting for action by the stockholders, the persons named in the proxy card will vote the proxy in accordance with their discretion on such matter.

What are the Board's Recommendations?

Our Board recommends that you vote **FOR** the election of the nine nominees identified in this Proxy Statement, with each to serve as a director for a term expiring at the 2027 annual meeting of stockholders and until his or her successor is duly elected and qualified.

Our Board recommends that you vote **FOR** the ratification of the appointment of KPMG LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for calendar year 2026.

Our Board recommends that you vote **FOR** the advisory, non-binding resolution on our executive compensation.

Our Board recommends that you vote for **EVERY YEAR** with respect to the frequency of future advisory votes on our executive compensation.

Who is Entitled to Vote?

Holders of shares of our common stock, par value \$0.01 per share, or common shares, of record as of the close of business on the Record Date are entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the Annual Meeting. Common shares may be voted only if the stockholder is present in person or is represented by proxy at the Annual Meeting. As of the Record Date, 235,647,309 common shares were issued and outstanding and entitled to vote. Each common share is entitled to one vote on each matter to be voted on at the annual meeting. Stockholders do not have cumulative voting rights.

What Constitutes a Quorum?

The holders of a majority of the outstanding common shares entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting must be present in person or by proxy to constitute a quorum. Unless a quorum is present at the Annual Meeting, no action may be taken at the Annual Meeting except the adjournment thereof to a later time. All valid proxies returned will be included in the determination of whether a quorum is present at the Annual Meeting. The shares of a stockholder whose ballot on any or all proposals is marked as "abstain" will be treated as present for quorum purposes. "Broker non-votes," as discussed below, will also be treated as present for quorum purposes.

What is a Broker Non-Vote?

A "broker non-vote" occurs when a broker or other nominee holding shares for a beneficial owner returns a properly executed proxy but does not cast a vote on a particular proposal because the broker or nominee does not have discretionary voting power with respect to that item and has not received instructions from the beneficial owner. Brokers that are member firms of the New York Stock Exchange, or NYSE, and who hold common shares in street name for customers generally may vote their customers' shares on proposals considered to be "routine" matters under the NYSE rules and may not vote their customers' shares on proposals that are not considered to be "routine" matters under the NYSE rules if the customers have not furnished voting instructions within a specified period of time prior to the Annual Meeting. Proposal One, the election of directors, is not considered to be a "routine" matter under the NYSE rules. Proposal Two, ratification of the appointment of our independent registered public accounting firm, is considered a "routine" matter under the NYSE rules. Proposal Three, an advisory non-binding resolution on our executive compensation, is not considered to be a "routine" matter under the NYSE rules. Proposal Four, an advisory, non-binding resolution on the frequency of an advisory vote on our executive compensation, is not considered to be a "routine" matter under the NYSE rules.

How are Abstentions Treated?

Abstentions are treated as present for quorum purposes but are not considered to be votes cast.

What Vote is Required to Approve Each Proposal?

- **Election of Directors.** Directors are elected by a plurality of the votes cast at the Annual Meeting. Any shares not voted (whether by abstention, broker non-vote, or otherwise) will have no impact on such vote. Shares represented by proxies marked “FOR” a specific nominee will be counted in favor of such nominee, except to the extent the proxy withholds authority to vote for a specified nominee. Shares represented by proxies marked “Abstain” or withholding authority to vote for a specified nominee will not be counted in favor of any such nominee. In the absence of specific direction, shares represented by a proxy will be voted “FOR” the election of all nominees.



- **Ratification of Appointment of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm.** Ratification of the Audit Committee’s appointment of KPMG LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for calendar year 2026 requires the affirmative vote of a majority of all votes cast on this proposal. Abstentions and broker non-votes, which are not treated as votes cast, will therefore have no effect on the results of such vote. In the absence of specific direction, shares represented by a proxy will be voted “FOR” the ratification.
- **Advisory Vote on Executive Compensation.** Approval of the advisory, non-binding resolution on our executive compensation requires the affirmative vote of a majority of all of the votes cast on this proposal. Abstentions and broker non-votes, which are not treated as votes cast, will therefore have no effect on the result of such vote.
- **Advisory Vote on Frequency of Future Advisory Votes on Executive Compensation.** The frequency of the advisory vote on our executive compensation receiving the greatest number of votes cast (every one, two or three years) will be considered the frequency recommended by stockholders. Abstentions and broker non-votes, which are not treated as votes cast, will therefore have no effect on the result of such vote.

How Do I Vote?

- **Stockholders of Record.** If you are a stockholder of record, there are several ways for you to vote your common shares at the Annual Meeting:
 - **Voting by Internet.** You may vote your common shares through the Internet by signing on to the website identified on the proxy card and following the procedures described on the website. Internet voting is available 24 hours a day, and the procedures are designed to authenticate votes cast by using a personal identification number (“PIN”) located on the proxy card. The procedures allow you to authorize a proxy to vote your common shares and to confirm that your instructions have been properly recorded. If you vote through the Internet, you should not return your proxy card.
 - **Voting by Mail.** If you choose to vote by mail, simply complete the enclosed proxy card, date and sign it, and return it in the postage-paid envelope provided. If you sign your proxy card and return it without marking any voting instructions, your common shares will be voted: (1) FOR the election of each of the nine nominees identified in this Proxy Statement, with each to serve as a director for a term expiring at the 2027 annual meeting of stockholders and until his or her successor is duly elected and qualified; (2) FOR the ratification of the appointment of KPMG LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for calendar year 2026; (3) FOR the advisory, non-binding resolution on our executive compensation; and (4) for EVERY YEAR as the frequency of future advisory votes on our executive compensation.
 - **In Person Attendance.** You may vote your common shares in person at the Annual Meeting. Even if you plan to attend the Annual Meeting in person, we recommend that you submit your proxy card or voting instructions or vote via the Internet by the applicable deadline so that your vote will be counted if you later decide not to attend the Annual Meeting. If you wish to attend the Annual Meeting and vote in person, you may contact Investor Relations at (267) 270-4815 for directions.
 - **Beneficial Owners.** If you are a stockholder whose common shares are held in “street name” (i.e., in the name of a broker or other custodian), you may vote the common shares in person at the Annual Meeting only if you obtain a legal proxy from the broker or other custodian giving you the right to vote the shares. Alternatively, you may have your common shares voted at the Annual Meeting by following the voting instructions provided to you by your broker or custodian. Although most brokers offer voting by mail, telephone and via the Internet, availability and specific procedures will depend on their voting arrangements. If you do not provide voting instructions to your broker or other custodian, your common shares are referred to as “uninstructed shares.” Under NYSE rules, your broker or other custodian does not have discretion to vote uninstructed shares on any of the Proposals other than Proposal 2, ratification of the appointment of our independent registered public accounting firm, because it is a routine matter. See “What is a Broker Non-Vote?”

How May I Revoke or Change my Vote?

You may revoke your proxy at any time before it is voted at the Annual Meeting by any of the following methods:

- Submitting a later-dated proxy by mail, or through the Internet. Any later-dated proxy must be delivered to our Secretary at the address shown on the cover page of this Proxy Statement before the closing of the vote at the Annual Meeting.
- Attending the Annual Meeting and voting in person. Your attendance at the Annual Meeting will not in and of itself revoke any previously delivered proxy. You must also vote your common shares at the Annual Meeting.

What Does it Mean if I Receive More Than One Proxy Card?

Some of your common shares may be registered differently or in more than one account. You should vote each of your accounts by Internet or mail. If you mail proxy cards, please sign, date and return each proxy card to assure that all of your common shares are voted. If you hold your common shares in registered form and wish to combine your accounts in the future, you should contact our transfer agent, Equiniti Trust Company, at helpAST@equiniti.com, phone (888) 223-9951. Combining accounts reduces excess printing and mailing costs, resulting in savings for us that benefit you as a stockholder.



What if I Receive Only One Set of Proxy Materials Although There are Multiple Stockholders at My Address?

If you and other residents at your mailing address own common shares you may have received a notice that your household will receive only one Annual Report, Proxy Statement and Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials. If you hold common shares in street name, you may have received this notice from your broker or other custodian and the notice may apply to each company in which you hold common shares through that broker or custodian. This practice of sending only one copy of proxy materials is known as “householding.” The reason we do this is to attempt to conserve resources. If you did not respond to a timely notice that you do not want to participate in householding, you were deemed to have consented to the process. If the foregoing procedures apply to you, one copy of our Annual Report, Proxy Statement and Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials has been sent to your address. You may revoke your consent to householding at any time by sending your name, the name of your brokerage firm, and your account number to Equiniti Trust Company, Household Department, 1110 Centre Pointe Curve, Suite 101, Mendota Heights, MN, 55120-4100, or by calling telephone number (888) 223-9951. The revocation of your consent to householding will be effective 30 days following its receipt. In any event, if you did not receive an individual copy of this Proxy Statement, our Annual Report and Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials, we will send a copy to you, free of charge, if you address your request to Independence Realty Trust, Inc., 1835 Market Street, Suite 2601, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103, Attention: Secretary, or by calling our Secretary at (267) 270-4820. If you are receiving multiple copies of our Annual Report, Proxy Statement and Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials, you may request householding by contacting our Secretary in the same manner.

How Can I Access the Proxy Materials Electronically?

This Proxy Statement and our Annual Report are available at the following website: <http://www.astproxyportal.com/ast/18286/>.

Will I Receive a Copy of the Annual Report?

We have furnished our Annual Report with this Proxy Statement. The Annual Report includes our audited financial statements, along with other financial information about us. Our Annual Report is not part of the proxy solicitation materials. You may obtain, free of charge, a copy of our Annual Report by: (1) accessing our Internet site at www.irtliving.com and clicking on the “Investors” link; (2) writing to our Secretary at 1835 Market Street, Suite 2601, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103; or (3) calling our Secretary at (267) 270-4820. You may also obtain a copy of our Annual Report and other periodic and current reports that we file with, or furnish to, the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”) from the SEC’s EDGAR database at www.sec.gov.

Who is Soliciting My Vote and Who Bears the Expenses of the Proxy Solicitation?

We are soliciting proxies and will bear the cost of the solicitations. Our directors, officers and regular employees may solicit proxies either personally, by letter or by telephone. We will not specifically compensate our directors, officers or employees for soliciting proxies. We expect to reimburse banks, brokers and other persons for their reasonable out-of-pocket expenses in handling proxy materials for beneficial owners of our common shares. We have retained D.F. King for a fee of \$11,500, plus reasonable out of pocket expenses, to aid in the solicitation of proxies from our stockholders.

How Do I Submit a Stockholder Proposal for Next Year’s Annual Meeting?

Stockholder proposals may be submitted for inclusion in the proxy statement for our 2027 annual meeting of stockholders in accordance with rules of the SEC. See “Stockholder Proposals and Director Nominations — Stockholder Proposals Submitted Pursuant to Rule 14a-8” later in this Proxy Statement. Any stockholder who wishes to propose any business at the 2027 annual meeting of stockholders, other than for inclusion in our proxy statement pursuant to Rule 14a-8, must provide timely notice and satisfy the other requirements in our Bylaws. As provided in our Bylaws, any notice provided by a stockholder advising that the stockholder intends to solicit proxies in support of director nominees other than our nominees must set forth the information required by SEC Rule 14a-19, the SEC’s universal proxy rules, and comply with the requirements of these rules. Proposals should be delivered or mailed to our Secretary at 1835 Market Street, Suite 2601, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103. See “Stockholder Proposals and Director Nominations — Director Nominations and Stockholder Proposals not Submitted pursuant to Rule 14a-8” later in this Proxy Statement.



PROXY SUMMARY

This summary highlights selected information contained elsewhere in this Proxy Statement. This summary does not contain all of the information that you should consider in deciding how to vote. You should read the entire Proxy Statement carefully before voting.

All references in this Proxy Statement to "IRT," "we," "us," "our," or the "Company" shall refer to Independence Realty Trust, Inc. and its subsidiaries.

VOTING AT THE 2026 ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

IRT's Annual Meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 13, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. (Eastern time) at 3000 Two Logan Square, Eighteenth and Arch Streets, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103.

Only holders of record of our common stock at the close of business on March 16, 2026 are entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the Annual Meeting and any adjournment or postponement thereof.

Our Board knows of no other business that will be presented for consideration at the Annual Meeting.

If any other matter should be properly presented at the Annual Meeting or any adjournment or postponement of the Annual Meeting for action by the stockholders, the persons named in the proxy card will vote the proxy in accordance with their discretion on such matter.

On or about March 26, 2026, we mailed a Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials to stockholders. This Proxy Statement and the form of proxy are first being furnished to stockholders on or about March 26, 2026.

VOTING MATTERS

Items of Business	Our Board's Recommendation	Page Reference (for more detail)
1 The election of nine persons to our Board, each to serve for a term expiring at the 2027 annual meeting of stockholders and until his or her successor is duly elected and qualified.	✓ FOR each nominee	<u>9</u>
2 The ratification of the appointment of KPMG LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for calendar year 2026.	✓ FOR	<u>22</u>
3 An advisory, non-binding resolution on our executive compensation.	✓ FOR	<u>45</u>
4 An advisory, non-binding resolution on the frequency of future advisory votes on our executive compensation.	✓ EVERY YEAR	<u>46</u>
<i>Stockholders will also consider any other business as may properly come before the Annual Meeting and any adjournment or postponement thereof.</i>		

2025 BUSINESS HIGHLIGHTS

IRT is a real estate investment trust ("REIT") that owns, operates, improves, manages and acquires multifamily apartment communities across non-gateway U.S. markets. As of December 31, 2025, we owned and operated 114 multifamily apartment properties (including one owned through a consolidated joint venture) that contain an aggregate of 33,462 units in the following states; Alabama, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Texas. The primary business objective of IRT is to provide attractive risk-adjusted returns through diligent portfolio management, strong operational performance, and consistent returns on capital through distributions and capital appreciation.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS:

- Net income of \$57.7 million and earnings per diluted share of \$0.24 for the year
- Produced core funds from operations* ("CFFO") per share of \$1.17 for the year
- Declared dividends per share of \$0.67 per common share
- Generated same-store net operating income* ("NOI") growth of 2.4% for the year
- Improved Net Debt-to-Adjusted EBITDA* to 5.7x at year end
- Completed 2,003 renovations in our value add initiative achieving average ROI of 15.3% during the year
- Repurchased 1.9 million shares of our common stock for approximately \$30.0 million
- 2026 and 2027 debt maturities refinanced with new unsecured term loan in February 2026

*CFFO, NOI and Net Debt-to-Adjusted EBITDA are non-GAAP financial measures. Please see "Compensation Discussion and Analysis" later in this Proxy Statement and Appendix A to this Proxy Statement for a discussion of non-GAAP financial measures and reconciliations to the most directly comparable GAAP financial measures.

In 2025, we reduced our Net Debt-to-Adjusted EBITDA to 5.7x at year end, including adjustments for the timing of acquisitions and dispositions, and we are focused on continuing to improve our leverage profile.



Our capital recycling program consists of disposing of assets in markets where we lack scale and/or markets where management believes that growth is slowing and allocating the proceeds from the dispositions into investments with higher growth potential and/or towards debt reduction.

REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS: During 2025, in connection with our capital recycling program, we sold two properties and acquired three properties, as described below.

On February 14, 2025, we sold one multifamily apartment community in Birmingham, Alabama for a gross sales price of \$111.0 million and used the proceeds to fund property acquisitions described below.

On February 27, 2025, we acquired a 280-unit multifamily apartment community in Indianapolis, Indiana for a gross purchase price of \$59.5 million. The property was built in 2008 with an average rent per unit of \$1,548 at the time of acquisition. This acquisition increased our exposure in Indianapolis from 1,979 units to 2,259 units.

On July 31, 2025, we acquired a 240-unit multifamily apartment community in Orlando, Florida for a gross purchase price of \$60.3 million. The property was built in 2024 with an average rent per unit of \$1,885 at the time of our acquisition. On August 14, 2025, we acquired a 403-unit multifamily apartment community in Orlando, Florida for a gross purchase price of \$94.8 million. The property was built in 2019 with an average rent per unit of \$1,835 at the time of our acquisition. The acquisition of these two properties increased our exposure in Orlando from 617 units to 1,260 units. We used the \$101.0 million of proceeds from sales of our common stock under our forward sale agreements to acquire these communities.

On November 13, 2025, we sold one multifamily apartment community in Louisville, Kentucky for a gross sales price of \$50.0 million. We used the sale of this property to complete a reverse 1031 exchange with the property acquired on July 31, 2025. We recognized a gain on sale of \$17.5 million during the year ended December 31, 2025.

Subsequent to year-end, on January 15, 2026, we acquired a 140-unit community in Columbus, Ohio for a gross purchase price of \$29.5 million. The acquisition increased our exposure in Columbus from 2,510 units to 2,650 units.

We advanced our value add initiative by completing 2,003 unit renovations in 2025 while achieving returns on investment consistent with those historically achieved by our Value Add Initiative.

VALUE ADD INITIATIVE: Our Value Add Initiative, comprised of renovations and upgrades at selected communities (18,789 units across 61 properties as of December 31, 2025) to drive increased rental rates, commenced in 2018. Through December 31, 2025, we renovated 11,445 of these units at an average cost per unit of \$17,372 and achieved a return on our total renovation costs for these units of 16.1% (and approximately 18.2% on the interior portion of such renovation costs).

Please see Appendix A to this Proxy Statement for definitions and explanations as to how we compute "average cost per unit" and measure our returns on renovation costs.

Our new \$350 million term loan under our Sixth Restated Credit Agreement satisfies our debt maturities through the end of 2027 and increases our number of unencumbered assets.

DEBT CAPITAL MARKETS ACTIVITY: We repaid and retired three mortgages in the aggregate amount of \$88.2 million in conjunction with property sales and regularly scheduled maturities during 2025.

On February 11, 2026, we entered into an amended and restated credit agreement that provides for a new \$350 million unsecured term loan that was used to repay our \$200 million term loan and fund mortgage maturities set for 2026. The new \$350 million term loan matures in February 2030, subject to a one-year extension option. This amended and restated credit agreement strengthened our balance sheet by increasing the capacity under our unsecured credit agreement to \$1.5 billion (with the ability to request an increase of up to \$2.0 billion) and extending our debt maturity profile.

EQUITY CAPITAL MARKETS ACTIVITY: In connection with our previously announced public offering of 11.5 million shares of commons stock, we entered into forward sale agreements with Citigroup in September 2024. Through September 30, 2025, we had physically settled an aggregate of 11.2 million shares of common stock at a weighted average price of \$19.01 per share, resulting in aggregate net proceeds to us of approximately \$212.9 million, which we used to fund acquisitions. During the fourth quarter of 2025, we net cash settled the remaining 0.3 million shares of common stock at a weighted average price of \$17.53 per share against a weighted average forward price of \$19.01 per share, resulting in net proceeds to us of approximately \$0.4 million. As of December 31, 2025, no shares of our common stock remained to be settled under the forward sale agreements.

During the first quarter of 2025, we entered into forward sales transactions under our At-the-Market program for the forward sale of approximately 2.7 million shares of our common stock. During the fourth quarter of 2025, we net cash settled all 2.7 million shares at a weighted average price of \$16.81 per share against a weighted average forward price of \$21.02 per share, resulting in net proceeds to us of approximately \$11.3 million.

In 2022, our Board authorized a stock repurchase program for the repurchase of up to \$250 million of our common stock. The amount and timing of the repurchases of common stock depends on a number of factors, including the price and availability of our shares of common stock, trading volumes and general market conditions. The stock repurchase has no time limit and may be

suspended or discontinued at any time. During the fourth quarter of 2025, we repurchased approximately 1.9 million shares of common stock under the stock repurchase program at an average price of \$16.00 per share. The total aggregate cost for the quarter was approximately \$30.0 million. As of December 31, 2025, approximately \$220.0 million in shares of our common stock remained authorized for repurchase under our stock repurchase program.

Our full year 2025 results were in line with expectations. With supply pressure receding, we expect that stable occupancy and stronger leasing rates in 2026, combined with our continued focus toward managing expenses, will position us to drive growth in same-store results in 2026.



DIRECTOR NOMINEE HIGHLIGHTS

Name	Age	Tenure (yrs)	Principal Profession	Independent	Committee Memberships ¹				
					AC	CC	NGC	FIC	RC
Scott Schaeffer*†	63	15	Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of IRT						
Ned W. Brines	64	4	Chief Investment Strategy at Arnel & Associates	✓	X	C		X	
Richard D. Gebert	68	8	Retired Audit Partner from Grant Thornton LLP	✓	C	X			
Melinda H. McClure	58	9	Managing Member and Owner of CLB Dallas and Director of Monet Bank	✓	X		C		
James J. Sebra+	50	1	President and Chief Financial Officer of IRT						
Ana Marie del Rio	71	4	Chief Legal Officer of the Steadfast Companies	✓					C
Deforest B. Soaries, Jr.**	74	15	Chief Executive Officer of Corporate Community Connections, President of DBS Solutions, LLC and Director of Onity Group, Inc.	✓		X			
Lisa Washington	58	5	Chief Legal Officer, Corporate Secretary and Senior Vice President of WSFS Financial Corporation	✓			X		X
Craig Macnab	70	2	Independent Board Member of VICI Properties Inc. and American Tower Corporation	✓				X	X

(1) As of February 3, 2026.






* Chairman of Board ** Lead Independent Director † Non-Independent Director C Chair X Member

AC: Audit Committee CC: Compensation Committee NGC: Nominating and Governance Committee (the "Nominating Committee") FIC: Finance and Investment Committee (the "Investment Committee") RC: Risk Committee



CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY & SUSTAINABILITY HIGHLIGHTS

Our mission is to provide exceptional living experiences within our multifamily apartment communities for residents and attractive returns for our stockholders. Our five core values: People, Opportunity, Integrity, Service and Excellence, which we refer to as (“POISE”), define the way we run our business every day to achieve our mission:

 <p>PEOPLE</p>	<p>Our people drive our success. We support one another and grow together.</p>
 <p>OPPORTUNITY</p>	<p>We embrace the opportunity in change and in overcoming challenges.</p>
 <p>INTEGRITY</p>	<p>We value and expect honesty and accountability from ourselves and one another.</p>
 <p>SERVICE</p>	<p>We are committed to serving our residents, our local communities, and protecting our environment.</p>
 <p>EXCELLENCE</p>	<p>We deliver outstanding results and work to continuously improve our performance.</p>

In 2025, we published our most recent Corporate Sustainability Report, which can be found on our website under the “Investors” tab. We believe that operating multifamily real estate communities can be conducted with a conscious regard for the environment and wider society, while also benefiting our business success and long-term value creation for our residents, associates and investors. Our five core values are integrated into each of the four pillars of our approach to sustainability, which are “GEARed” to help us achieve our mission statement:

Governance —We conduct our business in accordance with the highest standards of ethical conduct and regulatory compliance.

Environmental —We seek to lessen our environmental impact and strengthen our resilience to climate risks. We are committed to sustainable practices at the corporate and community levels.

Associates —We believe that fostering a workplace built on our core values is vital to our associates and our long-term success.

Residents —We are dedicated to pursuing excellence, providing our residents with an exceptional living experience and delivering superior customer service — all in an effort to make residents feel “at home”.



GOVERNANCE HIGHLIGHTS

- 7 of 9 Director Nominees are Independent
 - Annual Election of Directors
 - Lead Independent Director
 - Independent Audit, Compensation, Nominating, and Investment Committees
 - Regular Executive Sessions of Independent Directors
 - Risk Oversight by Board and Committees
 - Authority for Board to Retain Outside Advisors
 - Annual Board Self-Assessment Process
 - Ongoing Board Refreshment Process
 - Mandatory Retirement Age for Directors
 - Limitation of Service on other Boards
 - Regular Succession Planning
 - Commitment to Inclusion
 - Active Stockholder Engagement
 - No Stockholder Rights Plan
 - Internal Disclosure Committee for Financial Reporting
 - Share Ownership Guidelines for Directors and Executive Officers
 - Prohibition against Hedging or Pledging of Company common shares
 - Stockholder Ability to Amend Bylaws
 - Executive Compensation driven by Objective Pay for Performance Philosophy
 - Opted out of the Maryland Unsolicited Takeovers Act (“MUTA”)
-

ENVIRONMENTAL & SOCIAL COMMITMENTS

We believe that operating multifamily real estate can be conducted with a conscious regard for the environment and wider society while mutually benefiting our residents, investors, associates, and the communities we serve. We seek to adopt policies and enact practices which are sustainable and socially responsible. The following are initiatives we have undertaken which serve to reduce our impact on the environment and increase our contribution to society:

PROTECTING OUR EARTH: *ENERGY BENCHMARKING* by using *ENERGY STAR* Portfolio Manager to monitor and benchmark energy usage in our common and resident spaces in some cities to identify communities that may be candidates for the energy audit program.

REDUCE CONSUMPTION by implementing a paperless leasing program and electric hand dryer program and utilizing programmable thermostats at our leasing offices and by maintaining the majority of our corporate office locations in LEED and Energy Certified buildings.

CONSERVE WATER by upgrading plumbing fixtures, retrofitting communities with low-flow toilets, showerheads, or aerators, identifying increased water usage to alert community managers, identifying leaks, and planting native landscape where possible to reduce watering needs and irrigation.

ENERGY MANAGEMENT through the implementation of LED lighting retrofits at 85% of our communities, the addition of EV charging stations and the replacement of outdated appliances with more energy efficient models.

SUPPORT CARBON REDUCTION through a partnership with One Tree Planted to support reforestation projects in the U.S. Since the inception of the IRTree Project in April 2020, we have successfully planted over 43,000 trees, one for each new move-in, across multiple regions of the United States including Apalachicola and Myakka State Forests in Florida and Texas, respectively.

SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITIES: *INVESTING IN BROADER SOCIETY* by partnering with non-profit and community organizations to support people facing homelessness, underserved youth, and financial literacy.

FIGHT HOMELESSNESS by partnering with Entryway to employ and provide discounted housing to qualified individuals experiencing situational homelessness.

ENCOURAGE ETHICAL CONDUCT by conducting our business in accordance with the highest standards of ethics and compliance. We maintain a Code of Ethics, a Vendor Code of Conduct and a Whistleblower Policy. In addition, we maintain an ethics hotline hosted by an independent, professional reporting service retained by us to assist with receiving reports of compliance concerns and suspected violations, and it is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENTS

We are committed to understanding the priorities and perspectives of all of our stakeholders and operating our business in a manner which aligns with their interests. The following initiatives are core components of our corporate social responsibility strategy which we believe support our stakeholders:

CARING FOR OUR ASSOCIATES: *ENHANCE ENGAGEMENT* through training, appreciation initiatives and associate committees.

PROMOTE PAY EQUITY through fair, equal and non-discriminatory compensation practices.

EDUCATE ASSOCIATES by providing robust training and financial assistance for certifications and continued education.

SURVEY ASSOCIATES to identify employee needs and implement changes to foster a positive work environment.

SUPPORT ASSOCIATES with comprehensive benefits packages including medical, vision, dental, telemed and 401(k) and paid time off.

REWARD ASSOCIATES with incentive pay and an equity compensation program.

SERVING OUR RESIDENTS: *SURVEY OUR RESIDENTS* regularly and tie feedback to compensation for our property management teams.

- ☑ *UPGRADE PROPERTIES* with new, desirable amenities to enhance the resident living experience.
- ☑ *ENGAGE WITH OUR RESIDENTS* through regularly hosted community events.
- ☑ *MAINTAIN APARTMENT HOMES* through robust and systematic preventative maintenance programs and with rapid responses to any service-related issue.

ENGAGING WITH OUR STOCKHOLDERS:

- ☑ *ACTIVE, YEAR-ROUND ENGAGEMENT* with our investors to share our perspective on management and solicit their feedback on ongoing Company initiatives and performance.
 - ☑ *HOST ON-SITE PROPERTY TOURS* to allow investors an up-close view of our core assets.
 - ☑ *ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE & REGULARLY PRESENT* at industry conferences.
-



PROPOSAL 1. ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

Directors

Our business and affairs are managed under the direction of the Board. Our Board currently consists of ten directors. Nine of our current directors have been nominated for election at the Annual Meeting, with each to serve for a term expiring at the next annual meeting of stockholders and until his or her successor is duly elected and qualified. One of our current directors, Stephen R. Bowie, is retiring effective upon the expiration of his term at the Annual Meeting in accordance with the mandatory retirement policy set forth in our Corporate Governance Guidelines. Our Board will be reduced to nine directors effective following the Annual Meeting.

In selecting nominees, our Board and its Nominating Committee assess the independence, character and acumen of candidates and endeavor to establish areas of core competency of the Board, including industry knowledge and experience; management, accounting and finance expertise; and demonstrated business judgment, leadership and strategic vision. Our Board values diversity of backgrounds, experience, perspectives and leadership in different fields when identifying nominees.

The Board, upon the recommendation of the Nominating Committee, has nominated each of Scott F. Schaeffer, Ned W. Brines, Richard D. Gebert, Melinda H. McClure, Ana Marie del Rio, DeForest B. Soaries, Jr., Lisa Washington, Craig Macnab and James J. Sebra for election at the Annual Meeting to serve for a term expiring at the 2027 annual meeting of stockholders and until his or her successor is duly elected and qualified. We believe that each of our director nominees has the specific qualifications, attributes, skills and experience necessary to serve as an effective director on our Board, as indicated directly below the biographical summaries of each of them.

We have no reason to believe that any of the nominees will be unable or unwilling to serve if elected. However, if any nominee should become unable for any reason or unwilling for good cause to serve, then proxies may be voted for another person nominated as a substitute by the Board, or the Board may reduce the number of directors.

The Board unanimously recommends that stockholders vote "FOR" the election of each of the nominees named in this Proposal 1 to serve as a director for a term expiring at the 2027 annual meeting of stockholders and until his or her successor is duly elected and qualified.



Board Expertise

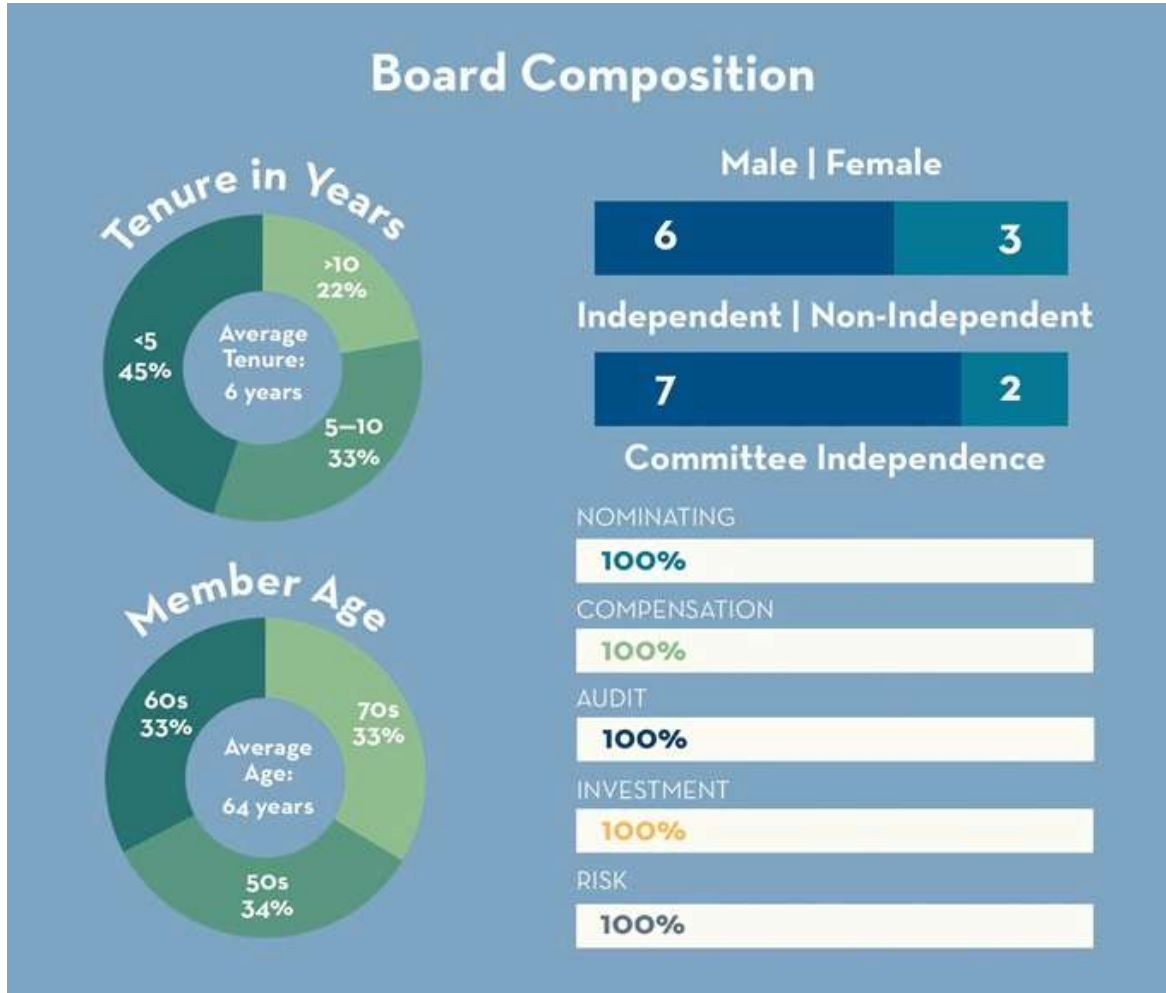
The Board believes that experience or expertise in the following areas is particularly relevant to our business model and should be possessed by one or more members of the Board. These factors, along with others, were considered in selecting the nominees for election. Collectively, our nominees standing for election possess the following skills and expertise:

Experience		Schaeffer	del Rio	Soaries	Washington	McClure	Brines	Gebert	Macnab	Sebra
Skills	BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
	BUSINESS OPERATIONS	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
	COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
	CORPORATE GOVERNANCE	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
	CUSTOMER SERVICE	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
	ENVIRONMENTAL, SUSTAINABILITY, CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY	*	*	*	*	*	*			
	FINANCE/CAPITAL ALLOCATION	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
	FINANCIAL EXPERTISE/LITERACY	*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*
	PRIVACY & CYBERSECURITY		*	*	*		*			*
	HUMAN CAPITAL MANAGEMENT	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
	MARKETING/SALES	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
	MERGERS & ACQUISITIONS & INTEGRATION	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
	RISK MANAGEMENT	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
	TALENT MANAGEMENT	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
	TECHNOLOGY/SYSTEMS			*			*			*



Board Composition

The Board believes that diversity of backgrounds, experience, perspectives and leadership in different fields, along with ongoing board refreshment, is important to ensure the broadest range of ideas and perspectives are contributed to Board discussions and to represent our associates, residents and investors. Set forth below is a snapshot of the composition of our Board immediately following the Annual Meeting if the nine individuals nominated for election at the Annual Meeting are elected.



Director Biographies

Set forth below are biographical summaries of the individuals nominated for election at the Annual Meeting.

SCOTT F. SCHAEFFER	
<p><i>Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer</i></p> <p>Director since: January 2011</p> <p>Age: 63</p>	<p>Mr. Schaeffer has served as the Chairman of our Board since January 2011, as our Chief Executive Officer since February 2013 and as our president from May 1, 2023 to September 3, 2024, a position which he previously held from February 2013 to August 2014. He served as the chief executive officer of RAIT Financial Trust, or RAIT, a real estate investment trust, from February 2009 to December 2016 and as its chair from December 2010 to October 2016. Prior to his position as the chief executive officer of RAIT, Mr. Schaeffer held various other executive positions at RAIT from September 2000. Mr. Schaeffer resigned from RAIT when we completed transactions to internalize our management and separate from RAIT in December 2016, which we refer to as our management internalization. Mr. Schaeffer served as the vice chair of the board of directors of Resource America, Inc. (NASDAQ: REXI), a specialty finance company, from 1998 to 2000, and as a director until October 2002. In addition to his roles on the board of directors, Mr. Schaeffer served in several senior management positions at Resource America from 1995 to 1998. Mr. Schaeffer also served as president of Resource Properties, Inc., a wholly owned real estate subsidiary of Resource America, from 1992 to 2000. Mr. Schaeffer holds a Bachelor of Science in Commerce from Rider University in Lawrenceville, New Jersey.</p>
<p>Key Attributes, Experiences and Skills: Mr. Schaeffer was selected to serve on our Board primarily because of his extensive experience as a chief executive officer of a public REIT and his lengthy career in real estate. Mr. Schaeffer's position as our Chief Executive Officer, with his detailed knowledge of our business, and his ability to drive and oversee our business strategy, coupled with his communications skills and ability to foster diverse perspectives, make him a highly effective executive Chairman.</p>	

NED W. BRINES	
<p><i>Independent Director</i></p> <p>Committees: Audit, Compensation (Chair), Investment</p> <p>Director since: December 2021</p> <p>Age: 64</p>	<p>Ned W. Brines has served as one of our independent directors since the consummation of the merger (the "Merger") with Steadfast Apartment REIT, Inc. ("STAR") in December 2021. Mr. Brines also served as an independent director of STAR from March 2020 to December 2021, an independent director of Steadfast Income REIT, Inc. ("SIR") from October 2012 to March 2020, an independent director of Steadfast Apartment REIT III, Inc. ("STAR III") from January 2016 to March 2020 and served as an independent trustee of Stira Alcentra Global Credit Fund from March 2017 to May 2019. Mr. Brines is presently the Chief of Investment Strategy for Arnel & Associates where he oversees the management of the assets of a private family with significant and diversified holdings. From 2012 to 2016, Mr. Brines served as the Chief Investment Officer for the Citizen Trust Wealth Management and Trust division of Citizens Business Bank, where he was responsible for the investment management discipline, process, products and related services. In addition, in September 2008, Mr. Brines founded Montelena Asset Management, a California-based registered investment adviser firm. From June 2010 to July 2012, Mr. Brines served as a portfolio manager for Andell Holdings, a private family office with significant and diversified holdings. From May 2001 to September 2008, Mr. Brines served as a Senior Vice President and senior portfolio manager with Provident Investment Counsel in Pasadena, managing its Small Cap Growth Fund with \$1.6 billion in assets under management. Mr. Brines was with Roger Engemann & Associate in Pasadena from September 1994 to March 2001 where he served as both an analyst and portfolio manager for their mid cap mutual fund and large cap private client business as the firm grew from \$3 billion to over \$19 billion in assets under management. Mr. Brines earned a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Southern California and a Bachelor of Science degree from San Diego State University. Mr. Brines also holds the Chartered Financial Analyst designation and is a member of the Global Capital Market Allocation Committee for the Milken Institute. Mr. Brines is involved in various community activities, including serving on the investment committee of City of Hope.</p>
<p>Key Attributes, Experiences and Skills: Mr. Brines was selected to serve on our Board primarily because of his extensive experience in investment management.</p>	

RICHARD D. GEBERT	
<p><i>Independent Director</i></p> <p>Committees: Audit (Chair), Compensation</p> <p>Director since: October 2017</p> <p>Age: 68</p>	<p>Mr. Gebert has served as one of our independent directors since October 2017. He has served as a board and audit committee member of The Association of Corporate Growth ("ACG Global"), a membership organization focused on middle market growth from September 2016 to October 2019. Prior to that from 1995 to July 2016, he was an audit partner of Grant Thornton LLP, a national accounting firm. In addition to serving as an audit partner with Grant Thornton LLP, Mr. Gebert held the following additional roles at Grant Thornton LLP: (i) member of the Senior Leadership Team from August 2013 to July 2016, (ii) East Region Managing Partner from 2011 to July 2016, (iii) Managing Partner of Philadelphia Office from 1999 to 2011, and (iv) member of the Partnership Board from 2003 to 2011. Before joining Grant Thornton LLP, he was employed at AG Epstein Co from 1979 to 1995, a local accounting firm that eventually merged into Grant Thornton LLP. Mr. Gebert became a partner at AG Epstein Co in 1987. While in practice, Mr. Gebert was a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants ("AICPA"), the Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants ("PICPA"), and</p>

the Georgia Society of Certified Public Accountants. Mr. Gebert was a certified public accountant, and he holds a Bachelor of Business Administration from Temple University.

Key Attributes, Experiences and Skills: Mr. Gebert was selected to serve on our Board because of his extensive experience and expertise in financial reporting, accounting and controls, his deep understanding of risk management and finance, and his involvement in executive leadership.



MELINDA H. McCLURE*Independent Director***Committees:**
Nominating (Chair), Audit**Director since:**
June 2017**Age:** 58

Ms. McClure has served as one of our independent directors since June 2017. Ms. McClure has served as an independent director of Monet Bank, a privately held bank, since February 2025. Previously, Ms. McClure was the founding director and CEO of VisionBank (in organization) and became the executive vice president and head of strategic planning for Old Dominion National Bank, a community bank headquartered in the Greater Washington region upon the two firms' combination; a position she retained until July 2021. She was an independent director of Arlington Asset Investment Corp. (NYSE: AAIC) until its sale in December 2023. Since June 2023, Ms. McClure is the managing member and owner of CLB Dallas, a private firm focused on early childhood education. She served from 2006 to 2018 as the principal of Democracy Funding LLC, a registered broker-dealer and its affiliates focused on providing capital markets and advisory services to government agencies including the United States Department of Treasury and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation as well as to private sector financial services and real estate companies. Ms. McClure served in numerous positions at FBR & Co, an investment bank, from 1991 to 2006, including as senior managing director of investment banking where she focused on providing capital markets and advisory services to middle market financial services and real estate companies. Ms. McClure served on the board of directors of the Bank of Georgetown, a privately held community bank headquartered in Washington, D.C. from its inception in 2005 to its sale to UnitedBank in 2016. While a director of the Bank of Georgetown, she served as the chairman of the strategic planning committee, and as a member of the compensation committee. She earned her Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of Richmond.

Key Attributes, Experiences and Skills: Ms. McClure was selected to serve on our Board because of her extensive leadership experience in the asset management, financial services, and real estate industries.

ANA MARIE DEL RIO*Independent Director***Committees:**
Risk (Chair)**Director since:**
December 2021**Age:** 71

Ana Marie del Rio has served as a director since the consummation of the Merger in December 2021. Ms. del Rio also served as a director of STAR from April 6, 2020 to December 2021 and served as Secretary and Compliance Officer from September 2013 through August 2020. Ms. del Rio also served as Secretary and Compliance Officer of SIR, positions she held from its inception in May 2009 through March 2020, and Secretary and Compliance Officer of STAR III, positions held from August 2015 through March 2020. Ms. del Rio also serves as the Chief Legal Officer for Steadfast Companies and manages its Legal Services, Compliance, Risk Management and Human Resources Departments. In addition, Ms. del Rio works closely with Steadfast Management Company, Inc. in the management of Steadfast Companies' residential apartment homes. Prior to joining Steadfast Companies in April 2003, Ms. del Rio was a partner in the public finance group at Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe, LLP, where she practiced from September 1993 to April 2003, representing both issuers and underwriters in financing single-family and multifamily housing and other types of public-private and redevelopment projects. From 1979 to 1993, Ms. del Rio co-owned and operated a campaign consulting and research company specializing in local campaigns and ballot measures. Ms. del Rio received a Juris Doctor from the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law, and a Master of Public Administration and a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Southern California. Ms. del Rio serves on the board of directors of Thomas House Family Shelter, a nonprofit corporation, and is a lecturer for the University of California, Irvine, School of Law, Community and Economic Development Clinic.

Key Attributes, Experiences and Skills: Ms. del Rio was selected to serve on our Board primarily because of her extensive experience and prior service in the real estate industry and in legal compliance, as well as her experience with nonprofit organizations servicing low-income communities.

DEFOREST B. SOARIES, JR., D.MIN*Lead Independent Director***Committees:**
Compensation**Director since:**
February 2011**Age:** 74**Other Public Company Boards:**
Onity Group, Inc.

Dr. Soaries has served as one of our independent directors since February 2011. Dr. Soaries served as a director for the Federal Home Loan Bank of New York from January 2009 to December 2023, a position which he also held from February to December 2003. In this capacity, he served on the affordable housing committee that reviews and approves housing development projects for government funding. He serves as the Pastor Emeritus of the First Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens in Somerset, New Jersey, where he previously served as Senior Pastor from 1990 to 2021. Since January 2015, he has served as a director on the board of directors, or the Onity board, of Onity Group, Inc. (f/k/a Ocwen Financial Corporation) (NYSE: ONIT), a publicly traded financial services holding company, and serves as a member of the compensation and nominating and governance committees of the Onity board. Since February 1997, he has served as Chief Executive Officer of Corporate Community Connections and since January 2023, as President of DBS Solutions, LLC. Dr. Soaries serves as the chairman of Executive Compensation at RWJ Barnabas Health, Inc. From 2004 to 2005, he served as the first chair of the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC), appointed by former President George W. Bush and confirmed by the U.S. Senate. From 1999 to 2002, Dr. Soaries served as Secretary of State of New Jersey. In this capacity, he served for three years on the Governor's Urban Coordinating Council that guided state policy on real estate development, most of which was apartment real estate development. Dr. Soaries was a professor at the Drew University Theological School in Madison, New Jersey from 1997 to 1999, Kean University in Union, New Jersey from 1993 to 1994 and Princeton Theological Seminary in Princeton, New Jersey from 1992 to 1993 and an assistant professor at Mercer County Community College in Trenton, New Jersey from 1989 to 1991. He has led the development, ownership, conversion and management of

several apartment projects as a community development executive. Dr. Soaries holds a Bachelor of Arts in Urban and Religious Studies from Fordham University in Bronx, New York, a Master of Divinity from Princeton and a Doctor of Ministry from United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio.

Key Attributes, Experiences and Skills: Dr. Soaries was selected to serve on our Board primarily because of his diverse background in banking, community development, apartment properties, government and as a former director of the Federal Home Loan Bank of New York.



LISA WASHINGTON	
<p><i>Independent Director</i></p> <p>Committees: Nominating, Risk</p> <p>Director since: January 2021</p> <p>Age: 58</p>	<p>Lisa Washington has served as one of our independent directors since January 2021. Ms. Washington has served as Chief Legal Officer (“CLO”) and a Senior Vice President since September 2019 and Corporate Secretary since August 2023 of WSFS Financial Corporation (NASDAQ: WSFS), the financial services holding company of Wilmington Savings Fund Society. In addition, Ms. Washington is also a Board Member and Secretary of the Rosenbach Museum & Library in Philadelphia. Since April 2025, Ms. Washington has served as a Board Member of Opera Philadelphia. Ms. Washington served as Chair of the Board of JEVS Human Services, Inc., a not-for-profit social service organization from July 2020 to June 2023 and served as a board member until June 2025. From July 2018 to September 2019, Ms. Washington served as a legal advisor and consultant through Washington Consulting, LLC to Atlas Energy Group, LLC, an energy exploration and production company. From February 2012 until July 2018, Ms. Washington served as the CLO and Secretary of Atlas Energy Group, LLC. Ms. Washington served as CLO and Secretary at the general partner of Atlas Energy, L.P., from January 2006 until February 2015. From September 2016 to July 2018, she served as the Vice President, CLO and Secretary of Titan Energy, LLC, a publicly traded exploration and production company, and before that was Vice President, CLO and Secretary of Titan’s predecessor, Atlas Resource Partners, L.P. Ms. Washington also held the same titles at the general partner of Atlas Pipeline Partners, L.P., a publicly-traded master limited partnership that provided natural gas gathering and processing services from 2005 until February 2015. Ms. Washington served as CLO and Secretary of the general partner of Atlas Growth Partners, L.P. since its inception in 2013 until July 2018. From 1999 to 2005, Ms. Washington was an attorney in the business department of the law firm of Blank Rome LLP. Ms. Washington holds a J.D. from the University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School, an M.B.A. in Public Policy and Finance from The Wharton School, and an A.B. in Comparative Literature from Princeton University.</p>
<p>Key Attributes, Experiences and Skills: Ms. Washington was selected to serve on our Board because of her expertise in corporate governance and risk management for public companies and her extensive experience and involvement in executive leadership.</p>	

CRAIG MACNAB	
<p><i>Independent Director</i></p> <p>Committees: Investment, Risk</p> <p>Director since: February 2024</p> <p>Age: 70</p> <p>Other Public Company Boards: VICI Properties Inc. and American Tower Corporation</p>	<p>Mr. Macnab has served as one of our independent directors since February 2024. Mr. Macnab has served as an independent director of VICI Properties Inc. (NYSE: VICI) since 2017, as the Chairman of its Compensation Committee since 2019, and as a member of its Audit Committee since 2020. Mr. Macnab also currently serves as an independent director of American Tower Corporation (NYSE: AMT) since 2014. Mr. Macnab held the position of Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of National Retail Properties, Inc. (NYSE: NNN), a real estate investment trust that acquires, owns, invests in and develops properties that are leased primarily to retail tenants, from 2008 (with his service as Chief Executive Officer beginning in 2004) until his retirement in April 2017. Mr. Macnab previously served as a director of Cadillac Fairview Corporation (a private company) from September 2011 through December 2022, Forest City Realty Trust (NYSE: FCEA) from 2017 to 2018, Eclipsys Corporation from 2008 to 2014, and DDR Corp. (NYSE: DDR) from 2003 to 2015. Mr. Macnab was the Chief Executive Officer and President of JDN Realty, a publicly traded real estate investment trust, from 2000 to 2003. Mr. Macnab holds a Bachelor of Commerce degree in Economics and Accounting from the University of the Witwatersrand and a Master of Business Administration from Drexel University.</p>
<p>Key Attributes, Experiences and Skills: Mr. Macnab was selected to serve on our Board primarily because of his extensive experience from service on public and private boards and his experience leading a publicly held REIT.</p>	

JAMES J. SEBRA	
<p><i>President and Chief Financial Officer</i></p> <p>Director since: May 2025</p> <p>Age: 50</p>	<p>Mr. Sebra has served as one of our directors since May 2025. Mr. Sebra has served as our President since September 2024, as our Chief Financial Officer since May 2012 and as our treasurer since January 2011. Mr. Sebra also served as the chief financial officer and treasurer of RAIT from May 2012 to March 2017 and as the senior vice president-finance and chief accounting officer of RAIT from May 2007 to May 2012. Mr. Sebra joined RAIT in connection with its acquisition of Taberna Realty Finance Trust, or Taberna, and served as Taberna’s vice president and chief accounting officer from June 2005 until its acquisition on December 11, 2006. Prior to joining Taberna, Mr. Sebra served as the controller of Brandywine Realty Trust, a publicly held REIT, from 2004 to 2005. From 1998 to 2004, Mr. Sebra worked with Arthur Andersen LLP and KPMG LLP, public accounting firms, serving a variety of publicly held and privately held real estate companies and professional service firms. Mr. Sebra is presently an Adjunct Professor of Finance at Villanova University, a position he has held since 2011. Since January 2018, Mr. Sebra has also been a board member of Elwyn, a human services nonprofit organization. Mr. Sebra holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from Saint Joseph’s University and a Master of Business Administration from Villanova University.</p>
<p>Key Attributes, Experiences and Skills: Mr. Sebra was selected to serve on our Board primarily because of his extensive experience as a chief financial officer of multiple public REITs. Mr. Sebra’s position as our President and Chief Financial Officer, with his detailed knowledge of our business, his ability</p>	

to drive and oversee our capital structure, coupled with his ability to guide our operating performance and technological innovation make him a highly effective member of our Board.

Set forth below is the biographical summary of Mr. Bowie, who will not be standing for re-election at the Annual Meeting. Mr. Bowie is retiring, effective upon the expiration of his term at the Annual Meeting in accordance with the mandatory retirement policy set forth in our Corporate Governance Guidelines.

Stephen R. Bowie has served as one of our independent directors since the consummation of the merger with STAR in December 2021. Mr. Bowie also served as an independent director of STAR from March 2020 to December 2021 and STAR III from January 2016 to March 2020. Mr. Bowie currently is a partner with Pacific Development Group, a position he has held since 1987, specializing in the development and management of neighborhood and community shopping centers throughout California, with a primary responsibility in the development of new projects. From 1979 to 1987, Mr. Bowie served as president of Bowie Development Company, Inc., a California corporation. Mr. Bowie earned a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration from the University of Southern California. Mr. Bowie is a licensed real estate broker in California, serves on multiple boards, including the Northrise University Initiative 501(c)(3), the Northrise University Board of Trustees, and Northrise University Board of Regents.



Corporate Governance Documents

Our shares of common stock are listed on the NYSE under the symbol “IRT” and we are subject to the NYSE’s listing standards. We have adopted corporate governance guidelines and charters for our Audit, Compensation and Nominating Committees in compliance with NYSE listing standards.

The following key governance documents are available on our website at www.irtliving.com:

KEY CORPORATE GOVERNANCE DOCUMENTS

- Corporate Governance Guidelines
- Audit Committee Charter
- Compensation Committee Charter
- Nominating Committee Charter
- Insider Trading Policy
- Clawback Policy
- Stock Ownership Guidelines
- Section 16 Reporting Compliance Procedures
- Code of Ethics
- Whistleblower Policy

These documents are also available free of charge by writing to Independence Realty Trust, to our Secretary at 1835 Market Street, Suite 2601, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103 or by calling our Secretary at (267) 270-4820. No information contained on the Company’s website is part of or incorporated into this Proxy Statement.

Director Independence and Independence Determinations

None of our directors qualifies as independent unless our Board affirmatively determines that the director has no direct or indirect material relationship with us. Our Corporate Governance Guidelines define independence in accordance with the independence standards established by the NYSE and require our Board to review the independence of all directors at least annually. Our Board has affirmatively determined that seven of our nine current director nominees are independent under NYSE standards, specifically: Mss. McClure, Washington and del Rio, Dr. Soaries and Messrs. Brines, Gebert, and Macnab. Mr. Bowie, who will be retiring effective upon the expiration of his term at the Annual Meeting, was also determined to be independent under NYSE standards. In making its independence determinations, our Board considered and reviewed all information known to it (including information identified through annual directors’ questionnaires).

Board Leadership Structure

Our Board’s leadership structure is designed to promote Board effectiveness and to appropriately allocate authority and responsibility between the Board and management. Our Board has no policy in principle with respect to the separation of the offices of Chair and Chief Executive Officer. Since February 2013, Mr. Schaeffer has served as both Chair and Chief Executive Officer. Our Board considered Mr. Schaeffer’s significant experience in all aspects of our business as part of its rationale for deciding to combine the roles of Chair and Chief Executive Officer. Our Board believes that our current leadership structure is appropriate at this time because the structure enhances Mr. Schaeffer’s ability to provide strong and consistent leadership and a unified voice for us and because our Board believes its governance processes, as reflected in our Corporate Governance Guidelines and Board committee charters, preserve Board independence by ensuring independent discussion among directors and independent evaluation of, and communication with, members of senior management.

To further preserve Board independence, our Corporate Governance Guidelines require the independent directors to appoint a Lead Independent Director if the role of the Chair is combined with that of the Chief Executive Officer. Our Lead Independent Director further enhances the Board’s leadership structure and effectiveness by focusing on the Board’s processes and priorities, and facilitating independent oversight of management. The Lead Independent Director promotes open dialogue among the independent and non-management directors during Board meetings, at executive sessions without the presence of the Chief Executive Officer, and between Board meetings.

Lead Independent Director

Our Corporate Governance Guidelines provide that when the positions of Chair and Chief Executive Officer are combined, the independent directors shall annually appoint an independent director to serve as Lead Independent Director for a one-year term and until his or her successor is appointed. The Lead Independent Director will preside at any meeting of the Board at which the Chair is not present, including at executive sessions for independent and non-management directors, at meetings or portions of meetings on topics where the Chair or the Board raises a possible conflict, and when requested by the Chair. The Lead Independent Director may call meetings of the independent and non-management directors or of the Board, at such time and place as he or she determines.

The Lead Independent Director will approve Board meeting agendas and schedules for each Board meeting, and may add agenda items in his or her discretion. The Lead Independent Director will have the opportunity to review, approve and/or revise Board meeting materials for distribution to and consideration by the Board; will facilitate communication between the Chair and Chief Executive Officer and the independent and non-management directors, as appropriate; will be available for consultation and communication with stockholders where appropriate; and will perform such other functions as the Board may direct.

Executive Sessions of Non-Management Directors

Our Board holds executive sessions of non-management and independent directors, on a regular basis, but not less frequently than quarterly. In addition, our Corporate Governance Guidelines provide that the independent directors will meet in executive session at least once a year. Our

Corporate Governance Guidelines provide that the Lead Independent Director shall preside at these meetings.

Communications with our Independent Directors and Board

Our Corporate Governance Guidelines provide that any interested parties desiring to communicate with our independent directors may directly contact such directors by delivering correspondence in care of our Secretary at our principal executive offices at 1835 Market Street, Suite 2601, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103. In addition, stockholders may send communications to our Board by sending them to in care of our Secretary. The Secretary will forward these communications to the Chair of the Audit Committee, who will distribute them to the directors to whom the communications are addressed or as the subject matter warrants. If a stockholder prefers to raise concerns in a confidential or anonymous manner, the concern may be sent in care of our Compliance Officer at our principal executive offices.



Limits on Service on Other Boards

In our Corporate Governance Guidelines, our Board recognizes its members benefit from service on the boards of other companies. The Board encourages this service but also believes it is critical that our directors have the opportunity to dedicate sufficient time to their service on our Board. To this end, our Corporate Governance Guidelines provide that our directors may not serve on more than two other public company boards (excluding the Board) without the Board's consent. None of our directors currently serve on more than two other public company boards.

Director Tenure

Our directors are elected annually. Our Board does not believe it should establish term limits for directors, as it believes term limits have the disadvantage of losing the contribution of directors who have been able to develop, over a period of time, increasing insight into the Company and its operations and, therefore, provide an increasing contribution to the Board as a whole. Instead the Board prefers to rely upon the evaluation procedures described below as the primary method of ensuring each director continues to act in a manner consistent with the best interests of the Company, its stockholders, and the Board.

Risk Oversight

Our Board as a whole has responsibility for risk oversight, with reviews of certain areas being conducted by the relevant Board committees that report on their deliberations to the Board. The oversight responsibility of the Board and its committees is enabled by management reporting processes that are designed to provide visibility to the Board about the anticipation, identification, assessment and management of critical risks and management's risk mitigation strategies. These areas of focus include, among other things, competitive, economic, operational, financial (accounting, credit, liquidity and tax), legal, regulatory, compliance and reputational risks. Our Board and its committees oversee risks associated with their respective principal areas of focus, as summarized below.

- Our Audit Committee oversees risks and exposures associated with financial matters, particularly financial reporting, tax (including compliance with REIT rules), accounting, disclosure, internal control over financial reporting, financial policies, investment guidelines, development and leasing, and credit and liquidity matters and supports our Risk Committee in overseeing cybersecurity risk. In addition, the Audit Committee oversees our enterprise risk management practices to ensure that we are equipped to anticipate, identify, prioritize, and manage material risks to the Company.
- Our Compensation Committee oversees risks associated with our executive compensation programs and arrangements, including incentive plans.
- Our Nominating Committee oversees risks associated with leadership, succession planning and talent development, corporate governance and sustainability matters.
- Our Finance & Investment Committee oversees our financial risk management and hedging strategies.
- Our Risk Committee assists our Board in its oversight of our enterprise risk management framework, our overall risk-taking tolerance and our management of financial, reputational and operational risks, including cybersecurity and information security risks.

Risk Oversight of Cybersecurity and Information Security

Our Board holds oversight responsibility over our strategy and risk management, including material risks related to cybersecurity threats. This oversight is executed directly by the Board and through its committees. If the nine individuals nominated for election at the Annual Meeting are elected, five members of our Board have skills and/or expertise in data privacy and cybersecurity matters. (Please refer to our Board Expertise grid.)

Within the principal functions of the Risk Committee are its responsibilities in overseeing cybersecurity risk, information security, and technology risk, as well as management's actions to identify, assess, mitigate, and remediate material issues. On a quarterly basis, our executive vice president of technology provides information to our president and chief financial officer, who reports to our chief executive officer and the Risk Committee on our cybersecurity risk capabilities and threats. Our executive vice president of technology has extensive cybersecurity knowledge and skills gained from over seven years of work experience on the security team at IRT and an extensive career in the technology and cybersecurity industries. Our executive vice president of technology heads the team responsible for implementing and maintaining cybersecurity and data protection practices at IRT and reports directly to our president and chief financial officer.



RISK OVERSIGHT RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BOARD AND ITS COMMITTEES

BOARD

- Oversees succession planning
- Assesses financial aspects of all proposed transactions above a certain dollar threshold
- Reviews our human capital management
- Oversees our capital allocation framework
- Reviews our strategic business plan annually
- Assigns responsibility for oversight of certain risks to the committees of the Board

AUDIT COMMITTEE

- Reviews and assesses financial reporting, internal control risk and disclosure controls
- Meets with and reviews reports from our independent auditor
- Oversees assessment of major risks facing IRT
- Reviews all related party transactions

COMPENSATION COMMITTEE

- Reviews and assesses our overall compensation program and its effectiveness at attracting and retaining executives, linking executive pay to performance, and aligning the interests of our executives and our stockholders
- Considers the impact of our compensation plans, policies, and practices, and the incentives they create, with respect to all employees, including executive officers, on our risk profile

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

- Develops and implements our corporate governance principals
- Reviews and refreshes compliance policies including our Code of Ethics, Whistleblower Policy and Insider Trading Policy
- Oversees our sustainability program and initiatives
- Oversees the Board's annual self-assessment process
- Maintains responsibility for Board and committee structure and refreshment

FINANCE & INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

- Oversees our financial risk management and hedging strategies
- Reviews risks related to properties recommended for acquisition

RISK COMMITTEE

- Oversees our enterprise risk management framework, our overall risk-taking tolerance and our management of various risk exposures, including operational risks, cybersecurity and information security and privacy matters

Code of Ethics

We maintain a code of ethics for our directors, officers and employees in compliance with NYSE listing standards and the definition of a “code of ethics” set forth in applicable rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC. The code of ethics reflects and reinforces our commitment to integrity in the conduct of our business. Any waiver of the code of ethics for executive officers or directors may only be made by a majority vote of the disinterested directors or by the Audit Committee, acting as the Board’s “conflicts of interest” committee; and any waiver will be disclosed promptly as required by law or stock exchange regulation, and, in addition, amendments to or waivers of our code of ethics that apply to our principal executive officer, principal financial officer, principal accounting officer, controller and persons performing similar functions and that relate to any matter enumerated in Item 406(b) of Regulation S-K promulgated by the SEC will be disclosed on our website at www.irtliving.com.

Hotline Submissions

Our Audit Committee has established procedures, set forth in our code of ethics, for the submission of complaints about our accounting or auditing matters. These procedures include a hotline for the anonymous and confidential submission of concerns regarding questionable accounting or auditing matters. Any matters reported through the hotline that involve accounting, internal controls over financial reporting or auditing matters will be reported to the Chair of our Audit Committee. Our current hotline number is (844) 348-1579.



Board and Committee Meetings; Attendance

Our Board held ten meetings during 2025. Our Board currently has a standing Audit Committee, Compensation Committee, Nominating Committee, Investment Committee and Risk Committee. Agendas, schedules, and information distributed for meetings of Board committees are the responsibility of the respective Committee Chairs. All directors may request agenda items, additional information, and/or modifications to schedules as they deem appropriate, both for the Board and the committees on which they serve.

The table below provides 2025 membership and meeting information for each of our Board committees:

Board Member	Audit	Compensation	Nominating	Finance & Investment	Risk
Scott F. Schaeffer*					
Stephen Bowie**			X	Chair	
Ned W. Brines	X	Chair		X	
Richard D. Gebert	Chair	X			
Melinda H. McClure	X		Chair		
James J. Sebra					
Ana Marie del Rio					Chair
DeForest Soaries, Jr., D.Min***		X			
Lisa Washington			X		X
Craig Macnab				X	X
Meetings held in 2025	7	6	5	10	4

*Chairman of the Board

**Mr. Bowie is retiring from our Board effective upon the expiration of his term at the Annual Meeting.

***Lead Independent Director

In 2025, all of the then-serving directors attended at least 75% of the aggregate of the total number of meetings of the Board and meetings held by committees of the Board on which he or she served. Our Corporate Governance Guidelines provide that our directors are expected to attend our Annual Meeting of stockholders. All of our then-serving directors attended our 2025 annual meeting of stockholders either in person or by video conference.

Audit Committee

Each member of our Audit Committee is independent under NYSE standards and SEC regulations and each member of our Audit Committee is financially literate, knowledgeable and qualified to review financial statements. The charter of our Audit Committee requires such independence and financial literacy as a condition to continued membership on the Audit Committee. Mr. Gebert, the Audit Committee Chair, is qualified as an “audit committee financial expert” within the meaning of SEC regulations. Our Board reached its conclusion as to the qualifications of Mr. Gebert based on his education and experience in analyzing financial statements of a variety of companies.

Our Audit Committee operates pursuant to a written charter adopted by our Board and reviewed for adequacy annually by the committee.

THE PRINCIPAL FUNCTIONS OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE RELATE TO OVERSIGHT OF:

- our accounting and the integrity of our consolidated financial statements and financial reporting process;
- our systems of disclosure controls and procedures and internal control over financial reporting;
- our compliance with financial, legal and regulatory requirements;
- the qualifications, independence and performance of our independent registered public accounting firm;
- the performance of our internal audit function;
- our compliance with our code of ethics, including the review and assessment of related party transactions and the granting of any waivers to the code of ethics; and
- risks and exposures as described above under “Risk Oversight.”

Our Audit Committee is also responsible for engaging an independent registered public accounting firm, reviewing with the independent registered public accounting firm the plans and results of the audit engagement, approving professional services provided by the independent registered public accounting firm, including all audit and non-audit services, reviewing the independence of the independent registered public accounting firm, considering the range of audit and non-audit fees and reviewing the adequacy of our internal accounting controls.

The Audit Committee also prepares the audit committee report required by SEC regulations to be included in our annual proxy statement. The Audit Committee has adopted audit and non-audit services pre-approval guidelines.

Our Board has delegated oversight of compliance with our code of ethics to the Audit Committee, including the review of related party transactions and the granting of waivers to the code of ethics. If the Audit Committee grants any waivers to the code of ethics for any of our executive officers and

directors, we will promptly disclose such waivers as required by law or NYSE regulations.



Compensation Committee

Each member of our Compensation Committee is independent under NYSE standards. The charter of our Compensation Committee requires such independence as a condition to continued membership on the Compensation Committee. Mr. Brines is the current Compensation Committee Chair. Our Compensation Committee operates pursuant to a written charter adopted by our Board and reviewed for adequacy annually by the committee.

THE PRINCIPAL FUNCTIONS OF THE COMPENSATION COMMITTEE INCLUDE:

- reviewing and approving on an annual basis the corporate goals and objectives relevant to our Chief Executive Officer's compensation, evaluating our Chief Executive Officer's performance in light of such goals and objectives and determining and approving the compensation of our Chief Executive Officer based on such evaluation;
- reviewing and approving the compensation of the other Executive Officers;
- reviewing and approving our executive compensation policies and plans;
- administering our equity-based compensation plans;
- producing a report on executive compensation to be included in our annual proxy statement; and
- reviewing and approving compensation for non-employee directors.

Our Compensation Committee retained Semler Brossy Consulting Group as its consultant for 2025. We describe the role of the Compensation Committee's consultant in the "Compensation Discussion and Analysis – Role of Compensation Consultant" later in this Proxy Statement.

Nominating Committee

Each member of our Nominating Committee is independent under NYSE standards. The charter of our Nominating Committee requires such independence as a condition to continued membership on the Nominating Committee. Ms. McClure is the Nominating Committee Chair. Our Nominating Committee operates pursuant to a written charter adopted by our Board and reviewed for adequacy annually by the committee.

THE PRINCIPAL FUNCTIONS OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE INCLUDE:

- identifying qualified candidates for election as directors and recommending to the Board nominees for election as directors at the annual meeting of stockholders or for appointment to fill vacancies;
- developing and recommending to the Board corporate governance guidelines and implementing and monitoring such guidelines;
- making recommendations to the Board on matters involving the general operation of the Board, including Board size and composition, and committee composition and structure;
- overseeing engagement efforts with stockholders and key stakeholders;
- overseeing the evaluation of the Board, its committees and management; and
- annually facilitating the assessment of the Board's performance as a whole and of the individual directors, as required by applicable law, regulations and the NYSE corporate governance listing standards.

The Nominating Committee uses a variety of methods for identifying and evaluating nominees for director. In recommending director nominees to the Board, the Nominating Committee solicits candidate recommendations from its own members, other directors and management. It also may engage the services and pay the fees of a professional search firm to assist it in identifying potential director nominees. The Nominating Committee assesses the appropriate size of the Board and whether any vacancies on the Board are expected due to retirement or otherwise. If vacancies are anticipated, or otherwise arise, the Nominating Committee considers whether to fill those vacancies and, if applicable, considers various potential director candidates. These candidates are evaluated at regular or special meetings of the Nominating Committee, and may be considered at any point during the year. The Nominating Committee seeks to make its recommendations for director nominees for each annual meeting to the Board by the end of the first quarter each year.

The Nominating Committee has not adopted specific, minimum qualifications or specific qualities or skills that must be met by a Nominating Committee-recommended nominee. The Nominating Committee seeks to ensure that the membership of the Board and each committee of the Board satisfies all relevant listing standard requirements of the NYSE and applicable laws and regulations and all requirements of our governance documents, as well as to provide directors who have a mixture of skills relevant to our business. The nature of the specific qualifications, qualities, experience or skills (including international versus domestic background, diversity, age, and legal and regulatory requirements) that the Nominating Committee may look for in any particular director nominee depends on the qualifications, qualities, experience and skills of the rest of the directors at the time of any vacancy on the Board.

However, the Board believes its effectiveness is enhanced by being comprised of individuals with diverse backgrounds, skills and experience that are relevant to the role of the Board and the needs of our business. The Nominating Committee, in consultation with the Board, regularly reviews changing needs with respect to the skills and experience of Board members.

The Nominating Committee will consider candidates for nomination as a director recommended by stockholders, directors, officers, third party search firms and other sources. In evaluating candidates, the Nominating Committee considers the attributes of the candidate and the needs of the Board, and will review all candidates in the same manner, regardless of the source of the recommendation. The Nominating Committee will consider individuals recommended by stockholders for nomination as a director in accordance with the procedures described under "Stockholder Proposals and Director Nominations."

The Nominating Committee also assists the Board in its oversight of our Corporate Responsibility and Sustainability ("CRS") progress in accordance with the Nominating Committee's charter and the Board's Corporate Governance Guidelines. A cross-functional executive management team

is responsible for implementation of our CRS strategy and providing regular updates to the Nominating Committee.

Within our enterprise risk management, we recognize that we are exposed to the impacts of climate change including, but not limited to:

- portfolio locations and risk of floods;
- loss of natural resources; and
- effects of extreme weather on our multifamily communities, our residents and the greater communities in which we exist.



Investment Committee

Stephen Bowie, who is not standing for re-election, is the Investment Committee Chair through the date of the Annual Meeting. Craig Macnab will replace Stephen Bowie as Investment Committee Chair upon the completion of the election of the new Board of Directors at the Annual Meeting. Our Investment Committee operates pursuant to a written charter adopted by our Board and reviewed for adequacy annually by the committee.

THE PRINCIPAL FUNCTIONS OF THE INVESTMENT COMMITTEE INCLUDE:

- assisting our Board in its oversight of our balance sheet and capital management strategy, including oversight of our capital structure, cost of capital, investments and returns; and
- reviewing and approving certain investments in specific real estate assets proposed by our management.

Risk Committee

Ana Marie del Rio is the Risk Committee Chair. Our Risk Committee operates pursuant to a written charter adopted by our Board and reviewed for adequacy annually by the committee.

THE PRINCIPAL FUNCTIONS OF THE RISK COMMITTEE INCLUDE:

- assisting our Board in its oversight of our enterprise risk management framework;
- assisting our Board in its oversight of our overall risk-taking tolerance; and
- assisting our Board in its oversight of our management of financial, reputational and operational risks, including cybersecurity, information security and privacy matters.

Our Risk Committee is also responsible for, on an annual basis, and in coordination with our Nominating Committee, reviewing with management our succession planning process with respect to the chief executive officer and other senior management.

Board, Committee and Director Evaluations

Recognizing the importance of a rigorous self-evaluation process to allow boards to assess their performance and identify and address any potential gaps in the boardroom, our Board conducts annual self-evaluations of the performance of the Board, its committees and individual directors. The Chair of the Nominating Committee is responsible for leading the evaluation process, which takes place in advance of the annual consideration of director nominees. This annual evaluation process provides a way to monitor progress in certain areas targeted for improvement from year to year and to identify opportunities to enhance Board and committee effectiveness. The evaluations confirm whether the current Board leadership and structure continue to be optimal for us and are an important factor taken into account by the Nominating Committee in making its recommendations to the Board regarding director nominees. As part of the evaluation process, each committee reviews its charter annually.

Stockholder Engagement

We believe that strong corporate governance should include regular engagement with our stockholders to enable us to understand and respond to stockholder concerns. Our senior management team, including our Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, our President and Chief Financial Officer, and our Investor Relations team, maintain regular contact with a broad base of investors, including through quarterly earnings calls, individual meetings and other channels for communication, to understand their concerns. During 2025, senior management held 373 meetings with institutional investors and research analysts, including, nine non-deal roadshows/property tours, and five investor conferences.

Corporate and Social Responsibility

We strive to create better places for our residents, neighbors and employees to work and live. We support our employees by investing in training, mentoring and continuing education opportunities, and we promote their health and productivity by providing them and their families with a robust benefits package. We enhance our resident living experience by improving their living environment through robust property management and on-site upgrades, and engaging with our residents through frequent satisfaction surveys and community events. We seek at all times to conduct our business and affairs in accordance with the highest standards of ethical conduct and in compliance with applicable laws, rules and regulations and we expect our partners and vendors to uphold the same standards. We support charities which aim to fight poverty and reduce homelessness.

Environmental and Sustainability Commitments

We are committed to establishing sustainable practices to reduce our impact on the environment and lower operating costs, while still delivering an exceptional living experience to residents. In order to achieve our commitment, we seek out cost-effective opportunities to reduce our consumption, conserve water and use energy efficiently.



Stock Ownership Requirements

We have adopted stock ownership requirements for our non-employee Directors and our executive officers. The ownership requirements are to be satisfied six years after their election or appointment as a director or executive officer, as applicable. The requirements provide for a minimum beneficial ownership target of the Company's common shares, as a multiple of the annual cash retainer, in the case of non-employee Directors, and base salary, in the case of executive officers, as follows:

POSITION	MINIMUM SHARE OWNERSHIP
Non-Employee Directors	5 times annual cash retainer
Chief Executive Officer	5 times annual salary
Other Executive Officers	3 times annual salary

All non-employee Directors and executive officers are in compliance with these stock ownership guidelines, as they have either met the minimum share ownership requirements or they have not yet reached the date by which such requirements must be satisfied.

Insider Trading Policy, including Prohibition on Hedging or Pledging our Securities

We have adopted an Insider Trader Policy governing the purchase, sale and/or other dispositions of our securities by directors, officers and employees, and by us, that is reasonably designed to promote compliance with insider trading laws, rules and regulations and NYSE listing standards. In addition, our Code of Ethics addresses restrictions on trading in securities and references our insider trading policy. Our Insider Trading Policy is filed with the SEC as an exhibit to our Annual Report and is available, along with our Code of Ethics, on our website, www.irtliving.com.

In addition, we do not consider it appropriate for any of our officers, directors or employees to enter into speculative transactions in our securities that are designed to hedge or offset any decrease in market value of our securities. As the result, our Insider Trading Policy prohibits officers, directors or employees from purchasing puts, calls, options or other derivative securities based on our securities. Our Insider Trading Policy also prohibits hedging or monetization transactions, such as zero-cost collars and forward sale contracts. Officers, directors and employees may also not purchase our securities on margin, borrow against any account in which our securities are held or otherwise pledge our securities.

Our Insider Trading Policy also prohibits our officers, directors and employees from holding their shares of our common stock in a margin account or otherwise pledging such shares of common stock as collateral for a loan. This prohibition maintains the alignment between Company management and stockholders, and prevents the risk of inadvertent insider trading violations.

Certain of our directors and officers have adopted, and in the future may adopt, written trading plans that meet requirements of Rule 10b5-1 of the Exchange Act ("Rule 10b5-1"). Rule 10b5-1 allows persons who may be considered insiders of an issuer to adopt pre-arranged written plans for trading specified amounts of shares. Rule 10b5-1 trading plans establish predetermined trading parameters that, among other things, do not permit the person adopting the trading plan to exercise subsequent influence over how, when or whether to effect trades. Once a Rule 10b5-1 trading plan has been properly adopted, trades may be executed pursuant to the terms of the trading plan at times when the person would otherwise be restricted from trading (e.g., during a closed trading window). Rule 10b5-1 trading plans are designed to allow individuals to purchase or sell securities in an orderly fashion for asset diversification, liquidity, tax planning, and other purposes when they might otherwise be restricted from doing so due to material, nonpublic information that they might possess at the time of the purchase or sale. Our Insider Trading Policy contains policies and procedures governing the use of Rule 10b5-1 trading plans relating to our securities. Under these policies and procedures, our directors, officers and employees may enter into a new Rule 10b5-1 trading plan or amend an existing trading plan only during an open trading window and only if they are not in possession of any material nonpublic information concerning us at the time. In addition, trades by our directors and executive officers pursuant to a new or amended 10b5-1 trading plan are subject to a "cooling off" period and may not be made until the later of (i) 90 days after the adoption or amendment of such trading plan, or (ii) two business days following the disclosure of our financial results in a Form 10-Q or Form 10-K for the completed fiscal quarter in which such trading plan was adopted or amended (with a maximum cooling off period of 120 days after adoption or amendment of such trading plan); and trades by our other employees may not be made under a Rule 10b5-1 trading plan until 30 days after adoption or amendment of such trading plan.

The adoption, amendment and termination of Rule 10b5-1 trading plans and non-Rule 10b5-1 trading arrangements by our directors and executive officers, as well as purchase and sale transactions under Rule 10b5-1 trading plans and non-Rule 10b5-1 trading arrangements by our directors and executive officers will be disclosed publicly through filings with the SEC to the extent required.

Clawback Policy

Our Compensation Committee adopted a revised Clawback Policy, effective October 2, 2023, which applies to our executive officers. This Clawback Policy was adopted in compliance with the SEC's release of final rules under Rule 10D-1 and the NYSE's adoption of new related listing standards. Under this policy, if the Company is required to prepare an accounting restatement due to material non-compliance with any financial reporting requirement under applicable securities laws, the Compensation Committee will seek to recover incentive compensation erroneously received during the three-year period preceding the earlier of (i) the date we conclude (or reasonably should have concluded) that the Company is required to prepare an accounting restatement, or (ii) the date a court, regulator or other legally authorized body directs the Company to prepare an accounting restatement. The method of recovery of erroneously awarded compensation will be determined by the Compensation Committee.

Shareholder's Rights

We do not have a stockholder rights plan, sometimes referred to as a poison pill. In addition, our Board has by revocable resolution exempted business combinations between us and any other person from the super-majority voting and other restrictions of the Maryland Business Combination Act.

In 2024, our Board approved a resolution to opt out of MUTA so that we cannot classify our Board without stockholder approval; such prohibition may not be repealed unless first approved by the affirmative vote of at least a majority of the votes cast on the matter by our stockholders entitled to vote generally in the election of directors.



PROPOSAL 2. RATIFICATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

Ratification of the Selection of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

Our Audit Committee has appointed KPMG LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2026. KPMG LLP was first engaged as our independent registered public accounting firm in 2014 and has audited our financial statements for calendar year 2014 through and including calendar year 2025.

In selecting KPMG LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2026, our Audit Committee considered a number of factors, including: (i) the professional qualifications of KPMG LLP, the lead audit partner and other key engagement team members; (ii) the performance and independence of KPMG LLP; (iii) the quality of the Audit Committee's ongoing discussions with KPMG LLP, including the professional resolution of accounting and financial reporting matters with the national office; and (iv) the appropriateness of KPMG LLP's fees in light of our size and complexity.

Although stockholder ratification of the appointment of KPMG LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm is not required by our bylaws or otherwise, our Board has decided to afford our stockholders the opportunity to express their opinions on the matter of our independent registered public accounting firm. Even if the selection is ratified, our Audit Committee in its discretion may select a different independent registered public accounting firm at any time if it determines that such a change would be in our best interests and those of our stockholders. If our stockholders do not ratify the appointment, our Audit Committee will take that fact into consideration, together with such other information as it deems relevant, in determining its next selection of an independent registered public accounting firm.

Representatives of KPMG LLP will be present at the Annual Meeting and will have the opportunity to make a statement if they desire to do so and will be available to respond to questions from stockholders.

Ratification of the appointment of KPMG LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm requires the affirmative vote of a majority of all votes cast on the matter.

The Board unanimously recommends a vote FOR Proposal 2 to ratify the appointment of KPMG LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for calendar year 2026.

Audit Fees

The following table presents the aggregate fees billed by KPMG LLP for each of the services listed below for each of our last two fiscal years.

	2025	2024
Audit Fees ⁽¹⁾	\$ 858,700	\$ 796,000
Audit-Related Fees ⁽²⁾	248,000	341,000
Tax Fees ⁽³⁾	416,829	350,000
Total	<u>\$ 1,523,529</u>	<u>\$ 1,487,000</u>

- (1) Audit fees consisted of the aggregate fees billed for professional services rendered by KPMG LLP in connection with its audit of our consolidated financial statements, audit of internal controls relating to Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, and its reviews of the unaudited consolidated interim financial statements that are normally provided in connection with statutory and regulatory filings or engagements for these fiscal years.
- (2) Audit-related fees consist of fees to review registration statements and for the issuance of comfort letters associated with the issuance of our common shares.
- (3) Tax fees consist of the aggregate fees billed for professional services rendered by KPMG LLP for tax compliance, tax advice and tax planning.

Exchange Act rules generally require any engagement by a public company of an accountant to provide audit or non-audit services to be pre-approved by the audit committee of that public company. This pre-approval requirement is waived with respect to the provision of services other than audit, review or attest services if certain conditions set forth in Rule 2-01(c)(7)(i)(C) under the Exchange Act are met. All of the audit and audit-related services described above were pre-approved by the Audit Committee and, as a consequence, such services were not provided pursuant to a waiver of the pre-approval requirement set forth in this Rule.

Audit Committee Report

The Audit Committee has reviewed and discussed our 2025 audited financial statements with our management; has discussed with KPMG LLP, our independent registered public accounting firm, the matters required to be discussed by Auditing Standard No. 1301, Communications with Audit Committees, issued by the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board, or PCAOB; and has received the written disclosures and the letter from KPMG required by applicable requirements of the PCAOB regarding KPMG LLP's communications with the Audit Committee concerning independence, and has discussed with KPMG LLP their independence relative to us. Based on the foregoing review and discussions, the Audit Committee recommended to the Board that the 2025 audited financial statements be included in our Annual Report filed with the SEC. This report is made by the undersigned members of the Audit Committee. This report shall not be deemed incorporated by reference by any general statement

incorporating this Proxy Statement into any filing under the Securities Act and the Exchange Act, except to the extent we specifically incorporate this information by reference, and shall not otherwise be deemed filed under the Securities Act or the Exchange Act.

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Richard D. Gebert, Chair
Ned W. Brines
Melinda H. McClure



**SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF
CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT**

The following table sets forth the number of shares of our common stock beneficially owned, as of March 16, 2026 (unless otherwise indicated in the footnotes), by (i) each person known to us to be the beneficial owner of more than 5% of the common stock; (ii) each of our directors and director nominees; (iii) each of our Named Executive Officers; and (iv) all directors, director nominees and executive officers as a group. All percentages have been calculated as of March 16, 2026 and are based upon 235,647,309 shares of common stock outstanding at the close of business on such date (unless otherwise indicated in the footnotes). Unless otherwise indicated in footnotes to the table, each person listed has sole voting and dispositive power with respect to the securities owned by such person.

Title of Class	Name and Address of Beneficial Owner ⁽¹⁾	Amount and Nature of Beneficial Ownership	Nature of Ownership	Percent of Class	
Common Stock	BlackRock, Inc.	33,393,323	(2)	14.17	%
Common Stock	The Vanguard Group	32,400,936	(3)	13.75	%
Common Stock	Long Pond Capital, LP	12,301,684	(4)	5.22	%
Common Stock	Directors:				
	Scott F. Schaeffer	821,094			*
	James J. Sebra	338,638			*
	Stephen R. Bowie	43,114			*
	Ned W. Brines	58,642	(5)		*
	Richard D. Gebert	38,372			*
	Melinda H. McClure	44,372			*
	Ana Marie del Rio	70,595			*
	DeForest B. Soaries, Jr	62,787			*
	Lisa Washington	24,447			*
	Craig Macnab	10,794			*
	Non-Director Executive Officers:				
	Jason R. Delozier	40,564			*
	Michele Weisbaum	6,213	(6)		
	All directors and executive officers as a group: (15 persons)	1,625,755			*

*Does not exceed 1%

- (1) Unless otherwise indicated, the address for each beneficial owner listed is IRT's corporate office address at 1835 Market Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103.
- (2) Based solely on an amendment to the Schedule 13G, or the BlackRock 13G, filed with the SEC on April 29, 2025 by BlackRock Inc., or BlackRock. The BlackRock 13G reports that BlackRock beneficially owns 33,393,323 shares of our common stock, has sole power to vote or direct to vote 32,700,248 shares of our common stock and sole power to dispose of or to direct the disposition of 33,393,323 shares of our common stock. The business address of BlackRock is 50 Hudson Yards, New York, NY 10001.
- (3) Based solely on an amendment to the Schedule 13G, or the Vanguard 13G, filed with the SEC on February 13, 2024, by The Vanguard Group. The Vanguard 13G reports that Vanguard beneficially owns 32,400,936 shares of our common stock, has sole power to vote or direct to vote no shares of our common stock, shared power to vote or direct to vote 341,894 shares of our common stock, sole power to dispose of or to direct the disposition of 31,816,575 shares of our common stock and shared power to dispose of or to direct the disposition of 584,361 shares of our common stock. The business address of The Vanguard Group is 100 Vanguard Blvd., Malvern, PA 19355.
- (4) Based solely on an amendment to the Schedule 13G, or the Long Pond Capital 13G, filed with the SEC on November 14, 2025 by Long Pond Capital, LP, or Long Pond. The Long Pond 13G reports that Long Pond beneficially owns 12,301,684 shares of our common stock, has sole power to vote or direct to vote no shares of our common stock, shared power to vote or direct to vote 12,301,684 shares of our common stock, sole power to dispose of or to direct the disposition of 0 shares of our common stock and shared power to dispose or to direct the disposition of 12,301,684 shares of our common stock. The business address of Long Pond is 527 Madison Avenue, 15th Floor, New York, NY 10022.
- (5) Includes 1,522 common shares indirectly held by Mr. Brines.
- (6) Ms. Weisbaum has notified us of her intent to retire on or about March 31, 2026. In connection with her planned retirement, we have agreed to engage Ms. Weisbaum as a consultant to assist with the orderly transition of her duties to other Company personnel.

NON-DIRECTOR EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Information is set forth below regarding the background of our executive officers who are not also directors. For Scott F. Schaeffer and James J. Sebra, who are also directors, this information can be found above under "Proposal 1. Election of Directors—Names of Directors, Principal Occupations and Other Information."

Michele Weisbaum, age 65, has served as our General Counsel since November 2023, our Executive Vice President since February 2025, and our Secretary and Senior Vice President since December 2023. Prior to joining IRT, Ms. Weisbaum served as Chief Legal Officer, Senior Vice President and Secretary for Resource REIT from October 2012 to May 2022 and in the same positions for Resource Real Estate Investment Trust from June 2009 until January 2021 and for Resource Apartment REIT III from July 2015 until January 2021. Ms. Weisbaum also previously served as Executive Vice President, Senior Vice President, Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary of Resource Real Estate LLC during the period from August 2007 through September 2020. Ms. Weisbaum also served as the Chief Legal Officer, Senior Vice President and Secretary of ACRES REIT from September 2016 to July 2020. Ms. Weisbaum practiced commercial real estate law at Ledgewood Law Firm from 1998 to 2006 as an associate and later as a partner of the firm. Prior to Ledgewood, from 1987 to 1998, Ms. Weisbaum was Vice President and Assistant General Counsel at the Philadelphia Stock Exchange. Ms. Weisbaum received a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from Boston University and a Juris Doctor degree from Temple University School of Law.

Ms. Weisbaum has informed the Company that she will retire from employment with the Company effective on or about March 31, 2026. In connection with her planned retirement, we have agreed to engage Ms. Weisbaum as a consultant to assist with the orderly transition of her duties to other Company personnel.

Jason R. Delozier, age 42, has served as our Chief Accounting Officer since February 2018 and as our Controller since June 2017. Prior to joining IRT, Mr. Delozier was the Controller at RAIT Financial Trust, a publicly traded REIT and IRT's former advisor, from September 2015 to June 2017. Previously, Mr. Delozier was Director of Financial Reporting at Ascensus, Inc., a private-equity owned financial services provider, from May 2013 to September 2015. From 2005 to 2013, Mr. Delozier worked for KPMG LLP, a national public accounting firm, serving a variety of public and private financial institution clients. Mr. Delozier is a Certified Public Accountant in Pennsylvania and holds a Bachelor of Science in Accounting from Widener University.



EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND DIRECTOR COMPENSATION

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Compensation Discussion and Analysis

Executive Summary

Our Compensation Discussion and Analysis describes our executive compensation philosophy and objectives, our executive compensation program enacted to achieve those objectives and the compensation decisions made in 2025 under the program for our named executive officers (the “Named Executive Officers”), who for 2025 were:

- Mr. Schaeffer, our Chairman and Chief Executive Officer;
- Mr. Sebra, our President, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer;
- Ms. Weisbaum, our General Counsel, Executive Vice President and Secretary⁽¹⁾; and
- Mr. Delozier, our Chief Accounting Officer.

(1) Ms. Weisbaum has informed the Company she will retire on or about March 31, 2026. Ms. Weisbaum is being engaged as a consultant through December 2026, to assist with the orderly transition of her duties.

We believe our executive compensation policies and procedures are focused on long-term performance principles and are closely aligned with stockholder interests. Our executive compensation program is also designed to attract and retain outstanding executives, to reward them for superior performance and to ensure that compensation provided to them remains competitive. We seek to align the interests of our executives and stockholders by tying compensation to both company and individual performance so that a portion of each executive’s compensation is tied directly to stockholder value.

Compensation Governance Practices

We seek to maintain pay practices that foster good governance, which are demonstrated by:

WHAT WE DO:

- ✓ Commit to oversight, evaluation and continuous improvement of our executive pay design and administration by an independent Compensation Committee consisting entirely of independent directors.
- ✓ Target executive compensation mix to favor performance-based compensation.
- ✓ Measure executive compensation levels and targets against other similarly-sized REIT companies, both in and outside the multifamily space.
- ✓ Utilize key measures tied to operational, financial and share performance.
- ✓ Benchmark compensation against our identified peer group.
- ✓ Maintain a “double trigger” requirement for vesting of outstanding equity awards upon a change of control.
- ✓ Engage an independent compensation consulting firm to advise our independent compensation committee on appropriate pay practices.
- ✓ Maintain stock ownership requirements for executive officers and non-employee directors.
- ✓ Provide for clawbacks in stock incentive and annual incentive plans.




WHAT WE DON'T DO:

- ✗ Provide excessive perks to executive officers.
- ✗ Provide for excise tax gross-ups to executives.
- ✗ Guarantee annual salary increases or bonuses.
- ✗ Pay dividends or dividend equivalents on unearned performance shares.
- ✗ Employ pay practices that incentivize excessive risk taking.
- ✗ Allow hedging or pledging of Company stock.
- ✗ Guarantee minimum cash or equity incentive payouts.
- ✗ Re-price stock options without stockholder approval.



Elements & Objectives of Our Compensation Program

We seek to attract and retain key executives, including the Named Executive Officers, by motivating them to achieve a high level of performance and rewarding them for that performance.

2025 Element of Pay (% of average Named Executive Officer target pay)	Objective	Key Performance Metrics/Details (1)
 <p>Base Salary, 21%</p>	<p>Base Salary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual fixed cash compensation meant to attract and retain executives by balancing at-risk compensation Not intended to compensate individuals for extraordinary performance or for above-average performance by IRT 	<p>Reviewed annually by the Compensation Committee with reference to the peer group as well as level of experience, job performance, and long-term tenure and potential</p>
 <p>Cash Bonus Awards, 30%</p>	<p>Annual Cash Bonus Award</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual cash compensation linked to objective and quantitative annual business results and subjective individual performance as assessed by the committee 	<p><u>Objective Performance Criteria</u> (75%)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CFFO per share (40%) Same-Store NOI Growth (20%) Operating Margin (15%) G&A % of Revenue (15%) Net-Debt-to-Adjusted EBITDA (10%) <p><u>Individual Performance Criteria</u> (25%)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based on several factors (see page 46 for detail)
 <p>Performance-Based Equity 37%</p> <p>Time-Based Equity, 12%</p>	<p>Equity-Based Awards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Performance-based long-term equity intended to encourage value creation directly aligned with the stockholder experience Time-based long-term equity intended to recruit and retain employees while aligning with the stockholder experience 	<p><u>Performance-Based Equity</u> (75%)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 70% relative 3-year total stockholder return ("TSR") and 30% Committee Discretion <p><u>Time-Based Equity</u> (25%)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 25% vests per year, subject to accelerated vesting for certain termination events

(1) See "Appendix A — Reconciliation of Non-GAAP Financial Measures to GAAP Measures."

2025 Compensation Decisions

Base Salary

The general rationale behind our base salary decisions are discussed above in "Elements and Objectives of our Compensation Policies". Specifically, the base salaries for the Named Executive Officers are intended to be competitive with base salaries for comparable positions at similarly

sized REITs, which allows us to attract and retain first-class executive talent. The 2025 and 2024 base salaries of our Named Executive Officers are set forth in the table below. Mr. Schaeffer and Ms. Weisbaum both received 7% increases to their base salaries for 2025 to better align with competitive peer levels.



Executive	2025 Base Salary % Change		2025 Base Salary	2024 Base Salary
	from 2024			
Scott F. Schaeffer	7%	\$	800,000	\$ 750,000
James J. Sebra	0%	\$	515,000	\$ 515,000
Jason R. Delozier	0%	\$	330,000	\$ 330,000
Michele Weisbaum	7%	\$	400,000	\$ 375,000

2025 Cash Bonus Awards

The Compensation Committee maintains an annual cash bonus plan to incentivize the Named Executive Officers to produce a high level of operational performance by explicitly linking the majority of their annual bonuses to certain objectives and formulaic metrics that the Compensation Committee believes are important drivers in the creation of stockholder value, while also rewarding more subjective elements of each Named Executive Officer's performance through an individual performance component. This program establishes a target cash bonus award level for each Named Executive Officer composed of two components, as described below:

- **"Objective/Formulaic Component"** – the objective/formulaic component of the cash bonus award that may be earned by each Named Executive Officer will be determined by IRT's performance relative to specified objective performance criteria established by the Compensation Committee as described below.
- **"Individual Performance Component"** – the individual performance component of the cash bonus award may be determined based on the Compensation Committee's subjective evaluation of such participant's performance.
- **Allocation of Components and Calculation of the 2025 Cash Bonus Awards** – the 2025 cash bonus awards were allocated 75% to the objective/formulaic component and 25% to the subjective component.

CASH BONUS AWARD RANGES

The individual 2025 cash bonus award ranges, as a percentage of base salary, for Threshold, Target and Maximum performance levels for the Named Executive Officers are set forth below:

Executive	2025 Base Salary	2025 Cash Bonus Ranges					
		% of Base Salary			Dollar Value		
		Threshold	Target	Max	Threshold	Target	Max
Scott F. Schaeffer	\$ 800,000	100%	179%	250%	\$ 800,000	\$ 1,432,000	\$ 2,000,000
James J. Sebra	\$ 515,000	75%	150%	225%	\$ 386,250	\$ 772,500	\$ 1,158,750
Jason R. Delozier	\$ 330,000	50%	100%	150%	\$ 165,000	\$ 330,000	\$ 495,000
Michele Weisbaum	\$ 400,000	50%	100%	150%	\$ 200,000	\$ 400,000	\$ 600,000

OBJECTIVE/FORMULAIC PERFORMANCE CRITERIA AND OUTCOMES

The objective performance measures and relative weightings established by the Compensation Committee for purposes of the 2025 cash bonus award program, as well as the actual 2025 performance outcomes for these measures, are shown below (see "Cash Bonus Outcomes" section below for resulting payouts):

Metric(1)	Weighting	Threshold	Target	Maximum	2025 Actual
CFFO per share	40%	\$ 1.16	\$ 1.18	\$ 1.19	\$ 1.17
Same-Store NOI Growth	20%	0.8%	2.1%	3.3%	2.4%
Operating Margin	15%	62.6%	63.0%	63.4%	63.6%
G&A% of Revenue	15%	3.0%	2.9%	2.8%	2.7%
Net-Debt-to-Adjusted EBITDA	10%	5.8x	5.7x	5.6x	5.7x

- (1) CFFO per share, Same-Store NOI Growth and Net-Debt-to-Adjusted EBITDA are non-GAAP measures. See "Appendix A – Reconciliation of Non-GAAP Financial Measures to GAAP Measures" for a reconciliation of each of these measures to the most directly comparable GAAP measure. Operating margin is calculated as the ratio of consolidated NOI compared to consolidated revenue in accordance with GAAP. G&A% of revenue is calculated as the ratio of consolidated G&A expense in accordance with GAAP, excluding stock compensation expense, compared to consolidated revenue in accordance with GAAP.

Metric(1)	Weighting	2025 Cash Bonus Weighting and Payout Detail				
		CEO Payout	President and CFO		General Counsel	
			Payout	Payout	Payout	CAO Payout
CFFO per share	40%	\$ 328,480	\$ 169,950	\$ 88,000	\$ 72,600	
Same-Store NOI Growth	20%	241,382	133,952	69,360	57,222	
Operating Margin	15%	225,000	130,359	67,500	55,688	
G&A% of Revenue	15%	225,000	130,359	67,500	55,688	
Net-Debt-to-Adjusted EBITDA	10%	107,400	57,938	30,000	24,750	
Totals	100%	\$ 1,127,262	\$ 622,558	\$ 322,360	\$ 265,948	

(1) See "Appendix A — Reconciliation of Non-GAAP Financial Measures to GAAP Measures."

All of these objective performance criteria are calculated in a manner consistent with how we disclose the metrics in our public reporting; provided that the Compensation Committee retains discretion to adjust the calculation of these metrics if it determines, due to unanticipated business developments, transactions or other factors affecting the calculation of such metrics, that such an adjustment would be appropriate or necessary to support the purposes of the program. Consistent with prior years, the Committee utilized an adjusted pro forma leverage ratio rather than actual leverage ratio when calculating the Net Debt-to-Adjusted EBITDA metric (defined in Appendix A). While this adjustment had no effect on the 2025 performance outcome, the Compensation Committee felt this adjustment was appropriate to align calculations with prior years, when this adjustment was made to correct inherent incongruities with the leverage ratio performance metric caused by the timing of acquisitions and dispositions throughout the calendar year. No other adjustments were made to the bonus payments for 2025.



INDIVIDUAL PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

The individual performance bonus award portion of the 2025 cash bonus award for each of the Named Executive Officers set forth below was based on the Compensation Committee's subjective evaluation of the Named Executive Officer's performance relative to achieving specified criteria established for 2025, which the Compensation Committee has determined are also important elements of each Named Executive Officer's contribution to the creation of overall stockholder value. The individual criteria on which our Named Executive Officers were evaluated are as follows:

Named Executive Officer	Individual Performance Criteria
Scott F. Schaeffer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic planning • Leadership of the company • Board relations • Executing the business plan • Communication • Succession planning
James J. Sebra	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effectiveness in oversight of the accounting, tax, and finance functions • Effectiveness in oversight of operations • Team development and succession • Strategic planning and supporting new initiatives • Investor and analyst outreach • Balance sheet management and financial flexibility • Effectiveness in oversight of technology development initiatives
Michele Weisbaum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective oversight of legal and regulatory matters (e.g. SEC filings, operational and transactional matters) • Support corporate and strategic operating initiatives • Identify and manage changing governance trends • Review and improve internal policies and procedures to manage for risk tolerance • Management of outside counsel relative to cost and effectiveness
Jason R. Delozier	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement improvements to drive efficiency and effectiveness of the accounting and reporting process • Lead and enhance ongoing training/education among corporate and property accounting teams with a focus on continuous team development • Oversee enhancements to strengthen the internal control environment • Participate in and support corporate and strategic operating initiatives • Support investor and analyst outreach

The Compensation Committee analyzed the performance of the Named Executive Officers as compared to the individual performance criteria discussed above. The Compensation Committee determined that Messrs. Sebra, Delozier and Ms. Weisbaum achieved a superior performance level with respect to the specified individual performance criteria established for 2025. As Messrs. Sebra, Delozier and Ms. Weisbaum each achieved their goals relative to their individual performance criteria, the Compensation Committee determined that the cash bonus for all three executives should be at maximum level. With respect to Mr. Schaeffer, the full Board (other than Mr. Schaeffer and Mr. Sebra) conducts a yearly evaluation of Mr. Schaeffer's performance using a 5-point scale (with 5 being the highest). For 2025, the Board assigned Mr. Schaeffer a composite score of 4.6, which supported the Committee's determination to make an award at the maximum payout level for the individual performance element of his bonus.

CASH BONUS OUTCOMES

Based on the combined objective and individual performance results discussed above, the Compensation Committee awarded the Named Executive Officers cash bonuses equivalent to the relevant percentage of base salary, based on the achievement of each performance metric relative to the target for such performance metric. The 2025 cash bonus payout for each of the Named Executive Officers was as follows:

Executive	2025 Cash Bonus Award					
	Payout (\$)					% of Target
	Target	Objective/Formulac	Individual Performance	Combined		
Scott F. Schaeffer	\$ 1,432,000	\$ 1,127,262	\$ 500,000	\$ 1,627,262		114%
James J. Sebra	\$ 772,500	\$ 622,558	\$ 289,688	\$ 912,245		118%
Jason R. Delozier	\$ 330,000	\$ 265,947	\$ 123,750	\$ 389,697		118%
Michele Weisbaum	\$ 400,000	\$ 322,360	\$ 150,000	\$ 472,360		118%



2025 Equity Awards

PERFORMANCE SHARE UNITS ("PSUs")

PSUs account for 75% of the overall target equity to ensure that a meaningful portion of the total equity opportunity is tied to the achievement of performance objectives. PSUs are awarded based on the following criteria:

Performance Criteria	2025 Weighting	Goal-Range		
		Threshold (50% of Target)	Target	Maximum (150% of Target)
Relative 3-year TSR	70%	30th percentile	50th percentile	75th percentile
Individual Performance Criteria	30%		Subjective	

Relative 3-year TSR. For purposes of determining the Company's achievement against the relative 3-year TSR metric, the Company's TSR will be compared to the other constituent members of the FTSE NAREIT Apartment Index using the relative percentile ranking approach over the performance period.

Individual Performance Criteria. The individual performance portion of the 2025 PSUs will be based on the Compensation Committee's subjective evaluation of the Named Executive Officer's performance over the performance period, which the Compensation Committee has determined is also important to each Named Executive Officer's contribution to the creation of overall stockholder value.

Vesting. 50% of PSUs earned will vest when the Compensation Committee confirms performance after the 3-year performance period ended December 31, 2027 and 50% will vest on December 31, 2028, in each case based on continued service through such dates and subject to accelerated vesting in certain cases, as described below under the heading "Additional Terms of 2025 PSU Awards."

Dividends and Voting. No dividend equivalents will be paid while the 2025 PSUs are subject to performance criteria. Once the performance period concludes, dividend equivalents will accrue on earned PSUs that remain subject to time vesting and those accrued amounts will be paid upon delivery of the shares to which they relate (or forfeited if the applicable time-vesting criterion is not satisfied). PSUs do not have any voting rights.

RESTRICTED STOCK UNITS ("RSUs")

Time-based RSUs account for the remaining 25% of the 2025 equity awards. In each case, these RSUs are generally subject to vesting at a rate of 25% per year. Dividend equivalents will be accrued with respect to 2025 RSU awards and paid upon delivery of the shares to which they relate (or forfeited if the applicable time-vesting criterion is not satisfied). RSUs do not have any voting rights.

NUMBER OF PSUs AND RSUs

The sizes of the 2025 equity awards were determined by the Compensation Committee based on the following intended individual award values:

Executive	Total Target Award	Time Based Award	Performance-Based Award		
			Threshold	Target	Maximum
Scott F. Schaeffer	\$ 3,000,000	\$ 750,000	\$ 1,125,000	\$ 2,250,000	\$ 3,375,000
James J. Sebra	\$ 1,100,000	\$ 275,000	\$ 412,500	\$ 825,000	\$ 1,237,500
Jason R. Delozier	\$ 300,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 112,500	\$ 225,000	\$ 337,500
Michele Weisbaum	\$ 500,000	\$ 125,000	\$ 187,500	\$ 375,000	\$ 562,500

The number of PSUs and RSUs awarded is set forth below and was determined by dividing the intended award value (at target, in the case of the PSUs) by \$18.92, the volume weighted average of our closing stock price on the NYSE for the 20 trading days prior to February 3, 2026, the grant date. Please note that the grant date fair value shown in the Summary Compensation Table and the Grant of Plan Based Awards Table for these awards differ somewhat from the amounts shown above due to differences in how the awards are measured for financial accounting purposes.

Executive	Number of 2025 RSUs	Target Number of 2025
		PSUs
Scott F. Schaeffer	39,640	118,921
James J. Sebra	14,534	43,604
Jason R. Delozier	3,964	11,892
Michele Weisbaum	6,606	19,820



ADDITIONAL TERMS OF THE 2025 RSU AND PSU AWARDS

The 2025 RSUs are subject to accelerated vesting if a Named Executive Officer's employment is terminated due to death, disability, termination without cause within one year following a change in control, or retirement (as defined below). In each case, such accelerated vesting is conditioned upon the execution of a release of claims and, in the case of retirement, a non-compete and non-solicitation agreement with a duration of up to three years. In addition, the employment agreements for the Named Executive Officers each provide for accelerated vesting of time-vested equity in the event of a termination without cause or resignation with good reason, and subject to the execution of a release of claims.

If a Named Executive Officer's employment is terminated due to death, disability, termination without cause or resignation with good reason (which we refer to as a qualified termination) prior to the conclusion of the three-year performance period applicable to 2025 PSUs, then such performance period will be shortened to conclude at the end of the calendar quarter immediately preceding such qualified termination. The number of PSUs earned (if any) will then be determined based on actual performance during the shortened performance period and will be pro-rated to reflect the portion of the original three-year performance period actually worked by the executive. Such earned PSUs will not be subject to any additional time-based vesting period. In the case of a qualified termination after the performance period is complete, but before the additional time-based vesting period is complete, any earned PSUs shall become vested as of the date of such qualified termination. The foregoing treatment upon a qualified termination is conditioned on the execution of a release of claims.

In the event of a Named Executive Officer's "retirement" (as defined below) prior to the conclusion of the three-year performance period, 2025 PSUs will remain outstanding and be earned (or forfeited) based on actual performance during the full three-year performance period. In that case, any earned 2025 PSUs will not be subject to further time-vesting requirements, but shares will not be deliverable in respect of those earned PSUs until the otherwise applicable time-vesting dates. Similarly, if a Named Executive Officer's retirement occurs after the performance period, shares will be delivered in respect of earned 2025 PSUs on the otherwise applicable time-vesting dates. The foregoing retirement treatment is conditioned on the Named Executive Officer (1) executing a release of claims, and (2) entering into a non-compete and non-solicitation agreement with a duration of up to three years.

"Retirement" is defined as the Named Executive Officer's voluntary separation of employment after providing at least six months' advance notice and following satisfaction of the "Rule of 70." The Rule of 70 will be satisfied upon (1) completion of at least fifteen (15) years of service with IRT or its related entities; (2) attainment of age 55 and (3) such Named Executive Officer's combined age and service equaling at least 70. As of December 31, 2025, Mr. Schaeffer was the only Named Executive Officer who satisfied the age and service requirements for retirement.

2023 PSU OUTCOMES

On February 3, 2026, the Compensation Committee determined that the PSUs granted to Messrs. Schaeffer, Sebra, and Delozier in 2023 with a performance period ending on December 31, 2025 were earned at 131% of the target number of shares. 2023 PSUs were awarded based 70% on relative TSR and 30% on subjective criteria, which were deemed to be earned at 123% and 150% of the target level for each metric, respectively. The Company's three-year TSR of 16% was at the 62nd percentile of NAREIT Apartment Index (equal to 123% of the target level). With consideration to the Company's strong TSR performance, the Committee determined that a 150% of target level payout was also appropriate for the subjective portion of the award, based on the Committee's assessment of broader company performance over the three-year period.

Implementing the Objectives of Our Compensation Policies

Other important policies and other factors influencing our compensation decisions are described below.

Stockholder Advisory Votes

At our 2020 annual meeting of stockholders, our stockholders who cast votes recommended by a substantial majority of votes cast (98.2%) that we hold an advisory stockholder vote on the compensation of our Named Executive Officers every year. In accordance with Exchange Act rules, we will next hold an advisory vote on the frequency of our say on pay votes at our upcoming Annual Meeting.

We most recently provided our stockholders with an advisory vote on the Named Executive Officers' compensation at our 2025 annual stockholder meeting. Stockholders who cast votes on this proposal voted to approve the Company's non-binding "say-on-pay" resolution, with over 97% of the votes cast approving of such resolution. The Compensation Committee believes that this vote is indicative of our stockholders' support of our executive compensation program. The Compensation Committee will continue to consider stockholder feedback and the outcome of the Company's say-on-pay votes when making future Named Executive Officer compensation decisions.



Role of Chief Executive Officer in Setting Compensation

The Company's Chief Executive Officer makes recommendations to the Compensation Committee based on the compensation philosophy and objectives set by the Compensation Committee as well as current business conditions. More specifically, for each Named Executive Officer, including himself, the Chief Executive Officer reviews market data and recommends to the Compensation Committee performance measures and target goals, in each case for the review, discussion and approval of the Compensation Committee. These goals are derived from our current business plan and include both quantitative measurements and qualitative considerations selected to reinforce and enhance achievement of our operating and growth objectives. For each Named Executive Officer other than himself, the Chief Executive Officer also reviews the rationale and proposed amounts of compensation and equity awards, and advises on the achievement of established performance measures and target goals. The Chief Executive Officer may attend meetings of the Compensation Committee at the request of the Compensation Committee chair, but does not attend executive sessions and does not participate in the Compensation Committee's discussions relating to the final determination of his own compensation.

Role of Compensation Consultant

Our Compensation Committee has the authority to engage independent advisors to assist it in carrying out its responsibilities. For fiscal 2025, the Compensation Committee continued to engage Semler Brossy Consulting Group ("Semler Brossy") as its independent executive compensation consultant. Semler Brossy, who reports directly to the Compensation Committee and not to management, is independent from us, has not provided any services to us other than to the Compensation Committee and receives compensation from us only for services provided to the Compensation Committee. Our Compensation Committee assessed the independence of Semler Brossy pursuant to SEC rules and concluded that the work of Semler Brossy for the Compensation Committee has not raised any conflict of interest.

Semler Brossy reviews and advises on all principal aspects of our executive compensation program. Its main responsibilities are as follows:

- Advise on alignment of pay and performance;
- Review and advise on executive compensation level and design, including base salaries, short-and long-term incentives, associated performance goals, and retention and severance arrangements;
- Advise on trends in executive compensation;
- Provide recommendations regarding the composition of our peer group;
- Analyze peer group proxy statements, compensation survey data and other publicly available data; and
- Perform any special projects requested by the Compensation Committee.

The Compensation Committee typically asks Semler Brossy to attend its meetings, including executive sessions at which management is not present. Semler Brossy communicates regularly with the Chair of the Compensation Committee outside of committee meetings and also meets with management to gather information and review proposals.

Peer Group

The below peer group was used for the purpose of setting 2025 compensation, and was consistent with the peer group used for setting 2024 compensation, other than the addition of Empire State Realty Trust, Inc. and Veris Residential, Inc. These companies were added to the peer group based on their comparable size and strong alignment with IRT's business model and operating profile. The Committee determined that no further changes to the 2025 peer group were necessary, as IRT remains appropriately positioned within the group, which continues to provide a suitable benchmark for compensation purposes.

- American Assets Trust, Inc.
- American Homes 4 Rent
- Camden Property Trust
- Easterly Government Properties, Inc.
- Elme Communities (formerly known as Washington Real Estate Investment Trust)
- Empire State Realty Trust, Inc.
- Equity Lifestyle Properties, Inc.
- Rexford Industrial Realty, Inc.
- STAG Industrial, Inc.
- Terreno Realty Corporation
- Veris Residential, Inc.
- UDR, Inc.



Other Compensation Matters

Prohibition Against Hedging or Pledging. Officers are prohibited from purchasing puts, calls, options or other derivative securities based on the Company's securities under the Company's Insider Trading Policy. The policy also prohibits hedging or monetization transactions, such as zero-cost collars and forward sale contracts and purchasing securities of the Company on margin, borrowing against any account in which the Company's securities are held or otherwise pledging any securities of the Company. Our Insider Trading Policy also prohibits our officers from holding their shares of our common stock in a margin account or otherwise pledging such shares of common stock as collateral for a loan. This prohibition maintains the alignment between Company management and stockholders, and prevents the risk of inadvertent insider trading violations.

Stock Ownership Requirements. The Chief Executive Officer is required to hold common shares with a value equal to five times his annual base salary. All other executive officers are required to hold common shares with a value equal to three times their annual base salary. All executive officers are required to satisfy these stock ownership requirements six years after their election or appointment as an executive officer. All executive officers are in compliance with these stock ownership guidelines, as they have either met the minimum share ownership requirements or they have not yet reached the date by which such requirements must be satisfied.

Employment Agreements. Each of the Named Executive Officers (other than Ms. Weisbaum) has an employment agreement with us. The employment agreements set floor amounts for base salary. In addition, the employment agreements provide for payments and other benefits if the executive's employment terminates under specified circumstances, including in the event of an involuntary or constructive termination following a "change in control". See "Named Executive Officer Compensation—Potential Payments on Termination or Change in Control" for a description of these severance and change in control benefits. The Compensation Committee believes that these severance and change in control arrangements are an important part of overall compensation for these Named Executive Officers because they help to secure the continued employment and dedication of these Named Executive Officers, notwithstanding any concern that they might have regarding their own continued employment in general and prior to or following a change in control. The Compensation Committee also believes that these arrangements are important as a recruitment and retention device, as most of the companies with which we compete for executive talent have similar agreements in place for their senior employees.

The Named Executive Officer employment agreements also contain provisions that prohibit the executive from disclosing IRT's confidential information and prohibits the executive from engaging in certain competitive activities or soliciting any of our employees or customers following termination of their employment with IRT. We believe that these provisions help ensure the long-term success of IRT.

Risk Management and IRT's Compensation Policies and Procedures. As part of the Board's role in risk oversight, the Compensation Committee considers the impact on our risk profile of our compensation plans, policies and practices, and the incentives they create with respect to all employees, including executive officers. Based on this consideration, the Compensation Committee concluded that our compensation policies and procedures are not reasonably likely to have a material adverse effect on us. Some of the factors the Compensation Committee considered as mitigating the risks of our compensation plans include:

- The mix of compensation, which is balanced with an emphasis toward rewarding long-term performance;
- The use of multiple performance metrics that are closely aligned with strategic business goals in the annual and long-term incentive plans;
- The use of discretion as a means to adjust compensation to reflect individual performance or other factors;
- Multi-year time vesting of equity awards, which generally requires long term commitment on the part of employees;
- Incentive awards made are capped under the terms of the award at a maximum number of shares or dollars, as applicable;
- The use of peer group comparisons to ensure the compensation programs are consistent with industry practice; and
- Responding to any executive misconduct in the manner described below under "*Potential Impact on Compensation from Executive Misconduct.*"

The Effect of Regulatory Requirements on our Executive Compensation

IRC Limitations on Deductibility of Compensation. IRC Section 280G limits our ability to take a tax deduction for certain "excess parachute payments" (as defined in Section 280G) and IRC Section 4999 imposes excise taxes on each executive that receives "excess parachute payments" in connection with a change in control. Our employment agreements with our Named Executive Officers provide that the Named Executive Officer shall be solely responsible for any excise tax imposed by Section 4999 of the IRC.

In addition, IRC Section 162(m) limits a publicly held company's tax deduction for compensation paid to a "covered employee" (including each of our Named Executive Officers) to \$1 million per year.

As a REIT, to the extent the deductibility of compensation we pay is limited by Section 162(m) or Section 280G, a larger portion of our distributions to stockholders may be subject to federal income tax as ordinary income. While the Compensation Committee reviews the tax treatment (including tax deductibility) of compensation among the factors it considers in establishing the design of our compensation arrangements and the levels of compensation paid to our Named Executive Officers, the Compensation Committee prioritizes the alignment of stockholder and management interests and the competitiveness of compensation over tax deductibility considerations.

Accounting Rules. Various rules under generally accepted accounting principles determine the manner in which IRT accounts for grants of equity-based compensation to our employees in our financial statements. The Compensation Committee takes into consideration the accounting treatment of alternative grant proposals under Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) Accounting Standards Codification (ASC) Topic 718, "Stock Compensation", when determining the form and timing of equity compensation grants to employees, including our Named Executive Officers. The

accounting treatment of such grants, however, is generally not determinative of the type, timing, or amount of any particular grant of equity-based compensation to our employees.

Equity Award Timing. The Company's long-standing practice has been to grant equity awards on a predetermined schedule. Annual awards are made in the first quarter of the fiscal year, and typically occur prior to the Company's release of the financial results for the prior fiscal year through the filing of a Current Report on Form 8-K and accompanying earnings release and earnings call, and before the filing of the Company's Annual Report. The Compensation Committee does not take material nonpublic information into account when determining the timing and terms of equity awards. Instead, the timing of grants is in accordance with the yearly compensation cycle, with awards granted at the start of the new fiscal year to incentivize the executives to deliver on the Company's strategic objectives for the new fiscal year.

Off-cycle awards (such as special retention awards, or awards relating to new hires or promotions) may occasionally occur at other times throughout the year, and are generally approved at a regularly scheduled quarterly meeting of the Compensation Committee. The timing of such awards is therefore dictated primarily by the event giving rise to the award (e.g., new hire, promotion, etc.) and the schedules of the Committee members approving the award. There were no such "off-cycle" awards granted to Named Executive Officers in 2025.

The Company did not time the disclosure of material nonpublic information to affect the value of executive compensation awarded in 2025.



Potential Impact on Compensation from Executive Misconduct. If the Board determines that an executive officer has engaged in fraudulent or intentional misconduct, the Board would take action to attempt to remedy the misconduct, prevent its recurrence, and impose such discipline on the officer as it deems appropriate. Discipline would vary depending on the facts and circumstances, and may include, without limit, termination of employment, initiating an action for breach of fiduciary duty and, if the misconduct resulted in a significant restatement of our financial results, seeking reimbursement of any portion of performance-based or incentive compensation paid or awarded to the executive that is greater than what would have been paid or awarded if calculated based on the restated financial results. These remedies would be in addition to, and not in lieu of, any actions imposed by law enforcement agencies, regulators or other authorities, and all remedies available under our Clawback Policy. As described above, our Clawback Policy requires us to recover erroneously paid performance-based amounts from our executive officers if we are required to prepare an accounting restatement due to our material noncompliance with any financial reporting requirement under applicable securities laws.

Perquisites. None of our Named Executive Officers received perquisites equal to or greater than \$10,000 in 2025. In general, we do not emphasize perquisites as part of the compensation packages we offer.

401(k) Plan. Our 401(k) plan offers eligible employees the opportunity to make tax-advantaged investments on a regular basis through salary deferrals, which are supplemented by our matching contributions and any discretionary profit sharing contributions we elect to make. We currently provide a cash match equal to each employee's contributions to the extent the contributions do not exceed 4% of the employee's eligible compensation (the IRS limit on eligible compensation for this purpose was \$350,000 in 2025). Any matching contribution made by us pursuant to the IRT 401(k) plan vests immediately. Our Named Executive Officers participate in this plan on the same basis as other eligible employees.

Compensation Committee Report

The Compensation Committee has reviewed and discussed the Compensation Discussion and Analysis and discussed that analysis with management. Based on its review and discussions with management, the Compensation Committee recommended to the Board that the Compensation Discussion and Analysis be included in our Annual Report and in our 2026 proxy statement. This report is provided by the following independent directors who comprise the Compensation Committee:

Ned W. Brines, Chair
DeForest B. Soaries, Jr., D. Min
Richard D. Gebert

Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation

No member of our Compensation Committee is or has been an officer or employee of IRT. In addition, none of our executive officers serves as a member of the Board or Compensation Committee of any company that has an executive officer serving as a member of our Board.



Named Executive Officer Compensation

We provide below summary information about compensation for the following persons, who were all our Named Executive Officers during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2025:

- Mr. Schaeffer, our Chairman and Chief Executive Officer;
- Mr. Sebra, our President, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer;
- Ms. Weisbaum, our General Counsel, Executive Vice President and Secretary; and
- Mr. Delozier, our Chief Accounting Officer.

Summary Compensation Table

Name and Principal Position	Year	Base Salary	Bonus (1)	Stock Awards (2)	Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation (3)	All Other Compensation (4)	Total
Scott F. Schaeffer (Chief Executive Officer)	2025	\$ 800,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 2,825,675	\$ 1,127,262	\$14,000	\$ 5,266,937
	2024	\$ 750,000	\$ 468,750	\$ 2,524,771	\$ 1,277,119	\$ 13,800	\$ 5,034,440
	2023	\$ 700,000	\$ 437,500	\$ 2,677,345	\$ 1,018,483	\$ 13,200	\$ 4,846,528
James J. Sebra (President and Chief Financial Officer)	2025	\$ 515,000	\$ 289,688	\$ 1,036,062	\$ 622,558	\$14,000	\$ 2,477,308
	2024	\$ 515,000	\$ 193,125	\$ 923,933	\$ 516,931	\$ 13,800	\$ 2,162,789
	2023	\$ 475,000	\$ 178,125	\$ 979,773	\$ 397,219	\$ 13,200	\$ 2,043,317
Jason R. Delozier (Chief Accounting Officer)	2025	\$ 330,000	\$ 123,750	\$ 282,566	\$ 265,947	\$14,000	\$ 1,016,264
	2024	\$ 330,000	\$ 123,750	\$ 191,323	\$ 331,238	\$ 13,800	\$ 990,111
	2023	\$ 320,000	\$ 120,000	\$ 202,892	\$ 267,600	\$ 13,200	\$ 923,692
Michele Weisbaum (General Counsel)	2025	\$ 400,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 470,930	\$ 322,360	\$14,000	\$ 1,357,290
	2024	\$ 375,000	\$ 140,625	\$ 392,675	\$ 376,406	\$ 12,300	\$ 1,297,690
	2023	\$ 120,000	\$ 120,000	\$ 126,931	\$ -	\$ 2,200	\$ 369,131

(1) Reflects the subjective component of the Named Executive Officer's Cash Bonus Award.

(2) We report all equity awards at their full grant date fair value in accordance with FASB ASC Topic 718, "Compensation-Stock Compensation." For restricted stock unit awards, the fair value was calculated based on the NYSE market price for our common stock on the grant date for the award. For PSUs, the fair value on the date of grant was estimated using a Monte Carlo simulation model. See Note 8: "Equity Compensation Plans" within Item 8 of our Annual Report for further discussion including assumptions used when valuing equity awards. For 2025, amounts shown include the following grant date fair values:

- Scott F. Schaeffer – \$2,057,452 PSUs and \$768,223 RSUs.
- James J. Sebra – \$754,393 PSUs and \$281,669 RSUs.
- Jason R. Delozier – \$205,743 PSUs and \$76,822 RSUs.
- Michele Weisbaum – \$342,906 PSUs and RSUs \$128,024.

The amounts shown in this table may differ from the amounts discussed in the Compensation Discussion & Analysis, because SEC rules require awards to be reported in this table based on GAAP rules, whereas the Compensation Committee generally sizes awards based on the volume weighted average of our closing stock price for the 20 trading days immediately preceding the grant date.

(3) Amount shown reflects the objective component of the Named Executive Officer's Cash Bonus Award.

(4) Amounts shown for 2025 reflect only IRT's matching contribution to the Named Executive Officer's 401(k).



Grants of Plan-Based Awards in 2025

The following table provides information about plan-based awards granted to the Named Executive Officers in 2025.

Name	Grant Date	Estimated Future Payouts Under Non-Equity Incentive Plan Awards (\$) (1)			Estimated Future Payouts Under Equity Incentive Plan Awards (#) (2)			All other stock awards: Number of shares of stock or units (#) (3)	Grant Date Fair Value of Stock and Option Awards (\$) (4)
		Threshold	Target	Maximum	Threshold	Target	Maximum		
Scott F. Schaeffer	2/4/2025	600,000	1,074,000	1,500,000					
	2/4/2025				59,464	118,921	178,392		2,057,452
	2/4/2025							39,640	768,223
James J. Sebra	2/4/2025	289,688	579,375	869,063					
	2/4/2025				21,803	43,604	65,410		754,393
	2/4/2025							14,534	281,669
Jason R. Delozier	2/4/2025	123,750	247,500	371,250					
	2/4/2025				5,946	11,892	17,839		205,743
	2/4/2025							3,964	76,822
Michele Weisbaum	2/4/2025	150,000	300,000	450,000					
	2/4/2025				9,911	19,820	29,732		342,906
	2/4/2025							6,606	128,024

- (1) These columns represent the potential value of the payout for each eligible officer if the threshold, target, or maximum goals are satisfied under the objective bonus components of the Annual Cash Bonus plan, as described above in the “Compensation Discussion and Analysis” section. The amounts actually earned by each eligible officer with respect to 2025 performance under the Annual Cash Bonus plan are reported in the Bonus (for the subjective component) and Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation (for the objective component) columns in the Summary Compensation Table above.
- (2) These columns represent the potential number of common shares that may be earned by each eligible officer if the threshold, target, or maximum goals are satisfied with respect to the 2025 PSUs. The actual number of common shares issued pursuant to the 2025 PSUs will be determined as of December 31, 2027, based on achievement of the performance criteria over the 2025-2027 performance period, and any shares then earned will vest 50% at such time and 50% on December 31, 2028, subject generally to the grantee’s continued service through those dates.
- (3) This column shows the number of restricted stock units granted in 2025 to the Named Executive Officers. These restricted stock unit awards vest in four equal annual installments on the anniversary of the grant date, subject generally to the grantee’s continued service through the applicable vesting date.
- (4) This column shows the full grant date fair value of stock awards under FASB ASC Topic 718 granted to the Named Executive Officers in 2025. Generally, the full grant date fair value is the amount that we expense in our financial statements over the award’s vesting schedule. These amounts reflect our accounting expense, and do not correspond to the actual value that will be realized by the Named Executive Officer.



Outstanding Equity Awards at 2025 Fiscal Year-End

The following table provides information on the holdings of outstanding equity awards by the Named Executive Officers at December 31, 2025. These awards are comprised of PSUs and RSUs. Each award is shown separately for each Named Executive Officer by grant date. In accordance with SEC rules, market values are shown based on the closing price of our common stock on December 31, 2025, the last trading day of 2025 (\$17.48).

Stock Awards

Name	Number of Shares or Units of Stock That Have Not Vested (#)		Market Value of Shares or Units of Stock That Have Not Vested (\$)	Equity Incentive Plan Awards Number of Units or Other Rights That Have Not Vested		Equity Incentive Plan Awards, Market or Payout Value of Unearned Shares, Units or Other Rights That Have Not Vested (\$)
Scott F. Schaeffer	7,108	(1)	124,248			
	18,727	(2)(8)	327,348			
	34,180	(3)(8)	597,466	205,082	(6)(9)	3,584,825
	39,640	(4)(8)	692,907	118,921	(7)(9)	2,078,739
	73,682	(5)(8)	1,287,961			
James J. Sebra	2,720	(1)	47,546			
	6,854	(2)	119,808			
	12,508	(3)	218,640	75,050	(6)	1,311,865
	14,534	(4)	254,054	43,604	(7)	762,198
	26,964	(5)	471,331			
Michele Weisbaum	3,368	(10)	58,873			
	5,316	(3)	92,924	31,896	(6)	557,542
	6,606	(4)	115,473	19,820	(7)	346,454
Jason R. Delozier	565	(1)	9,876			
	1,420	(2)	24,822			
	2,590	(3)	45,273	15,542	(6)	271,665
	3,964	(4)	69,291	11,892	(7)	207,872
	5,584	(5)	97,608			

- (1) These RSUs vested on March 1, 2026.
- (2) One-half of these RSUs vested on March 1, 2026 and the remainder will vest on March 1, 2027.
- (3) One-third of these RSUs vested on March 1, 2026 and the remainder will vest in two equal annual installments on March 1, 2027, and March 1, 2028.
- (4) One-fourth of these RSUs vested on March 1, 2026 and the remainder will vest in three equal annual installments on March 1, 2027, March 1, 2028, and March 1, 2029.
- (5) As of December 31, 2025, 2023 PSU awards were earned at 131% of target. These units shown here constitute 50% of those earned 2023 PSUs, which generally remain subject to service-based vesting until December 31, 2026. The other 50% of the earned 2023 PSUs vested immediately at the end of the performance period and are included in the "Options Exercised and Stock Vested in 2025" table below.
- (6) These units represent the 2024 PSU awards, which may be earned over a three-year performance period ending December 31, 2026, with 50% of any earned units vesting at the end of that three-year period and the remaining 50% generally subject to service-based vesting until December 31, 2027. The number and value of units shown assumes performance at the maximum level in accordance with SEC rules. The actual number of units earned will depend on actual performance and range from 0%-150% of target.
- (7) These units represent the 2025 PSU awards, which may be earned over a three-year performance period ending December 31, 2027, with 50% of any earned units vesting at the end of that three-year period and the remaining 50% generally subject to service-based vesting until December 31, 2028. The number and value of units shown assumes performance at the target level in accordance with SEC rules. The actual number of units earned will depend on actual performance and range from 0%-150% of target.
- (8) Mr. Schaeffer is retirement eligible under the terms of these equity awards. Accordingly, if he provides at least six months' advance notice of termination and executes a release and additional non-compete agreement at the time of his retirement, these awards will not be forfeited even if he retires prior to the otherwise applicable vesting date.
- (9) Mr. Schaeffer is retirement eligible under the terms of these awards. Accordingly, if he provides at least six months' advance notice of termination and executes a release and additional non-compete agreement at the time of his retirement: (i) any PSUs subject to an open performance period will remain outstanding and be earned (or forfeited) based on actual performance during the full three-year performance period, and (ii) any additional service requirements that would otherwise apply following the end of the performance period will be waived.
- (10) These restricted stock awards will vest on November 1, 2026.



Option Exercises and Stock Vested in 2025

The following table provides information on the number of shares acquired by the Named Executive Officers upon the vesting of stock awards, along with the value of such awards at the time of vesting, before payment of any applicable withholding taxes.

Name	Stock Awards	
	Number of Shares Acquired on Vesting (#)	Value Realized on Vesting (\$)
Scott F. Schaeffer	179,998	\$ 3,622,957
James J. Sebra	70,333	\$ 1,414,902
Jason R. Delozier	15,318	\$ 308,092
Michele Weisbaum	5,141	\$ 92,298

Potential Payments on Termination or Change-In-Control

We have entered into employment agreements with all of our Named Executive Officers except Ms. Weisbaum. These agreements provide for payments and other benefits if a Named Executive Officer's employment with us ceases under circumstances specified in his or her respective agreement, including as a result of an involuntary or constructive termination in connection with a "change in control" (as defined in the agreement). A Named Executive Officer's rights upon the cessation of his or her employment will depend upon the circumstances of the termination.

The table below summarizes the amounts payable to each Named Executive Officer in various termination scenarios. Under SEC rules, the amounts shown below are calculated as of December 31, 2025, based on facts (e.g., stock price, base salaries, awards outstanding, etc.) then existing.

Named Executive	Termination without cause, resignation for good reason or notice by IRT of non-renewal with release (1)	Voluntary Termination (2)	Disability (3)	Death (4)	Termination for cause (5)	Termination without cause, resignation for good reason or notice by IRT of non-renewal after Change in Control with release (6)
Scott F. Schaeffer	\$ 15,019,035	\$ 9,563,072	\$ 10,995,072	\$ 10,995,072	\$ -	\$ 16,826,314
James J. Sebra	\$ 5,101,961	\$ -	\$ 3,345,236	\$ 3,345,236	\$ -	\$ 5,101,961
Jason R. Delozier	\$ 1,711,483	\$ -	\$ 896,212	\$ 896,212	\$ -	\$ 1,711,483
Michele Weisbaum (7)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 754,448	\$ 754,448	\$ -	\$ 754,448

- (1) Under the employment agreements of Mr. Schaeffer, Sebra, and Delozier, we may terminate a Named Executive Officer's employment at any time without cause upon not less than sixty days' prior written notice to the Named Executive Officer. In addition, the Named Executive Officer may initiate a termination of employment by resigning for good reason. The Named Executive Officer must give us not less than sixty days' prior written notice of such resignation. In addition, we may initiate a termination of employment by sending a notice of non-renewal of the applicable employment agreement to the Named Executive Officer, as described above. If the Named Executive Officer does not deliver the release described in his or her employment agreement, we refer to the termination as a no-release termination. Upon any no-release termination, the Named Executive Officer is entitled to receive only the amount due to the Named Executive Officer under our then current severance pay plan for employees, if any. We currently have no severance pay plan in place for employees. No other payments or benefits will be due to the Named Executive Officer under his employment agreement other than (i) the Named Executive Officer's base salary due through his date of termination, (ii) any earned but unpaid annual bonus for the year preceding the fiscal year of termination, (iii) any amounts owing to the Named Executive Officer for reimbursement of expenses properly incurred by the Named Executive Officer prior to his date of termination; and (iv) any benefits accrued and earned in accordance with the terms and conditions of any of our applicable benefit plans and programs in which the Named Executive Officer participated prior to his termination of employment. We refer to these collectively as the accrued benefits. The table above does not include these accrued benefits in the totals shown, as they are generally provided to all salaried employees.

Each Named Executive Officer employment agreement defines "good reason" as, without the Named Executive Officer's consent, any of the following events occurring:

- a reduction in base salary of the Named Executive Officer.
- a material and willful breach of the Named Executive Officer's employment agreement.
- the relocation (without the written consent of the Named Executive Officer) of the Named Executive Officer's principal place of employment by more than thirty-five (35) miles from its location on the effective date of the Named Executive Officer employment agreement.
- Mr. Schaeffer's employment agreement also defines "good reason" as, without his consent: a significant adverse alteration in the nature or status of his authority, duties or responsibilities (including his removal from the position of Chief Executive Officer or requiring him to report to any of our employees); provided, however, that the election by the Board of a different person to serve as Chair will not be deemed to be such an alteration so long as (i) Mr. Schaeffer continues to have his duties assigned to him by the Board and (ii) no executive officers or our other employees have their duties assigned to them by the Chair.
- Mr. Sebra's and Mr. Delozier's respective employment agreements also define "good reason" to include a significant adverse alteration in the nature or status of his or her authority, duties or responsibilities.

If a termination occurs due to a termination by IRT without cause, resignation by the Named Executive Officer with good reason or non-renewal by IRT and the Named Executive Officer executes and does not revoke a release of claims against IRT and its affiliates, the Named Executive Officer is entitled to receive the following:



- The Named Executive Officer will receive a lump sum cash payment equal to a defined multiplier times the sum of (x) the Named Executive Officer's base salary, as in effect immediately prior to his termination of employment and (y) the average annual cash bonus earned by the Named Executive Officer for the three year period immediately prior to his termination of employment, (or the average annual cash bonus earned by the Named Executive Officer for the actual number of completed fiscal years immediately prior to his termination of employment, if less than three). In Mr. Schaeffer's employment agreement, the defined multiplier is 2.25x. In Mr. Sebra's employment agreement, the defined multiplier is 2x. In Mr. Delozier's employment agreement, the defined multiplier is 1.5x.
 - The Named Executive Officer will receive a lump sum cash payment equal to a pro rata portion of the annual cash bonus, if any, that the Named Executive Officer would have earned for the fiscal year of his termination based on achievement of the applicable performance goals for such year.
 - For a period of 18 months following the Named Executive Officer's date of termination, provided the Named Executive Officer and his eligible dependents timely and properly elect to continue health care coverage under COBRA, the Named Executive Officer will continue to receive the medical coverage in effect at the date of his termination of employment (or generally comparable coverage) for himself and, where applicable, his spouse and dependents, at the same premium rates as may be charged from time to time for employees of IRT generally, as if the Named Executive Officer had continued in employment with IRT during such period.
 - Any equity awards that are then subject solely to time-vesting conditions will become fully vested as of the date of the Named Executive Officer's termination of employment. In addition, under the terms of the PSU awards, outstanding PSUs will vest based on performance through the end of the calendar quarter immediately preceding the severance event, subject to pro-rata to reflect the portion of the performance period served prior to the severance event. The amounts shown in the table reflect the full vesting of otherwise unvested time-based equity awards, the vesting of 2023 PSUs based on actual performance and the pro-rata vesting of 2024 and 2025 PSUs assuming target performance (except in the case of Mr. Schaeffer, whose 2024 and 2025 PSUs are shown assuming target performance but without pro-rata, in light of his retirement eligibility (see footnote 2, below)).
- (2) In this case, no further payments will be due under the Named Executive Officer's employment agreement, except that the Named Executive Officer will be entitled to receive his accrued benefits. However, under the PSU and RSU award agreements, an executive who has attained age 55 and completed at least 15 years of service, provided at least six months' advance notice of retirement, executed a release and executed an additional non-compete agreement at the time of his or her retirement, will receive special treatment of his or her PSU and RSU awards upon such retirement. Upon retirement of a grantee who has satisfied these conditions, outstanding RSUs will vest and outstanding PSUs will remain outstanding and vest based on actual performance through the end of the performance period. In addition, otherwise applicable service-based vesting conditions will not apply to earned PSUs. While Mr. Schaeffer has not provided notice of his intent to retire, he has satisfied the age and service conditions for retirement. Therefore for illustrative purposes, the amount shown in this column for him reflects the above-described treatment for his equity awards. The amounts shown in the table above reflect actual performance in respect of 2023 PSUs and assume target performance with respect to the 2024 and 2025 PSUs.
- (3) If IRT terminates the Named Executive Officer's employment for disability, Messrs. Schaeffer, Sebra, and Delozier will each be entitled to receive the following:
- A lump sum cash payment equal to a pro rata portion of the Named Executive Officer's target annual cash bonus for the fiscal year of his termination.
 - The accrued benefits.
 - Any equity awards are subject to the same treatment described above in the final bullet of footnote 1.
- (4) Our employment agreements with Messrs. Schaeffer, Sebra, and Delozier provide that if the Named Executive Officer dies while employed by IRT, IRT will pay to the Named Executive Officer's executor, legal representative, administrator or designated beneficiary, as applicable:
- A lump sum cash payment equal to a pro rata portion of the Named Executive Officer's target annual cash bonus for the fiscal year of his death.
 - The accrued benefits.
 - Any equity awards are subject to the same treatment described above in the final bullet of footnote 1.
- (5) Our employment agreements with Messrs. Schaeffer, Sebra, and Delozier provide that IRT may terminate the Named Executive Officer's employment at any time for cause upon written notice to Named Executive Officer, in which event all payments under the Named Executive Officer employment agreement will cease, except the Named Executive Officer will be entitled to receive the accrued benefits.
- (6) If a termination without cause, a resignation with good reason or a non-renewal by IRT occurs within 18 months following a change-in-control, Messrs. Schaeffer, Sebra, and Delozier will be entitled to the same payments and benefits as described above in footnote 1; provided that in Mr. Schaeffer's case, the severance multiplier described in the first bullet of that footnote 1 will be increased from 2.25x to 3x. For this purpose, "change in control" of IRT means the occurrence of any of the following:
- The acquisition (other than from IRT), by any person (as such term is defined in Section 13(c) or 14(d) of the Exchange Act) of beneficial ownership (within the meaning of Rule 13d-3 promulgated under the Exchange Act) of 50% or more of the combined voting power of IRT's then outstanding voting securities;
 - The individuals who, as of the effective date of the Named Executive Officer employment agreement, are members of the Board cease for any reason during any twelve month period to constitute at least a majority of the Board (unless the election, or nomination for election by IRT's stockholders, of any new director was approved by a vote of at least a majority of the incumbent Board);

- The closing of a reorganization, merger, consolidation or similar form of corporate transaction (each, a business combination) involving IRT if (i) the stockholders of IRT, immediately before such business combination, do not, as a result of such business combination, own, directly or indirectly, more than 50% of the combined voting power of the then outstanding voting securities of the entity resulting from such business combination in substantially the same proportion as their ownership of the combined voting power of the voting securities of IRT outstanding immediately before such business combination or (ii) immediately following the business combination, the individuals who comprised the Board immediately prior thereto do not constitute at least a majority of the Board of the entity resulting from such business combination (or, if the entity resulting from such business combination is then a subsidiary, the ultimate parent thereof);
- The sale or other disposition of all or substantially all of the assets of IRT; or
- The consummation of a complete liquidation or dissolution of IRT.



- (7) Effective November 1, 2023, we entered into an offer letter agreement with Ms. Weisbaum describing her terms of employment with us. The offer letter indicates that Ms. Weisbaum's employment is "at-will" and does not include any severance entitlements. The offer letter requires Ms. Weisbaum to enter into our standard form of confidentiality, intellectual property and restrictive covenant agreement. The amount shown in the table for Ms. Weisbaum's relate solely to the treatment of her outstanding equity awards, which is the same as for Messrs. Sebra and Delozier and summarized in the last bullet of footnote 1, provided that Ms. Weisbaum has no right to accelerated vesting of her RSUs upon (i) a termination without cause, unless such termination occurs without one year following a change in control, or (ii) a resignation for good reason at any time.

Retirement of Ms. Weisbaum. As noted above, Ms. Weisbaum has notified us of her intent to retire on or about March 31, 2026. In connection with her planned retirement, we have agreed to engage Ms. Weisbaum as a consultant to assist with the orderly transition of her duties to other Company personnel. Under this arrangement, Ms. Weisbaum will provide transition, advisory and related services for a limited period following her retirement and will be paid \$30,000 per month for these services. This consulting arrangement is expected to continue through December 31, 2026, unless sooner terminated by either party. Other than these consulting fees and her accrued benefits, no other payments, benefits or rights will be due to Ms. Weisbaum in connection with her retirement.

CEO Pay Ratio

Pursuant to the requirements of the Dodd-Frank Act, the SEC adopted a rule requiring annual disclosure of the ratio of the median employee's annual total compensation to the annual total compensation of our principal executive officer. The annual total compensation for 2025 for Mr. Schaeffer, our CEO, was \$5,266,937, as reported under the above Summary Compensation Table. Our median employee's total compensation for 2025 was \$65,620, as determined using the same methodology we used to calculate our CEO's compensation in the above Summary Compensation Table. As a result, we estimate that Mr. Schaeffer's 2025 annual total compensation was approximately 80 times that of our median employee.

Our CEO to median employee pay ratio was calculated in accordance with Item 402(u) of Regulation S-K. We identified the median employee by examining 2025 W-2 wages for all individuals who were employed by the Company on December 31, 2025, other than our CEO. We included all active employees and annualized the compensation for any non-temporary, non-seasonal employees who were not employed by the Company for the full 2025 calendar year.



Pay versus Performance

The following table and charts provide information about the relationship between compensation actually paid to our NEOs, as computed in accordance with Item 402(v) of Regulation S-K, and the Company's financial performance as well as the relationship between the Company's TSR and the TSR of the Company's peer group. The calculations included herein do not necessarily reflect the Company's approach to aligning compensation with performance, which is detailed in CD&A above.

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(i)
					Value of Initial Fixed \$100 Investment Based On:			
Year	Summary Compensation Table Total for CEO ¹	Compensation Actually Paid to CEO ¹	Average Summary Compensation Table Total for Non-PEO NEOs ²	Average Compensation Actually Paid to Non-PEO NEOs ²	IRT - Total Shareholder Return	Peer Group - Total Shareholder Return	Net (Loss) Income (in millions)	Core FFO per Share ⁴
2025	\$ 5,266,937	\$ 4,286,462	\$ 1,617,087	\$ 1,439,250	\$ 152.12	\$ 126.71	\$ 57.7	\$ 1.17
2024	\$ 5,034,440	\$ 8,841,148	\$ 1,483,302	\$ 2,172,057	\$ 160.93	\$ 123.90	\$ 40.0	\$ 1.16
2023	\$ 4,846,528	\$ 2,913,725	\$ 1,441,139	\$ 833,804	\$ 124.15	\$ 118.09	\$ (17.8)	\$ 1.15
2022	\$ 4,856,465	\$ 583,503	\$ 1,754,644	\$ 540,222	\$ 130.87	\$ 106.05	\$ 120.7	\$ 1.08
2021	\$ 4,517,543	\$ 15,562,928	\$ 1,448,152	\$ 4,047,439	\$ 190.70	\$ 141.30	\$ 45.5	\$ 0.84

- (1) The dollar amounts reported represent the amount of Compensation Actually Paid ("CAP") to our Chief Executive Officer ("CEO"), Scott Schaeffer, as computed in accordance with Item 402(v) of Regulation S-K. The dollar amounts do not reflect the actual amount of compensation earned by or paid to Mr. Schaeffer during the applicable year. To calculate CAP to Mr. Schaeffer, for 2025, the following amounts were deducted from and added to Summary Compensation Table ("SCT") total compensation.

CEO SCT Total to CAP Reconciliation:

Year	SCT Total	Deductions from SCT Total (i)	Additions to SCT Total (ii)	CAP
2025	\$ 5,266,937	\$ 2,825,675	\$ 1,845,200	\$ 4,286,462

- (i) Represents the grant date fair value of equity-based awards, as shown in the Stock Awards column of the Summary Compensation Table.
(ii) Reflects the value of equity calculated in accordance with the SEC methodology for determining CAP for each year shown. The equity component of CAP is further detailed in the supplemental table below.

CEO Equity Component of CAP:

Year	Fair Value of Equity Awards Granted in the Year and Outstanding and Unvested as of Year End	Year over Year Change in Fair Value of Equity Awards Granted in Prior Years and Outstanding and Unvested as of Year End	Fair Value as of Vesting Date of Equity Awards Granted and Vested in the Year	Year over Year Change in Fair Value of Equity Awards Granted in Prior Years that Vested in the Year	Fair Value at the End of the Prior Year of Equity Awards that were Forfeited in the Year	Value of Dividends or other Earnings Paid on Equity Awards not Reflected in Fair Value or Total Compensation	Total Equity Award Adjustments
2025	\$ 2,513,592	\$ (501,117)	\$ —	\$ (281,479)	\$ —	\$ 114,204	\$ 1,845,200

- (2) The dollar amounts reported in column (e) represent the average amount of CAP to the non-CEO named executive officers ("Non-CEO NEOs") as a group, as computed in accordance with Item 402(v) of Regulation S-K. The dollar amounts do not reflect the actual average amount of compensation earned by or paid to the Non-CEO NEOs during the applicable year. The Non-CEO NEOs reflected in columns (d) and (e) consist of the following individuals for each of 2021 - 2025: James Sebra and Jason Delozier. In addition, Farrell Ender and Jessica Norman are included as Non-CEO NEOs from 2021-2023, Ella Neyland is included as a Non-CEO NEO for 2022 only and Ms. Weisbaum is included as a Non-CEO NEO for 2023-2025. To calculate CAP to our Non-CEO NEOs for 2025, the following amounts were deducted from and added to SCT total compensation.

Average Non-CEO NEOs SCT Total to CAP Reconciliation:

Year	SCT Total	Deductions from SCT Total (i)	Additions to SCT Total (ii)	CAP
2025	\$ 1,617,087	\$ 596,519	\$ 418,682	\$ 1,439,250

- (i) Represents the grant date fair value of equity-based awards, as shown in the Stock Awards column of the Summary Compensation Table.
- (ii) Reflects the value of equity calculated in accordance with the SEC methodology for determining CAP for each year shown. The equity component of CAP is further detailed in the supplemental table below.



Average Non-CEO NEOs Equity Component of CAP:

Year	Fair Value of Equity Awards Granted in the Year and Outstanding and Unvested as of Year End	Year over Year Change in Fair Value of Equity Awards Granted in Prior Years and Outstanding and Unvested as of Year End	Fair Value as of Vesting Date of Equity Awards Granted and Vested in the Year	Year over Year Change in Fair Value of Equity Awards Granted in Prior Years that Vested in the Year	Fair Value at the End of the Prior Year of Equity Awards that were Forfeited in the Year	Value of Dividends or other Earnings Paid on Equity Awards not Otherwise Reflected in Fair Value or Total Compensation	Total Equity Award Adjustments
2025	\$ 530,637	\$ (86,988)	\$ —	\$ (45,045)	\$ —	\$ 20,079	\$ 418,682

- (3) Represents the weighted peer group TSR, weighted according to the respective companies’ stock market capitalization at the beginning of each period for which a return is indicated. The peer group used for this purpose is the constituent members of the FTSE NAREIT Equity Index, which we use to prepare the stock performance graph in our Form 10-K.
- (4) We believe this non-GAAP financial measure is an additional appropriate measure of our operating performance. Please see Appendix A to this Proxy Statement for a discussion of CFFO, a non-GAAP financial measure, and a reconciliation to net income (loss), the most directly comparable GAAP financial measure.

Financial Performance Measures

The following list provides the financial performance measures that are the most important measures used to link executive compensation actually paid for fiscal year 2025 to company performance. The measures in this table are not ranked. Please see Appendix A to this Proxy Statement for a discussion of the non-GAAP financial measures listed below, and a reconciliation to the most directly comparable GAAP financial measures.

- CFFO per Share
- G&A % of Revenue
- Net Debt-to-Adjusted EBITDA
- Operating Margin
- Relative TSR
- Same-Store NOI Growth

Table 1 below graphs the dollar changes in CAP to our CEO, average CAP to our NON-CEO NEOs ("Executive Pay") and our net income for the five-year period ending December 31, 2025.

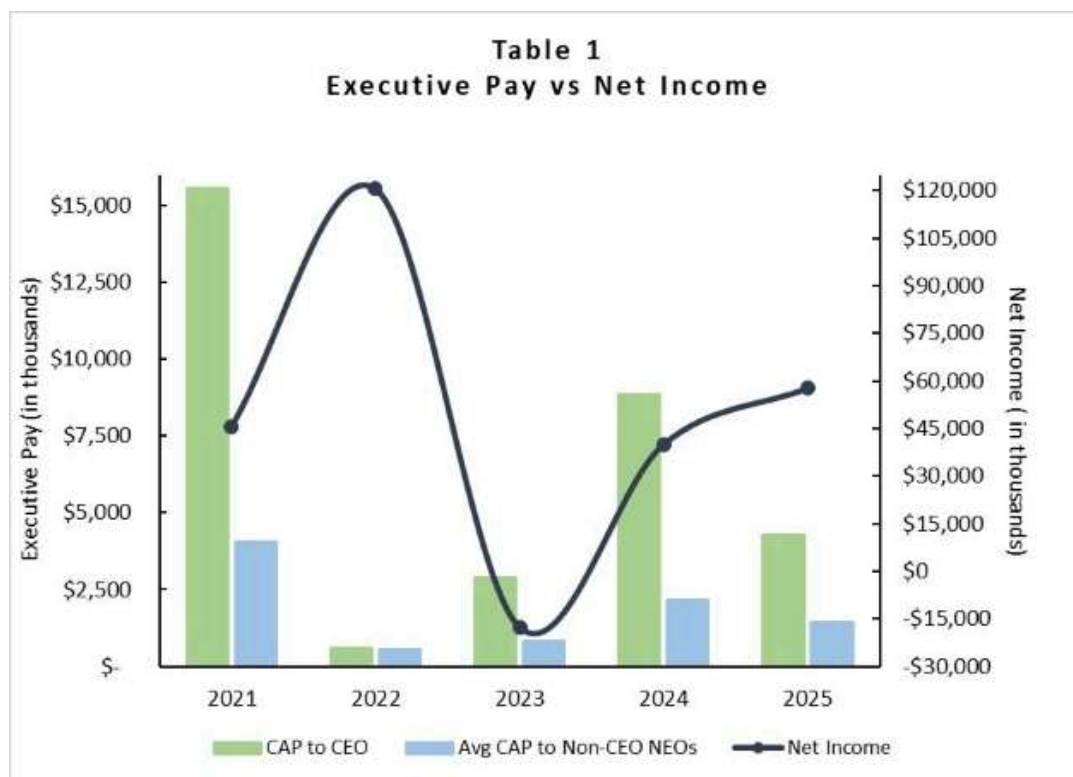




Table 2 below graphs the dollar changes in Executive Pay, and our CFFO per share for the five-year period ending December 31, 2025.

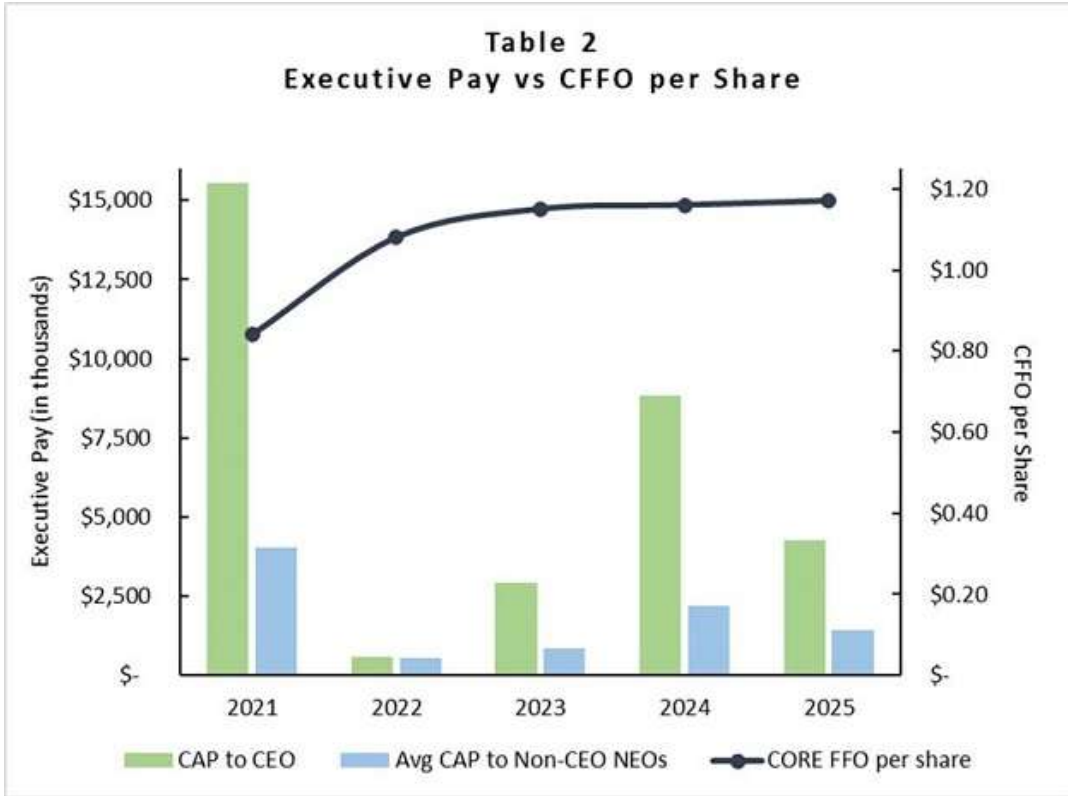
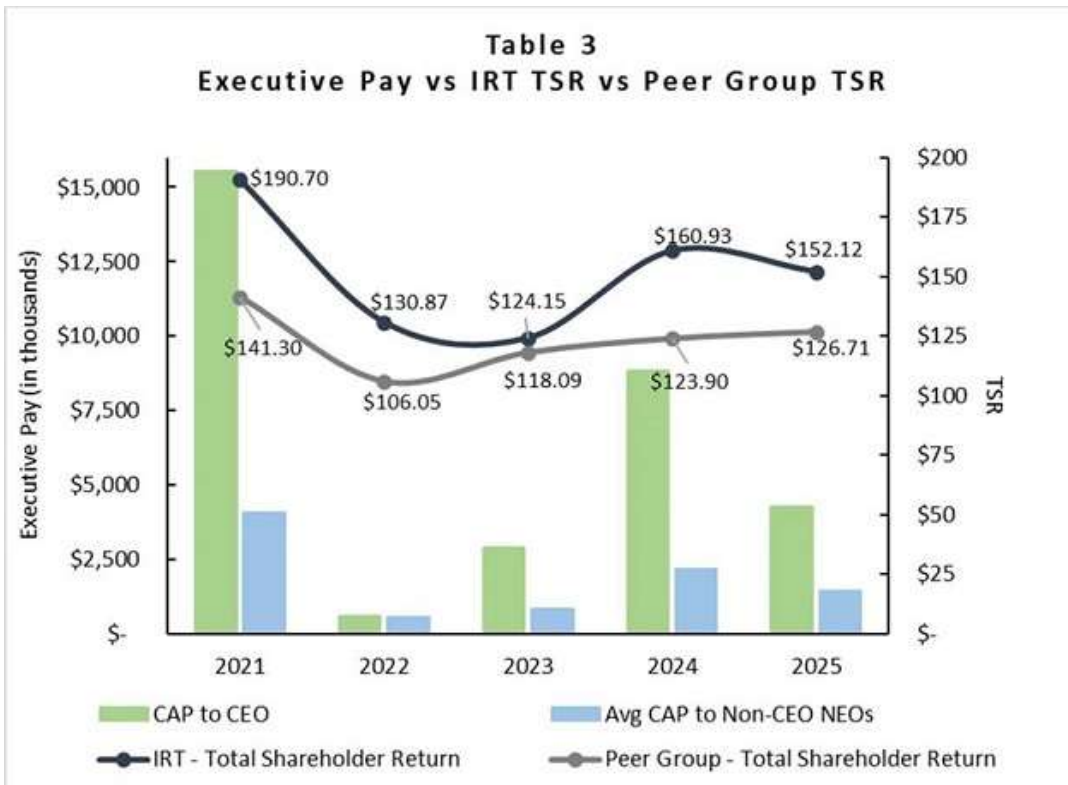


Table 3 below graphs the dollar changes in our Executive Pay, our TSR, and our peer group TSR for the five-year period ending December 31, 2025.





Equity Compensation Plan Information

The following table sets forth certain information regarding IRT's equity compensation plans as of December 31, 2025.

Plan Category	(a) Number of Securities to be Issued Upon Exercise of Outstanding Options, Warrants, and Rights (1)	(b) Weighted Average Exercise Price of Outstanding Options, Warrants, and Rights (2)	(c) Number of Securities Remaining Available for Future Issuance Under Equity Compensation Plans (Excluding Securities Reflected in Column (a)) (3)
Equity compensation plans approved by security holders	1,060,587	n/a	6,450,484
Equity compensation plans not approved by security holders	—	n/a	—
'Total	1,060,587		6,450,484

- (1) Includes PSUs and RSUs which remained subject to forfeiture at December 31, 2025. The number of PSUs reflects the actual number of shares issuable for 2023 and maximum number of shares issuable for 2024 and 2025. Excludes 382,337 restricted common stock awards that remained subject to forfeiture at December 31, 2025 because they do not constitute outstanding options, warrants and rights.
- (2) The weighted average exercise price in column (b) does not take PSUs and RSUs into account, as they do not have an exercise price.
- (3) Reflects shares available for issuance under our 2022 Long Term Incentive Plan, assuming the maximum performance is achieved with respect to PSUs subject to performance periods ending after December 31, 2025.

Director Compensation

Our director compensation is designed with the goals of attracting and retaining highly qualified individuals to serve as independent directors and to fairly compensate them for their time and efforts. For 2025, our non-management directors received the following compensation for their service as directors:

- A standard non-management Board member retainer per year of:
 - \$90,000 cash; and
 - \$100,000 worth of IRT stock, based on the volume weighted average of our closing stock price on the NYSE for the 20 trading days prior to the grant date;
- Lead Independent Director retainer per year of \$25,000 cash
- Chair retainers per year of:
 - \$20,000 cash for the Audit Committee Chair;
 - \$15,000 cash for the Compensation Committee Chair;
 - \$12,500 cash for the Nominating Committee Chair;
 - \$5,000 cash for the Investment Committee Chair; and
 - \$5,000 cash for the Risk Committee Chair.
- Committee member (other than the Chair) retainers per year of:
 - \$10,000 cash for the Audit Committee members;
 - \$5,000 cash for the Compensation Committee members;
 - \$5,000 cash for the Nominating Committee members;
 - \$5,000 cash for the Investment Committee; and
 - \$5,000 cash for the Risk Committee.

Our directors are also reimbursed for their out-of-pocket expenses in attending Board and committee meetings and up to \$3,500 annually for education activities.

The following table sets forth information regarding the compensation earned during 2025 by each of our non-management directors:

Name	Fees Earned or Paid in Cash (\$)	Stock Awards (\$) (1)	Total (\$)
Stephen R. Bowie (2)	\$ 100,000	\$ 96,259	\$ 196,259
Ned W. Brines	120,000	96,259	216,259

Richard D. Gebert	115,000	96,259	211,259
Melinda H. McClure	112,500	96,259	208,759
Thomas H. Purcell (3)	36,296	-	66,296
Ana Marie del Rio	95,000	96,259	191,259
DeForest Soaries, Jr., D.Min	118,056	96,259	214,315
Lisa Washington	100,000	96,259	196,259
Craig Macnab	99,028	96,259	195,287



- (1) On May 14, 2025, each non-management director then in service received 5,178 shares of our common stock as part of their routine annual compensation. These awards vested immediately. The value in this column reflects the grant date fair value of these awards, as determined in accordance with FASB ASC Topic 718. The value in this column differs slightly from the \$100,000 amount shown in the summary of Director Compensation above because, in accordance with SEC rules, the value in this column is based on the closing price of our common stock on the grant date (\$18.59), whereas the \$100,000 amount in the summary of Director Compensation is based on the volume weighted average of the closing price of our common stock for the 20 trading days prior to the grant date (\$19.31). As of December 31, 2025, none of our non-management directors held unvested stock awards.
- (2) Mr. Bowie is retiring from our Board effective upon the expiration of his term at the Annual Meeting.
- (3) Mr. Purcell retired from our Board effective upon the expiration of his term at the 2025 annual meeting.

PROPOSAL 3: ADVISORY VOTE ON EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

The Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010, or the Dodd-Frank Act, enables our stockholders to vote to approve, on an advisory, nonbinding basis, the compensation of our named executive officers as disclosed in this Proxy Statement in accordance with the SEC's rules.

As described in detail above under the heading "Executive Officer and Director Compensation — Compensation Discussion and Analysis," our executive compensation programs are designed to attract, retain and motivate our named executive officers, who are critical to our success. Under these programs, our named executive officers are rewarded for the achievement of annual and long-term strategic and corporate goals, and the realization of increased stockholder value. Please read the "Compensation Discussion and Analysis" and "Compensation Tables and Related Information" for additional details about our executive compensation programs, including information about the fiscal year 2025 compensation of our named executive officers.

We are asking our stockholders to indicate their support for our named executive officer compensation as described in this Proxy Statement. This proposal, commonly known as a "say-on-pay" proposal, gives our stockholders the opportunity to express their views on our named executive officers' compensation. This vote is not intended to address any specific item of compensation, but rather the overall compensation of our named executive officers and the philosophy, policies and practices described in this Proxy Statement. Accordingly, we will ask our stockholders to vote "FOR" the following resolution at the annual meeting:

"RESOLVED, that the Company's stockholders approve, on an advisory and non-binding basis, the compensation of the named executive officers, as disclosed in the Company's Proxy Statement for the 2026 Annual Meeting of Stockholders pursuant to the compensation disclosure rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission, including the Compensation Discussion and Analysis, the 2025 Summary Compensation Table and the other related tables and disclosure."

The say-on-pay vote is advisory, and therefore not binding on us, our Compensation Committee or our Board. Our Board and our Compensation Committee value the opinions of our stockholders and to the extent there is any significant vote against the named executive officer compensation as disclosed in this Proxy Statement, we will consider our stockholders' concerns and the Compensation Committee will evaluate whether any actions are necessary to address those concerns.

The Board unanimously recommends a vote "FOR" the approval of the compensation of our named executive officers, as disclosed in this Proxy Statement pursuant to the compensation disclosure rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission.



PROPOSAL 4: ADVISORY VOTE ON THE FREQUENCY OF FUTURE ADVISORY VOTES ON EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

The Dodd-Frank Act enables our stockholders to indicate how frequently we should seek an advisory vote on the compensation of our named executive officers, as disclosed pursuant to the SEC's compensation disclosure rules, such as Proposal 3 included in this proxy statement. By voting on this Proposal 4, stockholders may indicate whether they would prefer an advisory vote on named executive officer compensation once every one, two or three years.

After careful consideration of this Proposal, our Board of Directors has determined that an advisory vote on executive compensation that occurs every year is the most appropriate alternative for us, and therefore our Board recommends that you vote for "every year" interval for the advisory vote on executive compensation.

In formulating its recommendation, our Board of Directors considered that an annual advisory vote on executive compensation will allow our stockholders to provide us with their direct input on our compensation philosophy, policies and practices as disclosed in the proxy statement every year. Additionally, an annual advisory vote on executive compensation is consistent with our policy of seeking input from, and engaging in discussions with, our stockholders on corporate governance matters and our executive compensation philosophy, policies and practices. We understand that our stockholders may have different views as to what is the best approach for us, and we look forward to hearing from our stockholders on this Proposal.

You may cast your vote on your preferred voting frequency by choosing the option of every year, every two years, every three years or abstain from voting when you vote in response to the resolution set forth below.

"RESOLVED, that the option of once every year, every two years, or every three years that receives the highest number of votes cast for this resolution will be determined to be the preferred frequency for the holding of a stockholder vote to approve the compensation of the named executive officers, as disclosed pursuant to the Securities and Exchange Commission's compensation disclosure rules (which disclosure shall include the Compensation Discussion and Analysis, the Summary Compensation Table, and the other related tables and disclosures)."

The option of every year, every two years or every three years that receives the highest number of votes cast by stockholders will be the frequency for the advisory votes on executive compensation that has been selected by stockholders. However, because this vote is advisory and not binding on the Board of Directors or us in any way, the Board may decide that it is in the best interests of our stockholders and us to hold an advisory vote on executive compensation more or less frequently than the option approved by our stockholders.

The Board of Directors unanimously recommends a vote for EVERY YEAR as the option of once every year as the frequency with which stockholders are provided an advisory vote on executive compensation, as disclosed pursuant to the compensation disclosure rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission.



CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Our Board has delegated oversight of compliance with our code of ethics to our Audit Committee, including the review of related party transactions, potential and actual conflicts of interest and the granting of waivers to the code of ethics. Our Audit Committee is responsible, and has the full power of the Board, to approve or reject all related party transactions on our behalf. All related party transactions and any identified potential and actual conflicts of interest are to be reviewed and approved or rejected by our Audit Committee. Our Audit Committee may, in its discretion, engage independent advisors and legal counsel to assist it in its review when it deems it advisable. If our Audit Committee finds a conflict of interest to exist with respect to a particular matter, including a related party transaction, that matter is prohibited unless a waiver of this policy is approved under the waiver process described in the code of ethics. In determining whether a conflict of interest exists, our Bylaws provide that a director or officer has no responsibility to devote his or her full time to our affairs and that any director or officer, in his or her personal capacity or in a capacity as an affiliate, employee or agent of any other person, or otherwise, may have business interests and engage in business activities similar to, in addition to or in competition with ours. Any waiver of the code of ethics may be made only by the Audit Committee. Any such waiver for executive officers, those persons described in Item 5.05 of Form 8-K or directors will be promptly publicly disclosed to the extent required by law or stock exchange regulation.

STOCKHOLDER PROPOSALS AND DIRECTOR NOMINATIONS

Stockholder Proposals Submitted Pursuant to Rule 14a-8

To be considered for inclusion in our proxy statement and form of proxy for our 2027 annual meeting of stockholders pursuant to Rule 14a-8 of the Exchange Act, and acted upon at the 2027 annual meeting, stockholder proposals must be submitted in writing to the attention of our Secretary at our principal office, no later than November 26, 2026. In order to avoid controversy, stockholders should submit proposals by means (including electronic) that permit them to prove the date of delivery. Such proposals also need to comply with Rule 14a-8 of the Exchange Act and the interpretations thereof, and may be omitted from our proxy materials for the 2027 annual meeting if such proposals are not in compliance with applicable requirements of the Exchange Act.

Director Nominations and Stockholder Proposals Not Submitted Pursuant to Rule 14a-8

Our Bylaws also establish advance notice procedures with regard to stockholder proposals or director nominations that are not submitted for inclusion in our proxy statement. With respect to such stockholder proposals or director nominations, a stockholder's advance notice must be made in writing, must meet the requirements set forth in our Bylaws and must be delivered to, or mailed and received by, our Secretary at our principal office no earlier than the close of business on October 27, 2026 and no later than the close of business on November 26, 2026. However, in the event the Annual Meeting is scheduled to be held on a date before April 13, 2027, or after June 12, 2027, then such advance notice must be received by us not earlier than the close of business on the one hundred fiftieth (150th) calendar day prior to the date of such annual meeting and not later than the later of (i) the close of business on the one hundred twentieth (120th) calendar day prior to such annual meeting or (ii) the close of business on the tenth (10th) calendar day following the day on which public disclosure of the date of such annual meeting was first made by us (or if that day is not a business day for us, on the next succeeding business day).

As provided in our Bylaws, any notice provided by a stockholder advising that the stockholder intends to solicit proxies in support of director nominees other than our nominees must set forth the information required by SEC Rule 14a-19, the SEC's universal proxy rules, and comply with the requirements of these rules.

General Requirements

Each proposal submitted must be a proper subject for stockholder action at the annual meeting, and all proposals and nominations must be submitted to: Secretary, Independence Realty Trust, Inc., 1835 Market Street, Suite 2601, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 19103. The stockholder proponent must appear in person to present the proposal or nomination at the meeting or send a qualified representative to present such proposal or nomination. If a stockholder gives notice after the applicable deadlines or otherwise does not satisfy the relevant requirements of Rule 14a-8 of the Exchange Act or our Bylaws, the stockholder will not be permitted to present the proposal or nomination for a vote at the meeting.

Discretionary Authority Pursuant to Rule 14a-4(c) of the Exchange Act

If a stockholder who wishes to present a proposal before the 2027 annual meeting outside of Rule 14a-8 of the Exchange Act fails to notify us by the required dates indicated above for the receipt of advance notices of stockholder proposals and proposed director nominations, the proxies that our Board solicits for the 2027 annual meeting will confer discretionary authority on the person named in the proxy to vote on the stockholder's proposal if it is properly brought before that meeting subject to compliance with Rule 14a-4(c) of the Exchange Act. If a stockholder makes timely notification, the proxies may still confer discretionary authority to the person named in the proxy under circumstances consistent with the SEC's proxy rules, including Rule 14a-4(c) of the Exchange Act.

Director Recommendations

A stockholder who wishes to submit recommendations for director candidates to the Nominating Committee should send a written recommendation to our principal office, attention: Secretary. Our Secretary will forward it to the Nominating Committee chair. The stockholder must provide the same information regarding the director candidate called for in our Bylaws for a director nomination and submit such recommendation within the time period in our Bylaws set forth for a director nomination. All stockholder recommendations received by the Nominating Committee will begin to be reviewed at the first meeting of the Nominating Committee held after receipt of all information required with respect to the recommendation.

ANNUAL REPORT

Our Annual Report to stockholders, including the financial statements and management’s discussion and analysis of financial condition and results of operations for the year ended December 31, 2025, was made available to stockholders of record as of March 16, 2026. Stockholders of record as of March 16, 2026, and beneficial owners of our common stock on that date, may obtain from us, without charge, a copy of our Annual Report to stockholders and our most recent Annual Report filed with the SEC by a request to us in writing. Such requests may be made by writing to our Secretary at 1835 Market Street, Suite 2601, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103 or by calling our Secretary at (267) 270-4820. Beneficial owners must include in their written requests a good faith representation that they were beneficial owners of our common stock on March 16, 2026. Within the “Investors” page of our website at <http://irtliving.com>, you can obtain, free of charge, a copy of our Annual Report, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, current reports on Form 8-K, and amendments to those reports filed or furnished pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Exchange Act as soon as reasonably practicable after we file such material electronically with, or furnish it to, the SEC. Information from our website is not incorporated by reference into this Proxy Statement.



APPENDIX A

DEFINITIONS AND RECONCILIATIONS OF NON-GAAP FINANCIAL MEASURES TO GAAP MEASURES

Funds From Operations (“FFO”) and Core Funds From Operations (“CFFO”)

IRT believes that FFO and CFFO, each of which is a non-GAAP financial measure, are additional appropriate measures of the operating performance of a REIT and IRT in particular. IRT computes FFO in accordance with the standards established by the National Association of Real Estate Investment Trusts, or NAREIT, as net income or loss allocated to common shares (computed in accordance with GAAP), excluding real estate-related depreciation and amortization expense, loss on impairment (gain) on sales of real estate and the cumulative effect of changes in accounting principles. While our calculation of FFO is in accordance with NAREIT’s definition, it may differ from the methodology for calculating FFO utilized by other REITs and, accordingly, may not be comparable to FFO computations of such other REITs.

CFFO is a computation made by analysts and investors to measure a real estate company’s operating performance by removing the effect of items that do not reflect ongoing property operations, including depreciation and amortization of other items not included in FFO, and other non-cash or non-operating gains or losses related to items such as casualty (gains) losses, loan premium accretion and discount amortization, debt extinguishment costs and restructuring costs from the determination of FFO.

IRT’s calculation of CFFO may differ from the methodology used for calculating CFFO by other REITs and, accordingly, IRT’s CFFO may not be comparable to CFFO reported by other REITs. IRT’s management utilizes FFO and CFFO as measures of IRT’s operating performance, and believes they are also useful to investors, because they facilitate an understanding of IRT’s operating performance after adjustment for certain non-cash or non-recurring items that are required by GAAP to be expensed but may not necessarily be indicative of current operating performance and that may not accurately compare IRT’s operating performance between periods. Furthermore, although FFO, CFFO and other supplemental performance measures are defined in various ways throughout the REIT industry, IRT believes that FFO and CFFO provide investors with additional useful measures to compare IRT’s financial performance to certain other REITs. Neither FFO nor CFFO is equivalent to net income or cash generated from operating activities determined in accordance with GAAP. Furthermore, FFO and CFFO do not represent amounts available for management’s discretionary use because of needed capital replacement or expansion, debt service obligations or other commitments or uncertainties. Accordingly, FFO and CFFO do not measure whether cash flow is sufficient to fund all of IRT’s cash needs, including principal amortization and capital improvements. Neither FFO nor CFFO should be considered as an alternative to net income or any other GAAP measurement as an indicator of IRT’s operating performance or as an alternative to cash flow from operating, investing, and financing activities as a measure of IRT’s liquidity.

Set forth below is a reconciliation of net income (loss) to FFO and CFFO for the years ended December 31, 2025, 2024, and 2023 (in thousands, except per share data).

	For the Year Ended December 31, 2025		For the Year Ended December 31, 2024		For the Year Ended December 31, 2023	
	Amount	Per Share (1)	Amount	Per Share (1)	Amount	Per Share (1)
Funds From Operations (FFO):						
Net income (loss)	\$ 57,707	\$ 0.24	\$ 40,033	\$ 0.17	\$ (17,807)	\$ (0.08)
Adjustments:						
Real estate depreciation and amortization	241,462	1.00	219,360	0.95	217,716	0.94
Our share of real estate depreciation and amortization from investments in unconsolidated real estate entities	1,898	0.01	1,581	0.01	2,115	0.01
(Gain on sale) loss on impairment of real estate assets, net, excluding prepayment gains	(4,577)	(0.02)	11,815	0.05	68,447	0.30
Gain on sale of real estate associated with unconsolidated real estate entities	(10,576)	(0.04)	-	-	-	-
FFO	<u>\$ 285,914</u>	<u>\$ 1.19</u>	<u>\$ 272,789</u>	<u>\$ 1.18</u>	<u>\$ 270,471</u>	<u>\$ 1.17</u>
Core Funds From Operations (CFFO):						
FFO	\$ 285,914	\$ 1.19	\$ 272,789	\$ 1.18	\$ 270,471	\$ 1.17
Adjustments:						
Other depreciation and amortization	1,779	0.01	1,493	0.01	1,252	0.01
Casualty losses	1,314	0.01	3,935	0.02	925	0.01
Loan (premium accretion) discount amortization, net	(8,028)	(0.03)	(9,167)	(0.04)	(10,899)	(0.04)
Prepayment (gains) losses on asset dispositions	(1,570)	(0.01)	(1,953)	(0.01)	(1,900)	(0.01)
Loss (gain) on extinguishment of debt	67	-	(200)	-	124	-
Other loss	352	-	1	-	743	-
Restructuring costs	-	-	-	-	3,213	0.01
CFFO	<u>\$ 279,828</u>	<u>\$ 1.17</u>	<u>\$ 266,898</u>	<u>\$ 1.16</u>	<u>\$ 263,929</u>	<u>\$ 1.15</u>

- (1) Based on 239,865,259, 230,741,085, and 230,364,184 weighted average shares and units outstanding for the years ended December 31, 2025, 2024, and 2023, respectively.

Net Operating Income

IRT believes that Net Operating Income (“NOI”), a non-GAAP financial measure, is a useful supplemental measure of its operating performance. IRT defines NOI as total property revenues less total property operating expenses, excluding interest expenses, depreciation and amortization, casualty related costs and gains, property management expenses, general and administrative expenses and net gains on sale of assets. Other REITs may use different methodologies for calculating NOI, and accordingly, IRT’s NOI may not be comparable to other REITs. IRT believes that this measure provides an operating perspective not immediately apparent from GAAP operating income or net income insofar as the measure reflects only operating income and expense at the property level. IRT uses NOI to evaluate performance on a same-store and non same-store basis because NOI measures the core operations of property performance by excluding corporate level expenses, financing expenses, and other items not related to property operating performance and captures trends in rental housing and property operating expenses. However, NOI should only be used as an alternative measure of IRT’s financial performance.

Same-Store Properties and Same-Store Portfolio

IRT reviews its same-store portfolio at the beginning of each calendar year. Properties are added into the same-store portfolio if they were owned and not a development property at the beginning of the previous year. Properties that are held for sale or have been sold are excluded from the same-store portfolio. A development property is a property that is either currently under development or is in lease-up prior to reaching overall occupancy of 90%.

Set forth below is a reconciliation of same-store net operating income to net income available to common shares for the years ended December 31, 2025, and 2024 (in thousands, except per unit data).

	Twelve Months Ended December 31, (a)		
	2025	2024	% change
Revenue:			
Rental and other property revenue	\$ 595,601	\$ 585,431	1.7%
Property Operating Expenses			
Real estate taxes	67,926	68,534	-0.9%
Property insurance	13,323	15,174	-12.2%
Personnel expenses	47,460	48,068	-1.3%
Utilities	29,720	28,923	2.8%
Repairs and maintenance	18,836	18,872	-0.2%
Contract services	22,927	21,276	7.8%
Advertising expenses	9,079	7,380	23.0%
Other expenses	6,279	6,209	1.1%
Total property operating expenses	215,550	214,436	0.5%
Net operating income	380,051	370,995	2.4%
Combined same-store portfolio NOI Margin	63.8%	63.4%	0.4%
Average Occupancy	95.4%	95.1%	0.3%
Average effective monthly rent, per unit	1,578	1,565	0.8%
Reconciliation of Combined Same-Store Portfolio NOI to Net (Loss) Income			
Same-store portfolio NOI (a)	\$ 380,051	\$ 370,995	2.4%
Non same-store portfolio NOI	37,273	32,330	
Other revenue	1,215	1,122	
Property management expenses	(30,107)	(29,923)	
General and administrative expenses	(23,966)	(24,245)	
Depreciation and amortization	(243,241)	(220,854)	
Casualty losses	(1,314)	(3,935)	
Interest expense	(78,998)	(76,141)	
Gain on sale (loss on impairment) of real estate assets, net	6,147	(9,862)	
(Gain) loss on extinguishment of debt	(67)	200	
Other loss	(352)	(1)	
Income from investments in unconsolidated real estate entities	11,066	347	
Net income	<u>\$ 57,707</u>	<u>\$ 40,033</u>	

(a) Same-store portfolio for the years ended December 31, 2025, and 2024 included 105 properties containing 30,502 units.

EBITDA and Adjusted EBITDA

Each of EBITDA and Adjusted EBITDA is a non-GAAP financial measure. EBITDA is defined as net income before interest expense including amortization of deferred financing costs, income tax expense, and depreciation and amortization expenses. Adjusted EBITDA is EBITDA before certain other non-cash or non-operating gains or losses related to items such as asset sales, debt extinguishments and acquisition related debt extinguishment expenses, casualty (gains) losses, merger and integration cost, income (loss) from investments in unconsolidated real estate entities and restructuring costs. We consider each of EBITDA and Adjusted EBITDA to be an appropriate supplemental measure of performance because it eliminates interest, income taxes, depreciation and amortization, and other non-cash or non-operating gains and losses, which permits investors to view income from operations without these non-cash or non-operating items. Our calculation of Adjusted EBITDA differs from the methodology used for calculating Adjusted EBITDA by certain other REITs and, accordingly, our Adjusted EBITDA may not be comparable to Adjusted EBITDA reported by other REITs.

Net Debt

Net Debt, a non-GAAP financial measure, equals total debt less cash and cash equivalents. We present net debt because management believes it is a useful measure of our credit position and progress toward reducing leverage. The calculation is limited because we may not always be able to use cash to repay debt on a dollar for dollar basis.

Set forth below is a reconciliation of net (loss) income to Net Debt-to-Adjusted EBITDA for the quarter ended December 31, 2025 (in thousands).

	Three Months Ended December 31, 2025
ADJUSTED EBITDA:	
Net income	\$ 34,015
Add-Back (Deduct):	
Interest expense	20,422
Depreciation and amortization	62,984
Casualty losses	755
Gain on sale of real estate assets, net	(17,491)
Income from investments in unconsolidated real estate entities	(2,403)
Other loss	238
Adjusted EBITDA	<u>\$ 98,520</u>
Total debt	\$ 2,281,475
Less: cash and cash equivalents	(23,564)
Less: loan discounts and premiums, net	(21,850)
Total net debt	<u>\$ 2,236,061</u>
Net debt-to-Adjusted EBITDA (a)	5.70

(a) Reflects net debt-to-Adjusted EBITDA, which is annualized for the period presented, including adjustments for the timing of acquisitions and dispositions, impacting quarterly EBITDA.

Rent Premium on Value Add Renovations

The rent premium reflects the per unit per month difference between the rental rate on the renovated unit excluding the impact of upfront concessions, if any, and the market rent for an unrenovated unit as of the date presented, as determined by management consistent with its customary rent-setting and evaluation procedures. We believe excluding the impact of upfront concessions from our rental rates when comparing to the market rental rates for unrenovated units makes the comparison most relevant and the resulting premium provides management with an indicator of the increased rent generated by the unit renovation.

Renovation Costs per Unit

Renovation costs per unit includes all costs to renovate the interior units and make certain exterior renovations, including clubhouses and amenities. Interior costs per unit are based on units leased. Exterior costs per unit are based on total units at the community. Excludes overhead costs to support and manage the value add program as those costs relate to the entire program and cannot be allocated to individual projects.

Return on Investment ("ROI") on Value Add Renovations

ROI is calculated using the Rent Premium per unit per month, multiplied by 12, divided by the interior renovation costs per unit or the total renovation costs, as applicable. We use ROI on value add renovation projects to measure the profitability of a renovation project relative to other projects or relative to other uses of our capital. The ROI of the interior renovation costs using rental premiums including the impact of concessions was 18.2% as of December 31, 2025. The ROI of the total renovation costs using rent premiums including the impact of concessions was 16.1% as of December 31, 2025.

APPENDIX B

ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS OF

INDEPENDENCE REALTY TRUST, INC.

May 13, 2026

PROXY VOTING INSTRUCTIONS

INTERNET - Access www.voteproxy.com and follow the on-screen instructions or scan the QR code with your smartphone. Have your proxy card available when you access the web page.



Vote online until 11:59 PM Eastern Time the day before the meeting.

MAIL - Sign, date and mail your proxy card in the envelope provided as soon as possible.

IN PERSON - You may vote your shares in person by attending the Annual Meeting.

GO GREEN - e-Consent makes it easy to go paperless. With e-Consent, you can quickly access your proxy material, statements and other eligible documents online, while reducing costs, clutter and paper waste. Enroll today via equiniti.com/us/ast-access to enjoy online access.

COMPANY NUMBER	
ACCOUNT NUMBER	

IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING THE AVAILABILITY OF PROXY MATERIALS FOR THE STOCKHOLDER MEETING TO BE HELD ON MAY 13, 2026:
 The notice of annual meeting, proxy statement and annual report to stockholders are available at www.astproxyportal.com/ast/18286/

Please detach along perforated line and mail in the envelope provided IF you are not voting via the Internet.

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THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS A VOTE "FOR" THE ELECTION OF EACH DIRECTOR NOMINEE, "FOR" PROPOSALS 2 AND 3, AND FOR "EVERY YEAR" ON PROPOSAL 4. PLEASE MARK, SIGN, DATE AND MAIL YOUR PROXY CARD PROMPTLY IN THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE. PLEASE MARK YOUR VOTE IN BLUE OR BLACK INK AS SHOWN HERE.

THIS PROXY, WHEN PROPERLY EXECUTED, WILL BE VOTED IN THE MANNER DIRECTED HEREIN BY THE UNDERSIGNED STOCKHOLDER. IF PROPERLY EXECUTED, BUT NO DIRECTION IS MADE, THIS PROXY WILL BE VOTED FOR EACH DIRECTOR NOMINEE, FOR PROPOSALS 2 AND 3, AND FOR EVERY YEAR FOR PROPOSAL 4. THE VOTES ENTITLED TO BE CAST BY THE UNDERSIGNED WILL BE CAST IN THE DISCRETION OF THE PROXY HOLDER ON ANY OTHER MATTER THAT MAY PROPERLY COME BEFORE THE MEETING OR ANY POSTPONEMENT OR ADJOURNMENT THEREOF.

- ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

Scott F. Schaeffer	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN
Ned W. Brines	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Richard D. Gebert	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Melinda H. McClure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
James J. Sebra	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ana Marie del Rio	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DeForest B. Soaries, Jr.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lisa Washington	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Craig Macnab	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
- The Board of Directors recommends a vote FOR ratification of the appointment of KPMG LLP as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm for the year ending December 31, 2025.
- The Board of Directors recommends a vote FOR the advisory, non-binding resolution to approve the Company's executive compensation.
- The Board of Directors recommends a vote for EVERY YEAR as the frequency of the advisory votes on the Company's executive compensation.

	EVERY YEAR	EVERY THREE YEARS	EVERY FIVE YEARS	ABSTAIN
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
- To vote and otherwise represent the undersigned stockholder's business as may properly come before the annual meeting or any postponement(s) or adjournment(s) thereof in the discretion of the proxy holder.

To change the address on your account, please check the box at right and indicate your new address in the address space above. Please note that changes to the registered name(s) on the account may not be submitted via this method.

Signature of Stockholder _____ Date: _____ Signature of Stockholder _____ Date: _____

Note: Please sign exactly as your name or names appear on this Proxy. When shares are held jointly, each holder should sign. When signing as executor, administrator, attorney, trustee or guardian, please give full title as such. If the signer is a corporation, please sign full corporate name by duly authorized officer, giving full title as such. If signer is a partnership, please sign in partnership name by authorized person.

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INDEPENDENCE REALTY TRUST, INC.

PROXY

**THIS PROXY IS SOLICITED ON BEHALF OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF INDEPENDENCE REALTY TRUST, INC.**

The undersigned hereby appoints Scott F. Schaeffer and James J. Sebra, and each of them, acting individually, as proxies for the undersigned, each with the power to appoint such proxy's substitute, and hereby authorizes them, or either of them, to vote all of the shares of Common Stock of Independence Realty Trust, Inc. ("IRT") held of record by the undersigned at the close of business on March 16, 2026, at the Annual Meeting of Stockholders of IRT, to be held at 9:00 A.M. Eastern Time on Wednesday, May 13, 2026, at 3000 Two Logan Square, Eighteenth and Arch Streets, Philadelphia, PA 19103, and at any and all adjournments or postponements thereof as set forth on the reverse side hereof.

The Board of Directors of the Company recommends that stockholders vote FOR the election of each of the Board of Directors nominees named; FOR the ratification of the appointment of KPMG LLP as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm for the year ending December 31, 2026; FOR the advisory, non-binding resolution to approve the Company's executive compensation; and for EVERY YEAR as the frequency of future advisory votes on the Company's executive compensation.

This Proxy, when properly executed, will be voted in the manner directed herein by the undersigned stockholder. If properly executed, but no direction is made, this Proxy will be voted FOR each Board of Directors nominee, FOR proposals 2 and 3, and EVERY YEAR on proposal 4. The votes entitled to be cast by the undersigned will be cast in the discretion of the Proxy holder on any other matter that may properly come before the meeting or any postponement(s) or adjournment(s) thereof.

ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS OF INDEPENDENCE REALTY TRUST, INC.

May 13, 2026

GO GREEN

e-Consent makes it easy to go paperless. With e-Consent, you can quickly access your proxy material, statements and other eligible documents online, while reducing costs, clutter and paper waste. Enroll today via equiniti.com/us/ast-access to enjoy online access.

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FOR THE STOCKHOLDER MEETING TO BE HELD ON MAY 13, 2026**

The notice of annual meeting, proxy statement and annual report to stockholders are available at www.astproxyportal.com/ast/18286/

Please mark, sign, date
and mail your proxy card
promptly in the enclosed
envelope.

↓ Please detach along perforated line and mail in the envelope provided. ↓

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THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS A VOTE "FOR" THE ELECTION OF EACH DIRECTOR NOMINEE, "FOR" PROPOSALS 2 AND 3, AND FOR "EVERY YEAR" ON PROPOSAL 4. PLEASE MARK, SIGN, DATE AND MAIL YOUR PROXY CARD PROMPTLY IN THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE. PLEASE MARK YOUR VOTE IN BLUE OR BLACK INK AS SHOWN HERE

THIS PROXY, WHEN PROPERLY EXECUTED, WILL BE VOTED IN THE MANNER DIRECTED HEREIN BY THE UNDERSIGNED STOCKHOLDER. IF PROPERLY EXECUTED, BUT NO DIRECTION IS MADE, THIS PROXY WILL BE VOTED FOR EACH DIRECTOR NOMINEE, FOR PROPOSALS 2 AND 3, AND FOR EVERY YEAR FOR PROPOSAL 4. THE VOTES ENTITLED TO BE CAST BY THE UNDERSIGNED WILL BE CAST IN THE DISCRETION OF THE PROXY HOLDER ON ANY OTHER MATTER THAT MAY PROPERLY COME BEFORE THE MEETING OR ANY POSTPONEMENT OR ADJOURNMENT THEREOF.

- | 1. ELECTION OF DIRECTORS | | FOR | AGAINST | ABSTAIN |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Scott F. Schaeffer | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Ned W. Brines | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Richard D. Gebert | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Melinda H. McClure | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| James J. Sebra | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Ana Marie del Rio | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| DeForest B. Soanes, Jr. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Lisa Washington | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Craig Macnab | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| 2. The Board of Directors recommends: a vote FOR ratification of the appointment of KPMG LLP as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm for the year ending December 31, 2026. | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. The Board of Directors recommends: a vote FOR the advisory, non-binding resolution to approve the Company's executive compensation. | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. The Board of Directors recommends: a vote for EVERY YEAR as the frequency of future advisory votes on the Company's executive compensation. | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. To vote and otherwise represent the undersigned on such other business as may properly come before the annual meeting or any postponement(s) or adjournment(s) thereof in the discretion of the proxy holder. | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

To change the address on your account, please check the box at right and indicate your new address in the address space above. Please note that changes to the registered name(s) on the account may not be submitted via this method.

Signature of Stockholder Date: Signature of Stockholder Date:

Note: Please sign exactly as your name or names appear on this Proxy. When shares are held jointly, each holder should sign. When signing as executor, administrator, attorney, trustee or guardian, please give full title as such. If the signer is a corporation, please sign full corporate name by duly authorized officer, giving full title as such. If signer is a partnership, please sign in partnership name by authorized person.