PROCTER & GAMBLE CO Form 424B5 February 20, 2004

Filed pursuant to Rule 424(b)(5)

Registration No. 333-8423

PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

(To Prospectus dated March 25, 2002)

# \$20,000,000

# **The Procter & Gamble Company**

# Floating Rate Notes due 2005

We will pay interest on the notes on May 25, 2004, August 25, 2004, November 25, 2004 and February 25, 2005. Interest on each note will be reset on May 25, 2004, August 25, 2004, and November 25, 2004, based on the 3-month LIBOR rate less 0.03%. The stated maturity of the notes is February 25, 2005.

We have the right to redeem all or a portion of the notes on each quarterly payment date of August 25, 2004 and November 25, 2004, at the redemption price listed in this prospectus supplement, plus accrued interest on the notes to the date we redeem the notes.

The holders of the notes may require us to repurchase all or a portion of the notes in the event that the notes are no longer listed on the Luxembourg Stock Exchange, at the redemption prices listed in this prospectus supplement, plus accrued interest on the notes to the date we repurchase the notes.

We have the right to redeem all, but not a portion, of the notes if we become obligated to pay additional amounts as a result of certain tax events described in this prospectus supplement at the redemption price listed in this prospectus supplement, plus accrued interest on the notes to the date we redeem the notes.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or determined if this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

	Per Note	Total
Public offering price and proceeds (before expenses) to Procter & Gamble	100%	\$ 20,000,000

The public offering price set forth above does not include accrued interest, if any. Interest on the notes will accrue from February 23, 2004.

We will apply to list the notes on the Luxembourg Stock Exchange. Currently, there is no public market for the notes.

We expect to deliver the notes to investors through the book-entry delivery system of The Depository Trust Company for the accounts of its participants, including Clearstream, Luxembourg and the Euroclear System, on or about February 23, 2004.

# **Deutsche Bank**

The date of this prospectus supplement is February 18, 2004.

#### ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

This prospectus supplement contains the terms of this offering of notes. This prospectus supplement, or the information incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement, may add to, update or change the information in the accompanying prospectus. If information in this prospectus supplement, or the information incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement, is inconsistent with the accompanying prospectus, this prospectus supplement, or the information incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement, will apply and will supersede that information in the accompanying prospectus.

It is important for you to read and consider all information contained in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus in making your investment decision. You should also read and consider the information in the documents we have referred you to in Incorporation of Documents By Reference in this prospectus supplement.

No person is authorized to give any information or to make any representations other than those contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus and, if given or made, such information or representations must not be relied upon as having been authorized. This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus do not constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy any securities other than the securities described in this prospectus supplement or an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy such securities in any circumstances in which such offer or solicitation is unlawful. Neither the delivery of this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus, nor any sale made hereunder or thereunder shall, under any circumstances, create any implication that there has been no change in our affairs since the date of this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus, or that the information contained or incorporated by reference herein or therein is correct as of any time subsequent to the date of such information.

The distribution of this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus and the offering of the notes in certain jurisdictions may be restricted by law. This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus do not constitute an offer, or an invitation on our behalf or on behalf of the underwriters or any of them, to subscribe to or purchase, any of the notes, and may not be used for or in connection with an offer or solicitation by anyone, in any jurisdiction in which such an offer or solicitation is not authorized or to any person to whom it is unlawful to make such an offer or solicitation. See Underwriting.

This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus include particulars given in compliance with the rules governing the listing of securities on the Luxembourg Stock Exchange for the purpose of giving information with regard to us. We cannot guarantee that listing will be obtained on the Luxembourg Stock Exchange. Inquiries regarding our listing status on the Luxembourg Stock Exchange should be directed to our Luxembourg listing agent, Credit Agricole Indosuez Luxembourg S.A.

Unless otherwise specified, all references in this prospectus supplement to: (a) Procter & Gamble, we, us, and our are to The Procter & Gamble Company and its subsidiaries; (b) fiscal followed by a specific year are to our fiscal year ended or ending June 30 of that year; and (c) U.S. dollars, dollars, U.S. \$ or \$ are to the currency of the United States of America.

#### THE COMPANY

The Procter & Gamble Company was incorporated in Ohio in 1905, having been built from a business founded in 1837 by William Procter and James Gamble. Today, the Company manufactures and markets a broad range of consumer products in many countries throughout the world. Our principal executive offices are located at One Procter & Gamble Plaza, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202, and our telephone number is (513) 983-1100.

Our business is organized into five product-based, reportable segments called Global Business Units (GBUs). These units are: Fabric and Home Care; Baby and Family Care; Beauty Care; Health Care; and Snacks and Beverages.

Fabric and Home Care includes laundry detergents, dish care, fabric enhancers and surface cleaners. Representative brands include Ariel, Tide, Dryel, Downy, Cascade, Dawn, Febreze and Swiffer.

Baby and Family Care includes diapers, wipes, tissue and towels. Representative brands include Pampers, Luvs, Charmin and Bounty.

Beauty Care includes hair care, hair colorants, skin care, cosmetics, fine fragrances, deodorants, tampons, pads and pantiliners. Representative brands include Pantene, Herbal Essences, Nice N Easy, Head & Shoulders, Olay, Zest, Cover Girl, Secret, Old Spice, Tampax, Always and Whisper.

Snacks and Beverages includes coffee, snacks, commercial services and juice. Representative brands include Folgers, Millstone, and Pringles.

Health Care includes oral care, personal health care, pharmaceuticals and pet health and nutrition. Representative brands include Crest, Scope, Metamucil, Vicks, Actonel, Asacol, Iams and Eukanuba.

In the most recent fiscal year ended June 30, 2003, the Fabric and Home Care segment accounted for 29% of total sales and Beauty Care accounted for 28% of total sales. Baby and Family Care accounted for 23%, Health Care accounted for 13% and Snacks and Beverages accounted for 7% of total sales.

In the United States, as of June 30, 2003, the Company owned and operated 35 manufacturing facilities and leased and operated 2 manufacturing facilities. These facilities were located in 21 different states. In addition, the Company owned and operated 83 manufacturing facilities in 42 other countries. Many of the domestic and international facilities produced products for multiple business segments. Fabric and Home Care products were produced at 45 of these locations; Baby and Family Care products at 32; Health Care products at 25; Beauty Care products at 39; and Snacks and Beverages products at 11.

#### **RECENT DEVELOPMENTS**

In March, 2003, the Company entered into an agreement to acquire a controlling interest in Wella AG from the majority shareholders and, in June, 2003, the Company completed a tender offer for the remaining outstanding voting class shares and preference shares. On September 2, 2003, the Company completed the previously announced purchase of the shares of Wella AG held by the majority shareholders for 3.16 billion Euros. On September 10, 2003, the Company purchased the shares secured through the tender offer for 1.49 billion Euros. The total purchase

price was 4.67 billion Euros, excluding acquisition costs (approximately \$5.1 billion based on actual exchange rates on the date of the transaction). As a result of these purchases, the Company acquired approximately 81% of the outstanding Wella shares (99% of the voting class shares and 45% of the preference shares). The acquisition was financed by a mixture of available cash balances and debt. Wella AG is a leading beauty care company selling its products in more than 150 countries, focused on professional hair care, retail hair care and cosmetics and fragrances.

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#### SUMMARY CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The following summary consolidated financial information for the quarters ended December 31, 2003 and December 31, 2002 has been derived from our unaudited consolidated financial statements contained in our Quarterly Report to Shareholders on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended December 31, 2003. The summary consolidated financial information for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2003 has been derived from our audited consolidated financial statements contained in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2003. We believe that all adjustments necessary for the fair presentation thereof have been made to the unaudited financial data. The results for the interim period ended December 31, 2003 are not necessarily indicative of the results for the full fiscal year.

		2003		2002	
	Ex	(Amounts acept Per S			
VET SALES	\$	13,221	\$	11,005	
Cost of products sold		6,324		5,490	
Aarketing, research, administrative and other expenses		4,155		3,267	
			-		
PERATING INCOME		2,742		2,248	
nterest expense		149		143	
Other non-operating income, net		29		74	
EARNINGS BEFORE INCOME TAXES		2,622		2,179	
ncome taxes		804		685	
IET EARNINGS	\$	1,818	\$	1,494	
		,		,	
PER COMMON SHARE:					
Basic net earnings	\$	1.38	\$	1.13	
Diluted net earnings	\$	1.30	\$	1.06	
Dividends	\$	0.45	\$	0.41	
VERAGE COMMON SHARES OUTSTANDING DILUTED		1,400.4		1,402.6	

	As of	As of
	December 31, 2003	June 30, 2003
	(Amounts ir	1 Millions)
WORKING CAPITAL	\$ (442)	\$ 2,862
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 53,862	\$43,706
LONG-TERM DEBT	\$ 12,636	\$ 11,475
SHAREHOLDERS EQUITY	\$ 18,572	\$ 16,186

#### MANAGEMENT S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

#### OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

#### Overview

The Company markets approximately 300 products in more than 160 countries around the world in five distinct business segments: Fabric and Home Care, Beauty Care, Baby and Family Care, Health Care and Snacks and Beverages.

During the first six months of the current fiscal year through December 31, 2003, the Company delivered strong top line results and double-digit earnings growth, despite widespread competitive activity. All business segments posted volume and earnings growth. Results include the impact of the Wella acquisition, which was completed in September 2003. Sales grew ahead of volume due to positive foreign exchange impacts, partially offset by mix (driven by high growth in developing markets) and pricing activity. Earnings increased due to the scale benefit of volume, the completion of the Company s restructuring program, which had \$211 million of after tax charges in the base period, and lower manufacturing costs. Earnings growth was partially offset by continued marketing investments in the base business and in support of product initiatives.

Going forward, business and market uncertainties may affect results. For a discussion of key factors that could impact and must be managed by the Company, please refer to Management s Discussion and Analysis in the Company s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2003.

#### **Results of Operations** Three Months Ended December 31, 2003

Unit volume for the quarter increased 19 percent, with all business segments and geographic regions reporting unit volume growth. Excluding the impact of acquisitions and divestitures, primarily Wella, unit volume increased nine percent. Beauty Care led the business segments with unit volume growth of 45 percent. Excluding acquisitions and divestitures, Beauty Care volume increased 10 percent. Health Care and Fabric and Home Care volume increased 17 and nine percent, respectively. Developing markets delivered strong, double-digit unit volume growth.

Net sales increased 20 percent to \$13.22 billion. Foreign exchange had a positive impact of four percent due primarily to the strengthening of the Euro, Canadian dollar, British pound and Japanese yen, offset by weakening of the Mexican peso and Venezuelan bolivar. Mix was driven primarily by continued high growth in developing markets, including China and Latin America. Pricing activity, largely in response to competition, reduced sales by one percent. Pricing includes responses to competitive actions across multiple categories including family care in North America and Fabric and Home Care in Europe and the Middle East. The table below identifies the drivers to net sales changes versus the prior year quarter by business segment:

Vol						
With	Without	FX	Price	Mix/	Total	Total Impact
Acquisitions/	Acquisitions/	_		Other	Impact	Ex-FX
Divestitures	Divestitures					

FABRIC AND HOME CARE	9%	9%	4%	-1%	-2%	10%	6%
BEAUTY CARE	45%	10%	5%	0%	0%	50%	45%
BABY AND FAMILY CARE	4%	4%	5%	-1%	-2%	6%	1%
HEALTH CARE	17%	17%	4%	1%	0%	22%	18%
SNACKS AND BEVERAGES	1%	1%	4%	-2%	3%	6%	2%
TOTAL COMPANY	19%	9%	4%	-1%	-2%	20%	16%

Note: These sales percentage changes are approximations based on quantitative formulas that are consistently applied.

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Net earnings increased 22 percent to \$1.82 billion. Earnings growth was primarily driven by volume benefits, the completion of the prior year restructuring program (which included \$98 million after tax in the base period) and lower manufacturing costs. These improvements were partially offset by marketing investments to support base business growth and new initiatives.

Net earnings per share were \$1.30, an increase of 23 percent, including a slightly accretive effect from Wella.

Gross margin expanded 210 basis points. Of this, 70 basis points (\$75 million before tax) relates to restructuring charges in the prior period. Of the remaining 140 basis points of expansion, approximately half was driven by the addition of Wella, which has a higher gross margin than the base business. The remaining half was driven by the scale benefit of volume growth, the mix impact of higher volume in the Health and Beauty Care businesses, and product cost savings.

Marketing, Research, Administrative and Other Costs (MRA&O) as a percentage of net sales increased 170 basis points. The large majority of this basis point increase is due to Wella, reflecting a higher ratio of marketing expenses to sales than the base business and initial post-acquisition costs. The remaining increase in spending reflects investments behind the base business and support for initiatives. The addition of Wella and increased marketing investments more than offset the basis point improvement due to the non-recurrence of restructuring program charges (\$57 million before tax) in the base period.

#### Results of Operations Six Months Ended December 31, 2003

Fiscal year to date, unit volume increased 16 percent. All business segments and geographic regions delivered unit volume growth. The lower growth rate year to date versus the October December quarter reflects the acquisition of Wella in September. Excluding acquisitions and divestitures, unit volume increased nine percent through the first six months of the fiscal year. Volume growth was led by Beauty Care, up 33 percent, and Health Care, up 20 percent. Developing markets delivered double-digit volume growth with strong results in China and Central and Eastern Europe.

For the first six months of the fiscal year, net sales increased 17 percent to \$25.42 billion. Foreign exchange contributed three percent to sales growth. Pricing and mix combined for a negative two percent impact on sales growth. Pricing investments include activities to drive top line growth in multiple businesses and to respond to competition. Mix was driven primarily by strong growth in developing markets. The table below identifies the drivers to net sales changes fiscal year to date versus the prior year by business segment:

	Volume						
	With	Without					
	Acquisitions/ Divestitures	Acquisitions/ Divestitures	FX	Price	Mix/ Other	Total Impact	Total Impact Ex-FX
FABRIC AND HOME CARE	9%	8%	3%	-1%	-2%	9%	6%
BEAUTY CARE	33%	9%	4%	-1%	-1%	35%	31%
BABY AND FAMILY CARE	5%	5%	4%	-1%	-1%	7%	3%
HEALTH CARE	20%	20%	3%	0%	-1%	22%	19%
SNACKS AND BEVERAGES	2%	2%	4%	-1%	2%	7%	3%
TOTAL COMPANY	16%	9%	3%	-1%	-1%	17%	14%

Note: These sales percentage changes are approximations based on quantitative formulas that are consistently applied.

Fiscal year to date earnings increased 21 percent to \$3.58 billion. Earnings growth was driven by volume benefits, the completion of the restructuring program (which included \$211 million of after tax charges in the prior year period) and product cost savings. Earnings growth was partially offset by continued marketing investments in the base business and in support of initiatives. Net earnings per share increased 22 percent to \$2.56 compared to \$2.10 in the base period.

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Gross margin fiscal year to date was 52.0 percent compared to 49.6 percent in the prior year, an increase of 240 basis points. The gross margin improvement was driven by the scale benefit of volume, the reduction of before tax charges related to the completed restructuring program of \$163 million, the addition of Wella which has a higher gross margin than the base business, the mix shift to the Health and Beauty Care segments (which have higher gross margins than the Company average) and base business product cost savings. These improvements were partially offset by the impact of pricing and higher commodity costs.

Marketing, Research, Administrative and Other Costs (MRA&O) fiscal year to date increased to 30.8 percent from 29.3 percent of net sales in the comparable base period, an increase of 150 basis points. The majority of the increase is due to Wella, reflecting a higher ratio of marketing expenses to sales than the base business and initial post-acquisition costs. Marketing investments were made to drive growth on the base business and in support of initiatives. The spending increases associated with Wella and marketing investments more than offset the reduction in prior year restructuring program charges of \$120 million before tax.

#### **Business Segment Discussion**

Fabric and Home Care

For the quarter, volume was up nine percent behind Tide, Gain, Era and the continued success of initiatives including Mr. Clean Magic Eraser and Swiffer Duster. Net sales increased 10 percent to \$3.41 billion. Sales growth includes a positive four percent foreign exchange impact that was partially offset by negative pricing and mix. Mix was driven by continued strong growth in developing markets, particularly China and Central and Eastern Europe. Pricing had a one percent impact on sales and represents primarily the continuation of prior period actions to maintain competitiveness. Net earnings increased 11 percent to \$570 million driven primarily by volume, as lower manufacturing costs were offset by the profit impact of continued pricing actions.

For the first six months of the fiscal year, Fabric and Home Care volume increased nine percent. Net sales increased nine percent, including a positive foreign exchange impact of three percent. Mix and pricing impacts combined for a negative three percent impact on sales. Net earnings increased seven percent. Earnings growth lags sales growth for the first six months of the fiscal year due to a high base period comparison in the July September quarter.

Beauty Care

Total volume in the October December quarter increased 45 percent including acquisitions and divestitures, primarily Wella. Excluding acquisitions and divestitures, Beauty Care volume increased 10 percent. Strong base business results were led by double-digit growth by the Pantene, Head & Shoulders and Herbal Essences hair care brands, Olay skin care and the Always feminine care brand. Net sales increased 50 percent to \$4.49 billion, including a positive five percent foreign exchange impact. Net earnings were \$681 million, an increase of 34 percent, due to strong top line growth, including Wella. Gross margin expansion was partially offset by the higher ratio of marketing expenses to sales for the Wella business, increased marketing investments in the North America hair care and skin care businesses and in support of initiatives (including Boss Intense, Lacoste Pour Femme, Rejoice in Greater China, Always/Alldays upgrades, Herbal Essences and Pantene in Western Europe and the geographic expansion of Olay Regenerist and Total Effects). The Wella acquisition was accretive to Beauty Care earnings. Interest and amortization expenses associated with Wella are included in Corporate.

For the six months ended December 31, Beauty Care volume increased 33 percent. Volume growth fiscal year to date reflects the Wella acquisition, completed in September, and double-digit increases in developing markets. Net sales increased 35 percent to \$8.25 billion. A

positive foreign exchange impact of four percent was partially offset by pricing and mix. Net earnings increased 23 percent to \$1.30 billion. Volume benefits and lower product costs were partially offset by additional marketing investments to support the base business and initiatives.

Baby and Family Care

For the quarter ended December 31, volume increased four percent behind strong growth in baby care primarily in Western Europe and developing markets. Family care volume was flat due, in part, to high promotional spending levels by key competitors. Net sales increased six percent to \$2.67 billion.

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Foreign exchange was a positive impact of five percent; the impact of volume on sales was partially offset by pricing and mix. Mix was primarily driven by strong growth in mid-tier diaper products in developing markets. Pricing had a negative one percent effect on sales in response to increased competitive promotional activity in North America family care. Earnings grew two percent against strong base period results (21 percent increase) to \$281 million. Earnings in baby care increased due to volume and cost savings, largely offset by the aforementioned pricing investments and rising commodity costs in family care.

Fiscal year to date, Baby and Family Care volume increased five percent. Baby care volume increased high single-digits, while family care volume increased low single-digits. Net sales increased seven percent to \$5.28 billion, including a positive foreign exchange impact of four percent. Price and mix combined for a negative two percent impact. Earnings were \$576 million, an increase of 11 percent, as profit growth behind volume and product cost savings was partially offset by pricing investments and increased commodity costs.

#### Health Care

Health Care unit volume increased 17 percent during the October December quarter driven by the continued success of Actonel, Prilosec OTC and oral care. Vicks also posted strong unit volume growth due to the early cough/cold season in North America. Net sales increased 22 percent to \$1.91 billion aided by a positive four percent foreign exchange impact and one percent for pricing. Net earnings were \$333 million, an increase of 32 percent, on strong volume, lower manufacturing costs and margin expansion due to product mix. Marketing spending increased versus the base period primarily behind continued support of Prilosec OTC, Crest Whitestrips and Crest Night Effects. While double-digit top line growth is expected for the fiscal year, Prilosec OTC volume in the remaining quarters is expected to reflect consumption levels following the successful launch in September and continued strong results in October December quarter.

Fiscal year to date, Health Care volume increased 20 percent. Net sales were \$3.64 billion, an increase of 22 percent. Sales growth was impacted by a positive three percent for foreign exchange. Mix was a negative one percent impact driven primarily by developing market growth. Net earnings increased 36 percent to \$609 million. Earnings increased behind sales growth and margin expansion, including the impact of product cost savings.

#### Snacks and Beverages

Snacks and Beverages unit volume increased one percent. Beverages volume increased two percent driven primarily by the Folgers AromaSeal initiative. Net sales increased six percent to \$931 million driven primarily by a foreign exchange benefit of four percent. Volume and mix gains were partially offset by increased merchandising costs to support the continued high level of promotional activity in the coffee category. Manufacturing costs increased behind initiative start-up expenses. Net earnings increased 11 percent to \$122 million behind sales growth and lower marketing and administrative spending.

For the first six months of the fiscal year, Snacks and Beverages volume increased two percent. Net sales increased seven percent to \$1.83 billion, reflecting volume growth, a positive foreign exchange impact of four percent and combined mix and pricing of one percent. Net earnings in Snacks and Beverages increased 15 percent to \$231 million.

#### Corporate

Corporate includes certain operating and non-operating activities, as well as eliminations to adjust management reporting principles to United States Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (U.S. GAAP). For the quarter, net sales were -\$190 million compared to -\$68 million in the prior period, primarily driven by eliminations due to stronger joint venture sales. Net earnings for the quarter were -\$169 million compared to -\$166 million in the comparable prior period. Results primarily reflect lower costs from the restructuring program offset by charges associated with Wella and hedging impacts. For the first six months of the fiscal year, Corporate net sales were -\$372 million compared to -\$185 million in the prior period. Net earnings for the six month period were -\$266 million versus -\$325 million in the same period year ago.

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#### Financial Condition

Cash generated from operating activities for the six months ended December 31, 2003 was \$3.96 billion compared to \$4.33 billion in the comparable prior period. Strong earnings, adjusted for non-cash items (depreciation, amortization and deferred income taxes) generated \$4.67 billion of cash flow and were partially offset by increases in working capital.

Working capital increased by \$0.9 billion during the period. Accounts receivable increased by \$0.5 billion due mainly to strong December shipments. Accounts payable decreased reflecting the Company s continued effort to accelerate payments to suppliers in order to maximize efficiencies and capture all discounts.

Cash generated from operating activities is down \$0.4 billion versus the comparable prior year period. The impact of increased earnings in the current period were offset by a larger increase in working capital and the impact of dividends received from a joint venture in the base period.

Investing activities in the current year decreased cash by \$6.11 billion compared to a decrease of \$0.5 billion in prior year period. The primary driver was the acquisition of Wella for approximately \$5.10 billion. Additional current year acquisitions include Glide Dental Floss and fabric care brands in Western Europe and the Middle East. There was no acquisition activity in the comparable prior year period.

Capital spending increased to \$810 million versus \$616 million in the comparable prior period. Capital spending as a percent of sales increased slightly versus the comparable period, but was still below the Company s target of four percent.

Financing activities in the current fiscal year to date increased cash by \$1.14 billion, representing a year-over-year cash increase of \$3.29 billion. Cash from financing includes an increase in short and long-term debt to support the Wella acquisition. The Company issued \$1.38 billion aggregate principal amount of notes with varying maturity dates. Additionally, two bonds matured reducing long-term debt \$993 million. The net change in long-term debt is an increase of \$412 million versus June 30.

Treasury share repurchases were roughly in line with the comparable base period. Treasury share repurchases through the remainder of the fiscal year are expected to be higher than the prior year. The Company purchased approximately \$200 million of stock in the January June 2003 period.

Current assets net of current liabilities declined by approximately \$3.3 billion during the six months ended December 31, 2003. This decline was primarily caused by the issuance of commercial paper to partially fund the acquisition of Wella AG. The Company anticipates being able to support its short-term liquidity through cash generated from operations. The Company also has very strong long and short-term credit ratings which will enable it to refinance this debt at favorable rates in the commercial paper and bond markets. In addition, the Company has agreements with a diverse group of creditworthy financial institutions that, should they be needed, would provide sufficient credit funding to meet short-term financing requirements.

#### CONSOLIDATED RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES

The following table sets forth our consolidated ratio of earnings to fixed charges for the periods indicated.

	E	Months nded nber 31
	2003	2002
xed charges(1)	16.5x	14.3x

<sup>(1)</sup> Earnings used to compute this ratio are earnings before income taxes and before fixed charges (excluding interest capitalized during the period) and after deducting undistributed earnings of equity method investees. Fixed charges consist of interest, whether expensed or capitalized, amortization of debt discount and expense, and one-third of all rent expense (considered representation of the interest factor).

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#### CAPITALIZATION

The following table sets forth the consolidated capitalization of Procter & Gamble and its subsidiaries at December 31, 2003.

	December 31, 2003 ( (in millions of dollars except per share amounts)	
Debt:		
Commercial paper and other borrowing due within one year (2)(3)	\$	5,885
Long-Term Borrowings		12,636
Total Debt (4)		18,521
		- )-
Shareholders Equity:		
Convertible Class A preferred stock, stated value \$1 per share; 600,000,000 Shares authorized, 1,554,384		
outstanding		1,554
Non-Voting Class B preferred stock, stated value \$1 per share; 200,000,000 Shares authorized, none outstanding		
Common Stock, stated value \$1 per share; 5,000,000,000 shares authorized, 1,292,396 outstanding		1,292
Additional Paid-In Capital		3,250
Reserve for Employee Stock Ownership Plan debt retirement		(1,296)
Accumulated other comprehensive income		(1,219)
Retained earnings		14,991
Total Shareholders Equity		18,572
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Total capitalization	\$	37,093
	т	2.,0

(1) As of February 18, 2004, we are not aware of any material changes since December 31, 2003 in our common stock, any material decreases in our consolidated net current assets or consolidated shareholders equity, except in connection with the acquisition of common stock under our discretionary stock repurchase plan. On January 14, 2004, we issued \$41.5 million of long-term debt and on January 27, 2004, we issued \$500 million of long-term debt.

(2) Our credit facilities in support of our short term commercial paper borrowings were reduced from \$2.77 billion as of December 31, 2003 to \$2.00 billion as of February 3, 2004, none of which had been utilized as of February 18, 2004.

(3) Includes \$1.183 billion equivalent to current portion of long-term debt due within one year.

(4) Total debt includes \$16.7 billion of The Procter & Gamble Company debt. The balance of debt is held by subsidiaries.

#### MANAGEMENT

Our directors and executive officers, as of February 18, 2004, are as follows:

#### Directors

Name	Principal Occupation
Norman R. Augustine	Retired Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Lockheed Martin Corporation and Chairman of the Executive Committee, Lockheed Martin Corporation (aerospace, electronics, telecommunications and information management). Director of Lockheed Martin Corporation, Black and Decker Corporation and ConocoPhillips; Director of Procter & Gamble since 1989; Chairman of the Compensation Committee and member of the Executive and Innovation & Technology Committees; age 68.
Bruce L. Byrnes	Vice Chairman of the Board and President-Global Beauty & Feminine Care and Global Health Care; Director of Cincinnati Bell Inc.; Director of Procter & Gamble since 2002; age 55.
R. Kerry Clark	Vice Chairman of the Board and President-Global Market Development and Business Operations; Director of Textron Inc.; Director of Procter & Gamble since 2002; age 51.
Scott D. Cook	Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Board of Intuit, Inc. (a software and web services firm). Director of Intuit, Inc. and eBay Inc.; Director of Procter & Gamble since 2000; member of the Compensation and Innovation & Technology Committees; age 51.
Domenico De Sole	President and Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of Management Board, Gucci Group N.V. (a multibrand luxury goods company). Director of Bausch & Lomb; Director of Procter & Gamble since 2001; member of the Audit and Governance & Nominating Committees; age 60.
Joseph T. Gorman	Retired Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, TRW Inc. (automotive, aerospace and information systems) and Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Moxahela Enterprises LLC (venture capital). Director of Alcoa Inc., National City Corporation and Imperial Chemical Industries plc; Director of Procter & Gamble since 1993; Chairman of the Finance Committee and member of the Compensation and Executive Committees; age 66.
A.G. Lafley	Chairman of the Board, President and Chief Executive Officer; Director of General Electric Company and General Motors Corporation; Director of Procter & Gamble since 2000; Chairman of the Executive Committee; age 56.
Charles R. Lee	Retired Chairman and Co-Chief Executive Officer, Verizon Communications (telecommunications services). Director of Verizon Communications, Marathon Oil Corporation, United Technologies Corporation, and US Steel Corporation; Director of Procter & Gamble since 1994; Chairman of the Governance & Nominating Committee and member of the Audit and Compensation Committees; age 64.
Lynn M. Martin	Former Professor, J.L. Kellogg Graduate School of Management, Northwestern University and Chair of the Council for the Advancement of Women and Advisor to the firm of Deloitte & Touche LLP. Director of Constellation Energy Group, SBC Communications, Inc., Ryder System, Inc. and Dreyfus Funds; Director of Procter & Gamble since 1994; member of the Governance & Nominating, Finance, and Public Policy Committees; age 64.

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W. James McNerney, Jr.	Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer, 3M Company (diversified technology); Director of 3M Company and The Boeing Company; Director since 2003; member of the Audit and Governance & Nominating Committees; age 54.
Johnathan A. Rodgers	President and Chief Executive Officer, TV One (media and communications). Director of Procter & Gamble since 2001; member of the Innovation & Technology and Public Policy Committees; age 58.
John F. Smith, Jr.	Retired Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer, General Motors Corporation (automobile and related businesses). Director of Delta Air Lines, Inc. and Swiss Re Group; Director of Procter & Gamble since 1995; Chairman of the Audit Committee and member of the Governance & Nominating and Public Policy Committees; age 65.
Ralph Snyderman, M.D.	Chancellor for Health Affairs and Executive Dean, School of Medicine at Duke University, and President/CEO of Duke University Health System. Director of Cardiome Pharma Corporation.; Director of Procter & Gamble since 1995; Chairman of the Innovation & Technology Committee and member of the Finance Committee; age 63.
Robert D. Storey	Partner in the law firm of Thompson Hine, L.L.P., Cleveland, Ohio. Director of Verizon Communications; Director of Procter & Gamble since 1988; Chairman of the Public Policy Committee and member of the Finance Committee; age 66.
Margaret C. Whitman	President and Chief Executive Officer, eBay Inc. Director of eBay Inc. and Gap Inc.; Director of Procter & Gamble since 2003; member of the Compensation and Governance & Nominating Committees; age 47.
Ernesto Zedillo	Former President of Mexico and Director of the Center for the Study of Globalization and Professor in the field of International Economics and Politics at Yale University. Director of Alcoa Inc. and Union Pacific Corporation; Director of Procter & Gamble since 2001; member of the Finance and Public Policy Committees; age 52.
Executive Officers	
Name	Office Held
A. G. Lafley	Chairman of the Board, President and Chief Executive
Richard L. Antoine	Global Human Resources Officer
Bruce L. Byrnes	Vice Chairman of the Board and President Global Beauty & Feminine Care and Global Health Care
R. Kerry Clark	Vice Chairman of the Board and President Global Market Development and Business Operations
G. Gilbert Cloyd	Chief Technology Officer
Clayton C. Daley, Jr.	Chief Financial Officer
Stephen N. David	Chief Information Officer and Business-to-Business Officer
R. Keith Harrison, Jr.	Global Product Supply Officer
John K. Jensen	Vice President and Comptroller

James J. Johnson	Chief Legal Officer and Secretary
Mark D. Ketchum	President Global Baby & Family Care
Mariano Martin	Global Customer Business Development officer
Robert A. McDonald	President Global Fabric & Home Care
Jorge P. Montoya	President Global Snacks & Beverages and Latin America
Charlotte R. Otto	Global External Relations Officer

our lack of operating history;

changes in our business or investment strategy;

changes in interest rate spreads or the yield curve;

availability, terms and deployment of debt and equity capital;

availability of qualified personnel;

the degree and nature of our competition;

increased prepayments of the mortgage loans underlying our agency securities;

risks associated with our hedging activities;

changes in governmental regulations, tax rates and similar matters;

defaults on our investments;

changes in Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP);

legislative and regulatory changes (including changes to laws governing the taxation of real estate investment trusts, or REITs);

availability of investment opportunities in agency securities;

our ability to qualify and maintain our qualification as a REIT for federal income tax purposes and limitations imposed on our business by our status as a REIT;

general volatility in capital markets;

the adequacy of our cash reserves and working capital;

the timing of cash flows, if any, from our investment portfolio; and

other risks associated with investing in agency securities, including changes in our industry, interest rates, the debt securities markets, the general economy or the finance and real estate markets specifically.

When we use words such as will likely result, plan, may, shall, believe, expect, anticipate, project, intend, estimate, goal, expressions, we intend to identify forward looking statements. You should not place undue reliance on these forward looking statements, which apply only as of the date of this prospectus. We do not intend and disclaim any duty or obligation to update or revise any industry information or forward looking statement set forth in this prospectus to reflect new information, future events, or otherwise, except as required under U.S. federal securities laws.

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#### PROSPECTUS SUMMARY

This summary highlights key aspects of this offering. This summary is not complete and does not contain all of the information that you should consider before investing in shares of our Securities. You should read carefully the more detailed information set forth under Risk Factors and the other information included in this prospectus before investing in our Securities. Except where the context suggests otherwise, in this prospectus, the Company, we, us and our refer to American Capital Agency Corp.

#### **Our Company**

We invest in single-family residential mortgage pass-through securities and collateralized mortgage obligations, for which the principal and interest payments are guaranteed by U.S. Government-sponsored entities such as the Federal National Mortgage Association, or Fannie Mae, and the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, or Freddie Mac, or by a U.S. Government agency such as the Government National Mortgage Association, or Ginnie Mae, on a leveraged basis. We refer to these securities as agency securities and to the securities we own as our investment portfolio. We will elect to be taxed as a real estate investment trust, or REIT, under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or the Code, commencing with our tax year ending December 31, 2008.

We are externally managed by American Capital Agency Management, LLC, which we refer to as our Manager. Our Manager is a subsidiary of a wholly owned portfolio company of American Capital, Ltd. ( American Capital ), an investment company and alternative asset manager that is listed on The NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol ACAS. Because we have no employees, our Manager is responsible for administering our business activities and day to day operations, subject to the supervision of our Board of Directors.

Our principal goal is to preserve our book value while generating net income for distribution to our stockholders through regular quarterly dividends from our net interest income, which is the spread between the interest income earned on our interest earning assets and the interest costs of our borrowings and hedging activities. We fund our investments through short-term borrowings structured as repurchase agreements.

#### **Our Corporate Information**

We are a Delaware corporation, which was formed on January 7, 2008. We commenced operations on May 20, 2008 upon completion of our initial public offering, or IPO. Our principal place of business is located at 2 Bethesda Metro Center, 14th Floor, Bethesda, Maryland, 20814, and our telephone number is (301) 968-9300. Our Internet address is *www.agnc.com*. The information found on, or otherwise accessible through, our website is not incorporated into, and does not form a part of, this prospectus or any other report or document we file with or furnish to the SEC.

#### THE SECURITIES WE MAY OFFER

We may offer, from time to time, up to \$750,000,000 of our Securities, on terms to be determined at the time of the offering. Our Securities may be offered at prices and on terms to be disclosed in one or more prospectus supplements. The selling stockholder named herein may also sell up to 2,500,000 shares of our common stock under this prospectus and any prospectus supplement. In the prospectus supplement relating to sales by the selling stockholder, we will identify the number of shares of our common stock that the selling stockholder will be selling.



This prospectus provides you with a general description of the Securities we or the selling stockholder may offer. Each time we or the selling stockholder sell Securities, we will provide a prospectus supplement that will describe the specific amounts, prices and other important terms of the securities, including, to the extent applicable:

designation or classification;

maturity;

redemption terms;

interest rate or dividends;

listing on a securities exchange;

sinking fund terms;

amount payable at maturity;

whether any common stock is being sold by us or by a stockholder;

conversion or exchange rights;

voting or other rights; and

a discussion of any other material U.S. Federal income tax considerations applicable to the Securities being offered. The prospectus supplement also may add, update or change information contained in this prospectus or in documents we have incorporated by reference. This prospectus may not be used to consummate a sale of Securities unless accompanied by a prospectus supplement.

Our Securities may be offered directly to one or more purchasers, including existing stockholders, by us or through agents designated from time to time by us, or to or through underwriters or dealers. The prospectus supplement relating to the offering will disclose the terms of the offering, including the name or names of any agents or underwriters involved in the sale of our Securities by us, the purchase price, and any fee, commission or discount arrangement between us and our agents or underwriters or among our underwriters or the basis upon which such amount may be calculated. See Plan of Distribution. We may not sell any of our Securities through agents, underwriters or dealers without delivery of a prospectus supplement describing the method and terms of the offering of our Securities.

#### **Common Stock**

We may issue shares of our common stock from time to time. In addition, one of our stockholders may sell shares of our common stock under this shelf registration statement. Subject to the restrictions contained in our amended and restated certificate of incorporation regarding the transfer and ownership of our capital stock and except as may otherwise be specified in the terms of any class or series of common stock, our common stockholders are entitled to one vote per share. Our common stockholders are not entitled to cumulate their votes in the election of

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directors. Generally, all matters to be voted on by stockholders must be approved by a majority (or, in the case of election of directors, by a plurality) of the votes entitled to be cast by all holders of our common stock present in person or represented by proxy, voting together as a single class. Except as otherwise provided by law, amendments to our amended and restated certificate of incorporation must be approved by a majority or, in some cases, a super-majority of the combined voting power of all shares of common stock, voting together as a single class.

Subject to the restrictions contained in our amended and restated certificate of incorporation regarding the transfer and ownership of our capital stock, our common stockholders will share ratably (based on the number of common shares held) if and when any dividend is declared by our Board of Directors. Dividends consisting of common stock may be paid only as follows: (i) common stock may be paid only to holders of common stock; and (ii) shares shall be paid proportionally with respect to each outstanding common share. We may not subdivide or combine shares of any class of common stock or issue a dividend on shares of any class of common stock without at the same time proportionally subdividing or combining shares of any other class or issuing a similar dividend on any other class.

#### **Preferred Stock**

We may issue shares of our preferred stock in one or more series and will determine the dividend, voting and conversion rights and other provisions at the time of sale. Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation provides that our Board of Directors has the authority, without action by the stockholders, to designate and issue up to 10,000,000 shares of preferred stock in one or more classes or series and to fix the rights, preferences, privileges and restrictions of each class or series of preferred stock, including dividend rights, conversion rights, voting rights, terms of redemption, liquidation preferences and the number of shares constituting any class or series, which may be greater than the rights of the holders of the common stock. Any issuance of shares of preferred stock could adversely affect the voting power of holders of common stock, and the likelihood that the holders will receive dividend payments and payments upon liquidation could have the effect of delaying, deferring or preventing a change in control.

#### **RISK FACTORS**

Investing in our Securities involves a high degree of risk. You should carefully consider the risks described under Risk Factors in our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K and any subsequent Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q (which descriptions are incorporated by reference herein), as well as the other information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus or in any prospectus supplement hereto before making a decision to invest in our Securities. These risks and uncertainties are not the only ones facing us. Additional risks and uncertainties that we are unaware of, or that we currently deem immaterial, also may become important factors that affect us. See Where You Can Find More Information and Incorporation of Certain Documents by Reference below.

#### **USE OF PROCEEDS**

Unless otherwise specified in a prospectus supplement accompanying this prospectus, we intend to use the net proceeds from our sale of the Securities offered by this prospectus and the related accompanying prospectus supplement to finance the acquisition of agency securities and for other general corporate purposes such as repayment of outstanding indebtedness, working capital, and for liquidity needs. Pending this utilization, we may invest the net proceeds from an offering in readily marketable, short-term, interest-bearing investments, including money market accounts that are consistent with our intention to qualify as a REIT. These temporary investments are expected to provide a lower net return than we hope to achieve from our targeted investments in agency securities.

We will not receive any proceeds from the sale of up to 2,500,000 shares of our common stock by the selling stockholder named herein.

#### **RATIO OF EARNINGS TO COMBINED**

#### FIXED CHARGES AND PREFERRED STOCK DIVIDENDS

The following table sets forth our ratios of earnings to combined fixed charges and preferred stock dividends for each of the periods indicated:

	For the period May 20,	
	2008 (date operations	For the three
	commenced) through	months ended
	December 31, 2008	March 31, 2009
Ratio of earnings to combined fixed charges and preferred stock dividends	2.4x	3.0x

For purposes of computing the ratio of earnings to combined fixed charges and preferred stock dividends, earnings represent net income plus fixed charges and preferred stock dividends (where applicable). Fixed charges include interest expense, a portion of rent expense and preferred stock dividend expense. We currently have no shares of preferred stock outstanding and, therefore, there are no amounts for preferred dividends included in the above calculation. We have assumed that one-third of the actual rental expense for the periods presented represents a reasonable approximation of fixed charges.

#### SELLING STOCKHOLDER

This prospectus relates to the resale by American Capital of up to 2,500,000 shares of our common stock from time to time. On May 20, 2008, we sold 5,000,000 shares of our common stock to American Capital in a

private placement concurrently with the closing of our IPO. On such date, we entered into a registration rights agreement with American Capital pursuant to which we agreed to register these shares for resale by American Capital. However, American Capital s resale registration rights with respect to 2,500,000 of these shares only begin to apply on May 20, 2011. This registration statement registers the initial 2,500,000 shares of common stock for which American Capital currently has registration rights.

Information about American Capital as the selling stockholder of up to 2,500,000 shares will be set forth in a prospectus supplement relating to any resale of these shares by American Capital, a post-effective amendment to this registration statement, or in filings we make with the SEC under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, or the Exchange Act, which would be incorporated into this prospectus by reference.

#### PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

#### Sales of our Securities

We may sell the Securities separately or together:

through one or more underwriters or dealers in a public offering and sale by them;

directly to investors;

through agents; or

through a combination of any of these methods of sale.

We may sell the Securities offered pursuant to this prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplements to or through one or more underwriters or dealers or we may sell the Securities to investors directly or through agents. Each prospectus supplement, to the extent applicable, will describe the number and terms of the Securities to which such prospectus supplement relates, the name or names of any underwriters or agents with whom we have entered into arrangements with respect to the sale of such Securities, the public offering or purchase price of such Securities and the net proceeds we will receive from such sale. Any underwriter or agent involved in the offer and sale of the Securities will be named in the applicable prospectus supplement. We may sell Securities directly to investors on our own behalf in those jurisdictions where we are authorized to do so.

Underwriters may offer and sell the Securities at a fixed price or prices, which may be changed, at market prices prevailing at the time of sale, at prices related to the prevailing market prices or at negotiated prices. We also may, from time to time, authorize dealers or agents to offer and sell these Securities upon such terms and conditions as may be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. In connection with the sale of any of these Securities, underwriters may receive compensation from us in the form of underwriting discounts or commissions and may also receive commissions from purchasers of the Securities for whom they may act as agent. Underwriters may sell the Securities to or through dealers, and such dealers may receive compensation in the form of discounts, concessions or commissions from the underwriters or commissions from the purchasers for which they may act as agents.

Securities may also be sold in one or more of the following transactions: (a) block transactions (which may involve crosses) in which a broker-dealer may sell all or a portion of the Securities as agent but may position and resell all or a portion of the block as principal to facilitate the transaction; (b) purchases by a broker-dealer as principal and resale by the broker-dealer for its own account pursuant to a prospectus supplement; (c) a special offering, an exchange distribution or a secondary distribution in accordance with applicable Nasdaq or other stock exchange rules; (d) ordinary brokerage transactions and transactions in which a broker-dealer solicits purchasers; (e) sales at the market to or through a market maker or into an existing trading market, on an exchange or otherwise, for Securities; and (f) sales in other ways not involving market makers or established

trading markets, including direct sales to purchasers. Broker-dealers may also receive compensation from purchasers of the Securities which is not expected to exceed that customary in the types of transactions involved.

In addition, the selling stockholder may sell shares of our common stock under this prospectus in any of these ways. The selling stockholder will act independently of us in making decisions with respect to the timing, manner and size of each sale.

We or the selling stockholder may distribute the Securities from time to time in one or more transactions:

at a fixed price or prices, which may be changed from time to time:

at market prices prevailing at the times of sale;

at prices related to such prevailing market prices; or

at negotiated prices.

The selling stockholder may also sell shares of our common stock under Rule 144 under the Securities Act of 1993, or the Securities Act, if available, rather than under this prospectus.

We will set forth in a prospectus supplement the terms of the offering of Securities, including:

the name or names of any agents or underwriters, if any;

the purchase price of the Securities being offered and the proceeds we will receive from the sale;

any over-allotment options under which underwriters may purchase additional Securities from us;

any agency fees or underwriting discounts and other items constituting agents or underwriters compensation;

any initial public offering price;

any discounts or concessions allowed or reallowed or paid to dealers;

any securities exchanges on which such Securities may be listed; and

a discussion of any other material U.S. Federal income tax considerations applicable to the Securities being offered. If we or the selling stockholder use underwriters for a sale of Securities, the underwriters will acquire the Securities for their own account. The underwriters may resell the Securities in one or more transactions, including negotiated transactions, at a fixed public offering price or at varying prices determined at the time of sale. The obligations of the underwriters to purchase the Securities will be subject to the conditions set forth in the applicable underwriting agreement. The underwriters will be obligated to purchase all the Securities of the series offered if they purchase any of the Securities of that series. We may use underwriters with whom we have a material relationship. We will describe in the prospectus supplement naming the underwriter the nature of any such relationship.

Underwriters, dealers or agents may receive compensation in the form of discounts, concessions or commissions from us, the selling stockholder or from our purchasers (as their agents in connection with the sale of Securities). These underwriters, dealers or agents may be considered to be underwriters under the Securities Act. As a result, discounts, commissions or profits on resale received by the underwriters, dealers or agents may be treated as underwriting discounts and commissions. The prospectus supplement accompanying this prospectus will identify any such underwriter, dealer or agent, and describe any compensation received by them from us or the selling stockholder. Any initial public offering price and any discounts or concessions allowed or reallowed or paid to dealers may be changed from time to time. Unless otherwise indicated in a prospectus supplement, an agent will be acting on a best efforts basis and a dealer will purchase Securities as a principal, and may then resell the Securities at varying prices to be determined by the dealer.

Underwriters, dealers and agents may be entitled to indemnification by us or the selling stockholder against certain civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act, or to contribution with respect to payments made by the underwriters, dealers or agents, under agreements between us or the selling stockholder and the underwriters, dealers and agents.

We or the selling stockholder may grant underwriters who participate in the distribution of Securities an option to purchase additional Securities to cover over-allotments, if any, in connection with the distribution.

To facilitate the offering of Securities, certain persons participating in the offering may engage in transactions that stabilize, maintain, or otherwise affect the price of the Securities. This may include over-allotments or short sales of the Securities, which involve the sale by persons participating in the offering of more Securities than we or the selling stockholder sold to them. In these circumstances, these persons would cover such over-allotments or short positions by making purchases in the open market or by exercising their over-allotment option, if any. In addition, these persons may stabilize or maintain the price of the Securities by bidding for or purchasing Securities in the open market or by imposing penalty bids, whereby selling concessions allowed to dealers participating in the offering may be reclaimed if Securities sold by them are repurchased in connection with stabilization transactions. The effect of these transactions may be to stabilize or maintain the market price of the Securities at a level above that which might otherwise prevail in the open market. These transactions, if commenced, may be discontinued at any time.

The selling stockholder and any other person participating in a distribution of the Securities covered by this prospectus will be subject to the applicable provisions of the Exchange Act and the rules and regulations thereunder. Regulation M of the Exchange Act may limit the timing of purchases and sales of Securities by the selling stockholder and any other person. In addition, Regulation M may restrict the ability of any person engaged in the distribution of the Securities to engage in market-making activities with respect to our Securities for a period of up to five business days before the distribution.

#### Fees and Commissions

In compliance with the guidelines of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. (FINRA), the maximum aggregate discounts, commissions, agency fees or other items constituting underwriting compensation to be received by any FINRA member or independent broker-dealer will not exceed 8% of the aggregate offering price of the securities offered pursuant to this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement.

#### **DESCRIPTION OF SECURITIES**

The following is a summary of the rights and preferences of our Securities and related provisions of our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and by-laws. While we believe that the following description covers the material terms of our capital stock, the description may not contain all of the information that is important to you. We encourage you to read carefully this entire prospectus, our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and by-laws and the other documents we refer to for a more complete understanding of our capital stock. See Where You Can Find More Information.

#### General

Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation provides that we may issue up to 150,000,000 shares of common stock and 10,000,000 shares of preferred stock, both having a par value of \$0.01 per share. As of July 8, 2009, 15,004,600 shares of our common stock and no shares of our preferred stock were issued and outstanding.

#### **Common Stock**

#### Voting Rights

Subject to the restrictions contained in our amended and restated certificate of incorporation regarding the transfer and ownership of our capital stock and except as may otherwise be specified in the terms of any class or series of common stock, our common stockholders are entitled to one vote per share. Our common stockholders are not entitled to cumulate their votes in the election of directors. Generally, all matters to be voted on by stockholders must be approved by a majority (or, in the case of election of directors, by a plurality) of the votes entitled to be cast by all holders of our common stock present in person or represented by proxy, voting together as a single class. Except as otherwise provided by law, amendments to our amended and restated certificate of incorporation must be approved by a majority or, in some cases, a super-majority of the combined voting power of all shares of common stock, voting together as a single class.

#### **Dividend Rights**

Subject to the restrictions contained in our amended and restated certificate of incorporation regarding the transfer and ownership of our capital stock, our common stockholders will share ratably (based on the number of common shares held) if and when any dividend is declared by our Board of Directors. Dividends consisting of common stock may be paid only as follows: (i) common stock may be paid only to holders of common stock; and (ii) shares shall be paid proportionally with respect to each outstanding common share. We may not subdivide or combine shares of any class of common stock or issue a dividend on shares of any class of common stock without at the same time proportionally subdividing or combining shares of any other class or issuing a similar dividend on any other class.

#### Liquidation Rights

On our liquidation, dissolution or winding up, each of our common stockholders will be entitled to a pro rata dividend of any assets available for dividend to common stockholders.

#### **Other Matters**

In the event of our merger or consolidation with or into another company in connection with which shares of common stock are converted into or exchangeable for shares of stock, other securities or property (including cash), our common stockholders, will be entitled to receive the same kind and amount of shares of stock and other securities and property (including cash). No shares of our common stock will be subject to redemption or have preemptive rights to purchase additional shares. Upon completion of this offering, all the outstanding shares of common stock will be validly issued, fully paid and non-assessable.

#### **Preferred Stock**

Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation provides that our Board of Directors has the authority, without action by the stockholders, to designate and issue up to 10,000,000 shares of preferred stock in one or more classes or series and to fix the rights, preferences, privileges and restrictions of each class or series of preferred stock, including dividend rights, conversion rights, voting rights, terms of redemption, liquidation preferences and the number of shares constituting any class or series, which may be greater than the rights of the holders of the common stock. Any issuance of shares of preferred stock could adversely affect the voting power of holders of common stock, and the likelihood that the holders will receive dividend payments and payments upon liquidation could have the effect of delaying, deferring or preventing a change in control.

This prospectus provides you with a general description of the Securities we or the selling stockholder may offer. Each time we or the selling stockholder sell Securities, we will provide a prospectus supplement that will

describe the specific amounts, prices and other important terms of the Securities, including, to the extent applicable:

designation or classification;

maturity;

redemption terms;

interest rate or dividends;

listing on a securities exchange;

sinking fund terms;

amount payable at maturity;

whether any common stock is being sold by us or by a stockholder;

conversion or exchange rights; and

voting or other rights. Restrictions on Ownership and Transfer of Our Capital Stock

In order to qualify as a REIT under the Internal Revenue Code our shares of capital stock must be beneficially owned by 100 or more persons during at least 335 days of a taxable year of 12 months or during a proportionate part of a shorter taxable year. Also no more than 50% of the value of our outstanding shares of capital stock may be owned, directly or constructively, by five or fewer individuals (as defined in the Internal Revenue Code to include certain entities) during the second half of any calendar year.

Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation, subject to certain exceptions, contains restrictions on the number of shares of our common stock and our capital stock that a person may own and may prohibit certain entities from owning our shares. Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation provides that (subject to certain exceptions described below) no person may beneficially or constructively own, or be deemed to own by virtue of the attribution provisions of the Internal Revenue Code, more than 9.8% in value or in number of shares, whichever is more restrictive, of either our common stock or our capital stock. Pursuant to our amended and restated certificate of incorporation, our Board of Directors has the power to increase or decrease the percentage of our common stock and our capital stock that a person may beneficially or constructively own. However, any decreased stock ownership limit will not apply to any person whose percentage ownership of our common stock or our capital stock, as the case may be, is in excess of such decreased stock ownership limit until that person s percentage ownership of our common stock or our capital stock, as the case may be, equals or falls below the decreased stock ownership limit. Until such a person s percentage ownership of our common stock or our capital stock will be in violation of the decreased stock ownership limit. If our Board of Directors changes the stock ownership limit, it will (i) notify each stockholder of record of any such change, and (ii) publicly announce any such change, in each case at least 30 days prior to the effective date of such change.

Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation also prohibits any person from beneficially or constructively owning shares of our capital stock that would result in our being closely held under Section 856(h) of the Internal Revenue Code or otherwise cause us to fail to qualify as a REIT and from transferring shares of our capital stock if the transfer would result in our capital stock being beneficially owned by fewer than 100 persons. In addition, no such person may own an interest in any tenant that would cause us to own, actually or constructively, more than a 9.9% interest in such tenant. Any person who acquires or attempts or intends to acquire beneficial or constructive ownership of shares of our capital stock that will or may violate any of the foregoing restrictions on transferability and ownership, or who is the intended transferee of shares of our capital stock that are transferred to the trust (as described below), is required to give written notice immediately

to us and provide us with such other information as we may request in order to determine the effect of such transfer on our qualification as a REIT. The foregoing restrictions on transferability and ownership will not apply if our Board of Directors determines that it is no longer in our best interests to attempt to qualify, or to continue to qualify, as a REIT.

Our Board of Directors, in its sole discretion, may exempt a person from the foregoing restrictions. The person seeking an exemption must provide to our Board of Directors such conditions, representations and undertakings as our Board of Directors may deem reasonably necessary to conclude that granting the exemption will not cause us to lose our qualification as a REIT. Our Board of Directors has granted American Capital an exemption from these restrictions, subject to the continued accuracy of American Capital s representation to us, among others, that no person or entity beneficially or constructively owns more than 9.8% (in value or number, whichever is more restrictive) of any class or series of our capital stock as a result of any such person or entity s beneficial or constructive ownership of capital stock of American Capital, taken together with any shares of our capital stock owned by any such person or entity. Our Board of Directors may also require a ruling from the IRS or an opinion of counsel in order to determine or ensure our qualification as a REIT in the context of granting such exemptions.

Any attempted transfer of our capital stock which, if effective, would result in a violation of the foregoing restrictions will cause the number of shares causing the violation (rounded up to the nearest whole share) to be automatically transferred to a trust for the exclusive benefit of one or more charitable beneficiaries, and the proposed transferee will not acquire any rights in such shares. The automatic transfer will be deemed to be effective as of the close of business on the business day (as defined in our amended and restated certificate of incorporation) prior to the date of the transfer. If, for any reason, the transfer to the trust does not occur or would not prevent a violation of the restrictions on ownership contained in our amended and restated certificate of incorporation, our amended and restated certificate of incorporation provides that the purported transfer will be void ab initio. Shares of our capital stock held in the trust will be issued and outstanding shares. The proposed transferee will not benefit economically from ownership of any shares of our capital stock held in the trust, will have no rights to dividends and no rights to vote or other rights attributable to the shares of capital stock held in the trust. The trustee of the trust will have all voting rights and rights to dividends or other distributions with respect to shares held in the trust. These rights will be exercised for the exclusive benefit of the charitable beneficiary. Any dividend or other distribution paid prior to our discovery that shares of capital stock have been transferred to the trust will be paid by the recipient to the trustee upon demand. Any dividend or other distribution authorized but unpaid will be paid when due to the trustee. Any dividend or distribution paid to the trustee will be held in trust for the charitable beneficiary. Subject to Delaware law, the trustee will have the authority to rescind as void any vote cast by the proposed transferee prior to our discovery that the shares have been transferred to the trust and to recast the vote in accordance with the desires of the trustee acting for the benefit of the charitable beneficiary. However, if we have already taken irreversible corporate action, then the trustee will not have the authority to rescind and recast the vote.

Within 20 days of receiving notice from us that shares of our capital stock have been transferred to the trust, the trustee will sell the shares to a person designated by the trustee, whose ownership of the shares will not violate the above ownership limitations. Upon such sale, the interest of the charitable beneficiary in the shares sold will terminate and the trustee will distribute the net proceeds of the sale to the proposed transferee and to the charitable beneficiary as follows: the proposed transferee will receive the lesser of (1) the price paid by the proposed transferee for the shares or, if the proposed transferee did not give value for the shares in connection with the event causing the shares to be held in the trust (e.g., a gift, devise or other similar transaction), the market price (as defined in our amended and restated certificate of incorporation) of the shares on the day of the event causing the shares to be held in the trust and (2) the price received by the trustee from the sale or other disposition of the shares. Any net sale proceeds in excess of the amount payable to the proposed transferee will be paid immediately to the charitable beneficiary. If, prior to our discovery that shares of our capital stock have been transferred to the trust, the shares are sold by the proposed transferee, then (1) the shares shall be deemed to have been sold on behalf of the trust and (2) to the extent that the proposed transferee received an amount for the

shares that exceeds the amount the proposed transferee was entitled to receive, the excess shall be paid to the trustee upon demand.

In addition, shares of our capital stock held in the trust will be deemed to have been offered for sale to us, or our designee, at a price per share equal to the lesser of the price per share in the transaction that resulted in the transfer to the trust (or, in the case of a devise or gift, the market price at the time of the devise or gift) and the market price on the date we, or our designee, accept the offer. We will have the right to accept the offer until the trustee has sold the shares. Upon a sale to us, the interest of the charitable beneficiary in the shares sold will terminate and the trustee will distribute the net proceeds of the sale to the proposed transferee.

Every owner of more than 5% (or such lower percentage as required by the Internal Revenue Code or the regulations promulgated thereunder) in number or in value of all classes or series of our capital stock, including shares of our common stock, within 30 days after the end of each taxable year, will be required to give written notice to us stating the name and address of such owner, the number of shares of each class and series of shares of our capital stock that the owner beneficially owns and a description of the manner in which the shares are held. Each owner shall provide to us such additional information as we may request to determine the effect, if any, of the beneficial ownership on our qualification as a REIT and to ensure compliance with the ownership limitations. In addition, each such owner shall, upon demand, be required to provide to us such information as we may request, in good faith, to determine our qualification as a REIT and to comply with the requirements of any taxing authority or governmental authority or to determine such compliance and to ensure compliance with the 9.8% ownership limitations in our amended and restated certificate of incorporation.

These ownership limitations could delay, defer or prevent a transaction or a change in control that might involve a premium price for our common stock or might otherwise be in the best interests of our stockholders.

#### Anti-Takeover Effects of Delaware Law and Our Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation and By-laws

Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and by-laws contain provisions that are intended to enhance the likelihood of continuity and stability in the composition of the Board of Directors and that may have the effect of delaying, deferring or preventing a future takeover or change in control of our Company unless the takeover or change in control is approved by our Board of Directors. In addition to the above-described restrictions regarding the transfer and ownership of our capital stock, these provisions include the following:

#### Stockholder Action by Written Consent

Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation provides that stockholder action may not be taken by written consent in lieu of a meeting and that stockholder action may be taken only at an annual or special meeting of stockholders.

#### Elimination of the Ability to Call Special Meetings

Our by-laws provide that, except as otherwise required by law, special meetings of our stockholders can only be called by our president, pursuant to a resolution adopted by a majority of our Board of Directors or a committee of the Board of Directors that has been duly designated by the Board of Directors and whose powers and authority include the power to call such meetings, or by the chairman of our Board of Directors. Stockholders are not permitted to call a special meeting or to require our Board of Directors to call a special meeting.

#### Removal of Directors; Board of Directors Vacancies

Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation provides that members of our Board of Directors may only be removed for cause, and only with the affirmative vote of the holders of at least 66% of the combined

voting power of all the shares of all classes of our capital stock entitled to vote generally in the election of directors. Our by-laws provide that only our Board of Directors may fill vacant directorships. These provisions would prevent a stockholder from gaining control of our Board of Directors by removing incumbent directors and filling the resulting vacancies with such stockholder s own nominees.

#### Amendment of Certificate of Incorporation and By-laws

The General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware, or DGCL, provides generally that the affirmative vote of a majority of the outstanding shares entitled to vote is required to amend or repeal a corporation s certificate of incorporation or by-laws, unless the certificate of incorporation requires a greater percentage. Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation generally requires the approval of both a majority of the combined voting power of all the classes of shares of our capital stock entitled to vote generally in the election of directors and a majority of the members of our Board of Directors to amend any provisions of our certificate of incorporation, except that provisions of our amended and restated and restated certificate of incorporation, except that provisions of our amended and restated and restated certificate of incorporation relating to the powers, numbers, classes, elections, terms and removal of our directors, as well as the ability to fill vacancies on our Board of Directors requires the affirmative vote of at least 66% of the combined voting power of all the shares of all classes of all classes of directors. In addition, our amended and restated certificate of incorporation (i) grants our Board of Directors the authority to amend and repeal our by-laws without a stockholder vote in any manner not inconsistent with the DGCL and (ii) requires that stockholders may only amend our by-laws with the affirmative vote of 66% of the combined voting power of all the shares of all classes of our capital stock entitled to vote generally in the election of directors.

The foregoing provisions of our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and by-laws could discourage potential acquisition proposals and could delay or prevent a change in control. These provisions are intended to enhance the likelihood of continuity and stability in the composition of our Board of Directors and in the policies formulated by our Board of Directors and to discourage certain types of transactions that may involve an actual or threatened change of control. These provisions are designed to reduce our vulnerability to an unsolicited acquisition proposal. The provisions also are intended to discourage certain tactics that may be used in proxy fights. However, such provisions could have the effect of discouraging others from making tender offers for our shares and, as a consequence, they also may inhibit fluctuations in the market price of our common stock that could result from actual or rumored takeover attempts. Such provisions also may have the effect of preventing changes in our management or delaying or preventing a transaction that might benefit you or other minority stockholders.

#### Section 203 of the DGCL

We will not be subject to Section 203 of the DGCL, an anti-takeover law. In general, Section 203 prohibits a publicly-held Delaware corporation from engaging in a business combination with an interested stockholder for a period of three years following the date the person became an interested stockholder, unless (with certain exceptions) the business combination or the transaction in which the person became an interested stockholder is approved in a prescribed manner. Generally, a business combination includes a merger, asset or stock sale, or other transaction resulting in a financial benefit to the interested stockholder. Generally, an interested stockholder is a person who, together with affiliates and associates, owns (or within three years prior to the determination of interested stockholder status, did own) 15% or more of a corporation s voting stock. In our original certificate of incorporation, we have elected not to be bound by Section 203.

#### Limitations on Liability and Indemnification of Officers and Directors

Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and by-laws provide indemnification for our directors and officers to the fullest extent permitted by the DGCL, except that such directors and officers will not be indemnified to the extent that any such person has committed willful misfeasance, bad faith, gross negligence or reckless disregard involved in the conduct of such person s duty to or for us. In addition, as permitted by

Delaware law, our amended and restated certificate of incorporation includes provisions that eliminate the personal liability of our directors for monetary damages resulting from breaches of certain fiduciary duties as a director. The effect of this provision is to restrict our rights and the rights of our stockholders in derivative suits to recover monetary damages against a director for breach of fiduciary duties as a director, except that a director will be personally liable to the extent such director has committed willful misfeasance, bad faith, gross negligence or reckless disregard of such director s duties involved in the conduct of the office of director.

These provisions may be held not to be enforceable for violations of the federal securities laws of the United States.

#### **Transfer Agent and Registrar**

The transfer agent and registrar for our shares of common stock is Computershare Trust Company, N.A. The principal business address of Computershare Trust Company, N.A. is P.O. Box 43010, Providence, Rhode Island 02940-3010.

#### FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSIDERATIONS

The following is a summary of the material U.S. federal income tax consequences of an investment in common stock of American Capital Agency Corp., we, our and us mean only American Capital Agency Corp. and not its subsidiaries or other lower-tier entities, except as otherwise indicated. This summary is based upon the Internal Revenue Code, the regulations promulgated by the U.S. Treasury Department (Treasury), rulings and other administrative pronouncements issued by the IRS, and judicial decisions, all as currently in effect, and all of which are subject to differing interpretations or to change, possibly with retroactive effect. No assurance can be given that the IRS would not assert, or that a court would not sustain, a position contrary to any of the tax consequences described below. We have not sought and will not seek an advance ruling from the IRS regarding any matter discussed in this prospectus. The summary is also based upon the assumption that we will operate American Capital Agency Corp. and its subsidiaries and affiliated entities in accordance with their applicable organizational documents or partnership agreements. This summary is for general information only and is not tax advice. It does not purport to discuss all aspects of U.S. federal income taxation that may be important to a particular investor in light of its investment or tax circumstances or to investors subject to special tax rules, such as:

financial institutions;

insurance companies;

broker-dealers;

regulated investment companies;

partnerships and trusts;

persons who hold our stock on behalf of other persons as nominees;

persons who receive American Capital Agency Corp. stock through the exercise of employee stock options or otherwise as compensation;

persons holding American Capital Agency Corp. stock as part of a straddle, hedge, conversion transaction, synthetic security or oth integrated investment;

and, except to the extent discussed below:

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tax-exempt organizations; and

foreign investors.

This summary assumes that investors will hold their common stock as a capital asset, which generally means as property held for investment.

The federal income tax treatment of holders of our common stock depends in some instances on determinations of fact and interpretations of complex provisions of U.S. federal income tax law for which no clear precedent or authority may be available. In addition, the tax consequences to any particular stockholder of holding our common stock will depend on the stockholder s particular tax circumstances. You are urged to consult your tax advisor regarding the federal, state, local, and foreign income and other tax consequences to you in light of your particular investment or tax circumstances of acquiring, holding, exchanging, or otherwise disposing of our common stock.

#### Taxation of American Capital Agency Corp.

We will be taxed as a REIT, commencing with our initial taxable year ended December 31, 2008, upon the filing of our federal income tax return for such year. We believe that we have been organized and have operated in such a manner that permits us to satisfy the requirements for taxation as a REIT under the applicable provisions of the Internal Revenue Code.

While we intend to operate so that we will continue to qualify as a REIT, given the highly complex nature of the rules governing REITs, the ongoing importance of factual determinations, and the possibility of future changes in our circumstances, no assurance can be given by us that we will qualify as a REIT for any particular year. Qualification and taxation as a REIT depends on our ability to meet on a continuing basis, through actual operating results, distribution levels, and diversity of stock and asset ownership, various qualification requirements imposed upon REITs by the Internal Revenue Code. Our ability to qualify as a REIT also requires that we satisfy certain asset tests, some of which depend upon the fair market values of assets that we own directly or indirectly. Such values may not be susceptible to a precise determination. Accordingly, no assurance can be given that the actual results of our operations for any taxable year will satisfy such requirements for qualification and taxation as a REIT.

#### Taxation of REITs in General

As indicated above, our qualification and taxation as a REIT depends upon our ability to meet, on a continuing basis, various qualification requirements imposed upon REITs by the Internal Revenue Code. The material qualification requirements are summarized below under

Requirements for Qualification General. While we intend to operate so that we continue to qualify as a REIT, no assurance can be given that the IRS will not challenge our qualification, or that we will be able to operate in accordance with the REIT requirements in the future. See Failure to Qualify.

Provided that we qualify as a REIT, generally we will be entitled to a deduction for dividends that we pay and therefore will not be subject to federal corporate income tax on our taxable income that is currently distributed to our stockholders. This treatment substantially eliminates the double taxation at the corporate and stockholder levels that generally results from investment in a corporation. In general, the income that we generate is taxed only at the stockholder level upon a distribution of dividends to our stockholders.

For tax years through 2010, most domestic stockholders that are individuals, trusts or estates are taxed on corporate dividends at a maximum rate of 15% (the same as long-term capital gains). With limited exceptions, however, dividends from us or from other entities that are taxed as REITs are generally not eligible for this rate and will continue to be taxed at rates applicable to ordinary income, which will be as high as 35% through 2010. See Taxation of Stockholders Taxation of Taxable Domestic Stockholders Distributions.

Any net operating losses, foreign tax credits and other tax attributes generally do not pass through to our stockholders, subject to special rules for certain items such as the capital gains that we recognize. See Taxation of Stockholders.

In any year in which we qualify as a REIT, we will nonetheless be subject to federal tax in the following circumstances:

We will be taxed at regular corporate rates on any undistributed taxable income, including undistributed net capital gains.

We may be subject to the alternative minimum tax on our items of tax preference, including any deductions of net operating losses.

If we have net income from prohibited transactions, which are, in general, sales or other dispositions of inventory or property held primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of business, other than foreclosure property, such income will be subject to a 100% tax. See Prohibited Transactions, and Foreclosure Property, below.

If we elect to treat property that we acquire in connection with a foreclosure of a mortgage loan or certain leasehold terminations as foreclosure property, we may thereby avoid the 100% tax on gain from a resale of that property (if the sale would otherwise constitute a prohibited transaction), but the income from the sale or operation of the property may be subject to corporate income tax at the highest applicable rate (currently 35%).

If we should fail to satisfy the 75% gross income test or the 95% gross income test, as discussed below, but nonetheless maintain our qualification as a REIT because we satisfy other requirements, we will be subject to a 100% tax on an amount based on the magnitude of the failure, as adjusted to reflect the profit margin associated with our gross income.

If we should violate the asset tests (other than certain *de minimis* violations) or other requirements applicable to REITs, as described below, and yet maintain our qualification as a REIT because there is reasonable cause for the failure and other applicable requirements are met, we may be subject to an penalty tax. In that case, the amount of the penalty tax will be at least \$50,000 per failure, and, in the case of certain asset test failures, will be determined as the amount of net income generated by the assets in question multiplied by the highest corporate tax rate (currently 35%) if that amount exceeds \$50,000 per failure.

If we should fail to distribute during each calendar year at least the sum of (a) 85% of our REIT ordinary income for such year, (b) 95% of our REIT capital gain net income for such year, and (c) any undistributed taxable income from prior periods, we would be subject to a nondeductible 4% excise tax on the excess of the required distribution over the sum of (i) the amounts that we actually distributed and (ii) the amounts we retained and upon which we paid income tax at the corporate level.

We may be required to pay monetary penalties to the IRS in certain circumstances, including if we fail to meet record keeping requirements intended to monitor our compliance with rules relating to the composition of a REIT s stockholders, as described below in Requirements for Qualification General.

A 100% tax may be imposed on transactions between us and a taxable REIT subsidiary ( TRS ) (as described below) that do not reflect arm s-length terms.

If we acquire appreciated assets from a corporation that is not a REIT (i.e., a corporation taxable under subchapter C of the Internal Revenue Code) in a transaction in which the adjusted tax basis of the assets in our hands is determined by reference to the adjusted tax basis of the assets in the hands of the subchapter C corporation, we may be subject to tax on such appreciation at the highest corporate income tax rate then applicable if we subsequently recognize gain on a disposition of any such assets during the ten-year period following their acquisition from the subchapter C corporation.

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The earnings of our subsidiaries, including American Capital Agency TRS, LLC ( our TRS), are subject to federal corporate income tax to the extent that such subsidiaries are subchapter C corporations.

In addition, we and our subsidiaries may be subject to a variety of taxes, including payroll taxes and state, local, and foreign income, property and other taxes on our assets and operations. We could also be subject to tax in situations and on transactions not presently contemplated.

# **Requirements for Qualification General**

The Internal Revenue Code defines a REIT as a corporation, trust or association:

- (1) that is managed by one or more trustees or directors;
- (2) the beneficial ownership of which is evidenced by transferable shares, or by transferable certificates of beneficial interest;
- (3) that would be taxable as a domestic corporation but for its election to be subject to tax as a REIT;
- (4) that is neither a financial institution nor an insurance company subject to specific provisions of the Internal Revenue Code;
- (5) the beneficial ownership of which is held by 100 or more persons;
- (6) in which, during the last half of each taxable year, not more than 50% in value of the outstanding stock is owned, directly or indirectly, by five or fewer individuals (as defined in the Internal Revenue Code to include specified tax-exempt entities); and

(7) which meets other tests described below, including with respect to the nature of its income and assets. The Internal Revenue Code provides that conditions (1) through (4) must be met during the entire taxable year, and that condition (5) must be met during at least 335 days of a taxable year of 12 months, or during a proportionate part of a shorter taxable year. Conditions (5) and (6) need not be met during a corporation s initial tax year as a REIT (which, in our case, was 2008). Our amended and restated articles of incorporation provides restrictions regarding the ownership and transfers of our stock, which are intended to assist us in satisfying the stock ownership requirements described in conditions (5) and (6) above.

To monitor compliance with the stock ownership requirements, we generally are required to maintain records regarding the actual ownership of our stocks. To do so, we must demand written statements each year from the record holders of significant percentages of our stock pursuant to which the record holders must disclose the actual owners of the stock (i.e., the persons required to include our dividends in their gross income). We must maintain a list of those persons failing or refusing to comply with this demand as part of our records. We could be subject to monetary penalties if we fail to comply with these record-keeping requirements. If you fail or refuse to comply with the demands, you will be required by Treasury regulations to submit a statement with your tax return disclosing your actual ownership of our stock and other information.

In addition, a corporation generally may not elect to become a REIT unless its taxable year is the calendar year. We have adopted December 31 as our year-end, and thereby satisfy this requirement.

The Internal Revenue Code provides relief from violations of the REIT gross income requirements, as described below under Income Tests, in cases where a violation is due to reasonable cause and not to willful neglect, and other requirements are met, including the payment of a penalty tax that is based upon the magnitude of the violation. In addition, certain provisions of the Internal Revenue Code extend similar relief in the case of certain violations of the REIT asset requirements (see Asset Tests below) and other REIT requirements, again provided that the violation is due to reasonable cause and not willful neglect, and other conditions are met, including the payment of a penalty tax. If we fail to satisfy any of the various REIT requirements, there can be no assurance that these relief provisions would be available to enable us to maintain our qualification as a REIT, and, if such relief provisions are available, the amount of any resultant penalty tax could be substantial.

# Effect of Subsidiary Entities

*Ownership of Partnership Interests.* If we are a partner in an entity that is treated as a partnership for federal income tax purposes, Treasury regulations provide that we are deemed to own our proportionate share of the partnership s assets, and to earn our proportionate share of the partnership s income, for purposes of the asset and gross income tests applicable to REITs. Our proportionate share of a partnership s assets and income is based on our capital interest in the partnership (except that for purposes of the 10% value test, our proportionate share of the partnership s assets is based on our proportionate interest in the equity and certain debt securities issued by the partnership). In addition, the assets and gross income of the partnership are deemed to retain the same character in our hands. Thus, our proportionate share of the assets and items of income of any of our subsidiary partnerships will be treated as our assets and items of income for purposes of applying the REIT requirements.

*Disregarded Subsidiaries.* If we own a corporate subsidiary that is a qualified REIT subsidiary, that subsidiary is generally disregarded for federal income tax purposes, and all of the subsidiary s assets, liabilities and items of income, deduction and credit are treated as our assets, liabilities and items of income, deduction and credit, including for purposes of the gross income and asset tests applicable to REITs. A qualified REIT subsidiary is any corporation, other than a TRS (as described below), that is directly or indirectly wholly-owned by a REIT. Other entities that are wholly-owned by us, including single member limited liability companies that have not elected to be taxed as corporations for federal income tax purposes, are also generally disregarded as separate entities for federal income tax purposes, including for purposes of the REIT income and asset tests. Disregarded subsidiaries, along with any partnerships in which we hold an equity interest, are sometimes referred to herein as pass-through subsidiaries.

In the event that a disregarded subsidiary of ours ceases to be wholly-owned for example, if any equity interest in the subsidiary is acquired by a person other than us or another disregarded subsidiary of ours the subsidiary s separate existence would no longer be disregarded for federal income tax purposes. Instead, the subsidiary would have multiple owners and would be treated as either a partnership or a taxable corporation. Such an event could, depending on the circumstances, adversely affect our ability to satisfy the various asset and gross income requirements applicable to REITs, including the requirement that REITs generally may not own, directly or indirectly, more than 10% of the securities of another corporation. See Asset Tests and Income Tests.

*Taxable Subsidiaries.* In general, we may jointly elect with a subsidiary corporation, whether or not wholly-owned, to treat such subsidiary corporation as a TRS. We generally may not own more than 10% of the securities of a taxable corporation, as measured by voting power or value, unless we and such corporation elect to treat such corporation as a TRS. The separate existence of a TRS or other taxable corporation is not ignored for federal income tax purposes. Accordingly, our TRS or other taxable corporation generally is subject to corporate income tax on its earnings, which may reduce the cash flow that we and our subsidiaries generate in the aggregate, and may reduce our ability to make distributions to our stockholders.

We are not treated as holding the assets of our TRS or other taxable subsidiary corporation or as receiving any income that the subsidiary earns. Rather, the stock issued by a taxable subsidiary to us is an asset in our hands, and we treat the dividends paid to us from such taxable subsidiary, if any, as income. This treatment can affect our income and asset test calculations, as described below. Because we do not include the assets and income of TRSs or other taxable subsidiary corporations in determining our compliance with the REIT requirements, we may use such entities to undertake indirectly activities that the REIT rules might otherwise preclude us from doing directly or through pass-through subsidiaries. For example, we may use TRSs or other taxable subsidiary corporations to conduct activities that give rise to certain categories of income such as management fees or to conduct activities that, if conducted by us directly, would be treated in our hands as prohibited transactions.

The TRS rules limit the deductibility of interest paid or accrued by a TRS to its parent REIT to assure that the TRS is subject to an appropriate level of corporate taxation. Further, the rules impose a 100% excise tax on

transactions between a TRS and its parent REIT or the REIT s tenants that are not conducted on an arm s-length basis. We intend that all of our transactions with our TRSs will be conducted on an arm s-length basis.

#### Income Tests

In order to continue to qualify as a REIT, we must satisfy two gross income requirements on an annual basis. First, at least 75% of our gross income for each taxable year, excluding gross income from sales of inventory or dealer property in prohibited transactions and certain hedging transactions, generally must be derived from investments relating to real property or mortgages on real property, including interest income derived from mortgage loans secured by real property (including, generally, agency securities and certain types of mortgage-backed securities), rents from real property, dividends received from other REITs, and gains from the sale of real estate assets, as well as specified income from temporary investments. Second, at least 95% of our gross income in each taxable year, excluding gross income test described above, as well as other dividends, interest, and gain from the sale or disposition of stock or securities, which need not have any relation to real property. Income and gain from hedging transactions entered into after July 30, 2008 will be excluded from both the numerator and the denominator for purposes of both the 75% and 95% gross income tests.

Interest income constitutes qualifying mortgage interest for purposes of the 75% gross income test (as described above) to the extent that the obligation upon which such interest is paid is secured by a mortgage on real property. If we receive interest income with respect to a mortgage loan that is secured by both real property and other property, and the highest principal amount of the loan outstanding during a taxable year exceeds the fair market value of the real property on the date that we acquired or originated the mortgage loan, the interest income will be apportioned between the real property and the other collateral, and our income from the arrangement will qualify for purposes of the 75% gross income test only to the extent that the interest is allocable to the real property. Even if a loan is not secured by real property, or is undersecured, the income that it generates may nonetheless qualify for purposes of the 95% gross income test.

We intend to continue to invest exclusively in agency securities that are either pass-through certificates or collateralized mortgage obligations (CMOs). We expect that the agency securities will be treated either as interests in a grantor trust or as interests in a real estate mortgage investment conduit (REMIC) for federal income tax purposes and that all interest income from our agency securities will be qualifying income for the 95% gross income test. In the case of an agency securities treated as interests in grantor trusts, we would be treated as owning an undivided beneficial ownership interest in the mortgage loans held by the grantor trust. The interest on such mortgage loans would be qualifying income for purposes of the 75% gross income test to the extent that the obligation is secured by real property, as discussed above. In the case of agency securities treated as interests in a REMIC, income derived from REMIC interests will generally be treated as qualifying income for purposes of the 75% and 95% gross income tests. If less than 95% of the assets of the REMIC are real estate assets, however, then only a proportionate part of our interest in the REMIC and income derived from the interest will qualify for purposes of the 75% gross income test. In addition, some REMIC securitizations include imbedded interest swap or cap contracts or other derivative instruments that potentially could produce non-qualifying income for the holder of the related REMIC securities. We expect that substantially all of our income from agency securities will be qualifying income for purposes of the REMIC securities.

We may purchase agency securities through to-be-announced forward contacts (TBAs) and may recognize income or gains from the disposition of those TBAs, through dollar roll transactions or otherwise. There is no direct authority with respect to the qualification of income or gains from dispositions of TBAs as gains from the sale of real property (including interests in real property and interests in mortgages on real property) or other qualifying income for purposes of the 75% gross income test and we would not treat these items as such unless we receive a reasoned, written opinion (within the meaning of applicable Treasury regulations) of our counsel that such income and gains should be treated as such. Consequently, our ability to

enter into dollar roll transactions and other dispositions of TBAs could be limited. Moreover, even if we were to receive the opinion of counsel described above, it is possible that the IRS could assert that such income is not qualifying income. In the event that such income were determined not to be qualifying for the 75% gross income test, we could be subject to a penalty tax or we could fail to qualify as a REIT if such income when added to any other non-qualifying income exceeded 25% of our gross income.

Rents received by us, if any, will qualify as rents from real property in satisfying the gross income requirements described above only if several conditions are met. If rent is partly attributable to personal property leased in connection with a lease of real property, the portion of the rent that is attributable to the personal property will not qualify as rents from real property unless it constitutes 15% or less of the total rent received under the lease. In addition, the amount of rent must not be based in whole or in part on the income or profits of any person. Amounts received as rent, however, generally will not be excluded from rents from real property solely by reason of being based on fixed percentages of gross receipts or sales. Also, rental income will qualify as rents from real property only to the extent that we do not directly or constructively hold a 10% or greater interest, as measured by vote or value, in the lessee s equity.

We may directly or indirectly receive distributions from our TRS or other corporations that are not REITs or qualified REIT subsidiaries. These distributions generally are treated as dividend income to the extent of the earnings and profits of the distributing corporation. Such distributions will generally constitute qualifying income for purposes of the 95% gross income test, but not for purposes of the 75% gross income test. Any dividends that we receive from a REIT, however, will be qualifying income for purposes of both the 95% and 75% gross income tests.

Fees will generally be qualifying income for purposes of both the 75% and 95% gross income tests if they are received in consideration for entering into an agreement to make a loan secured by real property and the fees are not determined by income and profits. Other fees generally will not be qualifying income for purposes of either gross income test and will not be favorably counted for purposes of either gross income test. Any fees earned by our TRS will not be included for purposes of the gross income tests. Any income or gain that we or our pass-through subsidiaries derive from instruments that hedge certain risks, such as the risk of changes in interest rates, will be excluded from gross income for purposes of the 95% gross income test, provided that specified requirements are met, including the requirement that the instrument is entered into during the ordinary course of our business, the instrument hedges risks associated with indebtedness issued by us or our pass-through subsidiary that is incurred to acquire or carry real estate assets (as described below under Asset Tests), and the instrument is properly identified as a hedge along with the risk that it hedges within prescribed time periods. Income and gain from such transactions will not be qualifying income for either the 95% or 75% gross income test.

If we fail to satisfy one or both of the 75% or 95% gross income tests for any taxable year, including as a result of income and gains from the disposition of TBAs, we may still qualify as a REIT for such year if we are entitled to relief under applicable provisions of the Internal Revenue Code. These relief provisions will be generally available if (1) our failure to meet these tests was due to reasonable cause and not due to willful neglect and (2) following our identification of the failure to meet the 75% or 95% gross income test for any taxable year, we file a schedule with the IRS setting forth each item of our gross income for purposes of the 75% or 95% gross income test for such taxable year in accordance with Treasury regulations yet to be issued. It is not possible to state whether we would be entitled to the benefit of these relief provisions in all circumstances. If these relief provisions are inapplicable to a particular set of circumstances, we will not qualify as a REIT. As discussed above under Taxation of REITs in General, even where these relief provisions apply, the Internal Revenue Code imposes a tax based upon the amount by which we fail to satisfy the particular gross income test.

Under The Housing and Economic Recovery Tax Act of 2008, the Secretary of the Treasury has been given broad authority to determine whether particular items of gain or income recognized after July 30, 2008, qualify

or not under the 75% and 95% gross income tests, or are to be excluded from the measure of gross income for such purposes.

#### Asset Tests

At the close of each calendar quarter, we must also satisfy four tests relating to the nature of our assets. First, at least 75% of the value of our total assets must be represented by some combination of real estate assets, cash, cash items, U.S. government securities, and, under some circumstances, stock or debt instruments purchased with new capital. For this purpose, real estate assets include some kinds of mortgage-backed securities and mortgage loans, as well as interests in real property and stock of other corporations that qualify as REITs. Assets that do not qualify for purposes of the 75% asset test are subject to the additional asset tests described below.

Second, the value of any one issuer s securities that we own may not exceed 5% of the value of our total assets.

Third, we may not own more than 10% of any one issuer s outstanding securities, as measured by either voting power or value. The 5% and 10% asset tests do not apply to securities of TRSs and qualified REIT subsidiaries and the 10% asset test does not apply to straight debt having specified characteristics and to certain other securities described below. Solely for purposes of the 10% asset test, the determination of our interest in the assets of a partnership or limited liability company in which we own an interest will be based on our proportionate interest in any securities issued by the partnership or limited liability company, excluding for this purpose certain securities described in the Code. Fourth, the aggregate value of all securities of TRSs that we hold may not exceed 25% (20% with respect to taxable years commencing prior to July 31, 2008) of the value of our total assets.

Notwithstanding the general rule, as noted above, that for purposes of the REIT income and asset tests we are treated as owning our proportionate share of the underlying assets of a subsidiary partnership, if we hold indebtedness issued by a partnership, the indebtedness will be subject to, and may cause a violation of, the asset tests unless the indebtedness is a qualifying mortgage asset or other conditions are met. Similarly, although stock of another REIT is a qualifying asset for purposes of the REIT asset tests, any non-mortgage debt that is issued by another REIT may not so qualify (such debt, however, will not be treated as securities for purposes of the 10% asset test, as explained below).

Certain securities will not cause a violation of the 10% asset test described above. Such securities include instruments that constitute straight debt, which includes, among other things, securities having certain contingency features. A security does not qualify as straight debt where a REIT (or a controlled TRS of the REIT) owns other securities of the same issuer which do not qualify as straight debt, unless the value of those other securities constitute, in the aggregate, 1% or less of the total value of that issuer s outstanding securities. In addition to straight debt, the Internal Revenue Code provides that certain other securities will not violate the 10% asset test. Such securities include (1) any loan made to an individual or an estate, (2) certain rental agreements pursuant to which one or more payments are to be made in subsequent years (other than agreements between a REIT and certain persons related to the REIT under attribution rules), (3) any obligation to pay rents from real property, (4) securities issued by governmental entities that are not dependent in whole or in part on the profits of (or payments made by) a non-governmental entity, (5) any security (including debt securities) issued by another REIT, and (6) any debt instrument issued by a partnership if the partnership s income is of a nature that it would satisfy the 75% gross income test described above under Income Tests. In applying the 10% asset test, a debt security issued by a partnership is not taken into account to the extent, if any, of the REIT s proportionate interest in the equity and certain debt securities issued by that partnership.

We intend to continue to invest exclusively in agency securities that are either pass-through certificates or collateralized mortgage obligations. We expect that the agency securities will be treated either as interests in

grantor trusts or as interests in REMICs for federal income tax purposes. In the case of an agency securities treated as interests in grantor trusts, we would be treated as owning an undivided beneficial ownership interest in the mortgage loans held by the grantor trust. Such mortgage loans will generally qualify as real estate assets to the extent that they are secured by real property. We expect that substantially all of our agency securities treated as interests in grantor trust will qualify as real estate assets. In the case of agency securities treated as interests in a REMIC, such interests will generally qualify as real estate assets and income derived from REMIC interests will generally be treated as qualifying income for purposes of the REIT income tests described above. If less than 95% of the assets of a REMIC are real estate assets, however, then only a proportionate part of our interest in the REMIC and income derived from the interest will qualify for purposes of the REIT asset and income tests.

We intend to enter into sale and repurchase agreements under which we would nominally sell certain of our agency securities to a counterparty and simultaneously enter into an agreement to repurchase the sold assets in exchange for a purchase price that reflects a financing charge. We believe that we would be treated for REIT asset and income test purposes as the owner of the agency securities that are the subject of any such agreement notwithstanding that such agreements may transfer record ownership of the assets to the counterparty during the term of the agreement. It is possible, however, that the IRS could assert that we did not own the agency securities during the term of the sale and repurchase agreement, in which case we could fail to qualify as a REIT.

We may, in the future, purchase agency securities through TBAs. There is no direct authority with respect to the qualification of TBAs as real estate assets or Government securities for purposes of the 75% asset test and we would not treat TBAs as such unless we receive a reasoned, written opinion (within the meaning of applicable Treasury regulations) of our counsel that TBAs should be treated as such. Consequently, our ability to purchase TBAs could be limited. Moreover, even if we were to receive the opinion of counsel described above, it is possible that the IRS could assert that TBAs are not qualifying assets. In the event that TBAs were determined not to be qualifying for the 75% asset test, we could be subject to a penalty tax or we could fail to qualify as a REIT if such assets when added to any other non-qualifying assets exceeded 25% of our gross assets.

No independent appraisals have been obtained to support our conclusions as to the value of our total assets or the value of any particular security or securities. Moreover, values of some assets, including instruments issued in securitization transactions, may not be susceptible to a precise determination, and values are subject to change in the future. Furthermore, the proper classification of an instrument as debt or equity for federal income tax purposes may be uncertain in some circumstances, which could affect the application of the REIT asset requirements. Accordingly, there can be no assurance that the IRS will not contend that our interests in our subsidiaries or in the securities of other issuers will not cause a violation of the REIT asset tests.

However, certain relief provisions are available to allow REITs to satisfy the asset requirements or to maintain REIT qualification notwithstanding certain violations of the asset and other requirements. One such provision allows a REIT which fails one or more of the asset requirements to nevertheless maintain its REIT qualification if (1) the REIT provides the IRS with a description of each asset causing the failure, (2) the failure is due to reasonable cause and not willful neglect, (3) the REIT pays a tax equal to the greater of (a) \$50,000 per failure, and (b) the product of the net income generated by the assets that caused the failure multiplied by the highest applicable corporate tax rate (currently 35%), and (4) the REIT either disposes of the assets causing the failure within six months after the last day of the quarter in which it identifies the failure, or otherwise satisfies the relevant asset tests within that time frame.

In the case of *de minimis* violations of the 10% and 5% asset tests, a REIT may maintain its qualification despite a violation of such requirements if (1) the value of the assets causing the violation does not exceed the lesser of 1% of the REIT s total assets and \$10,000,000, and (2) the REIT either disposes of the assets causing the failure within six months after the last day of the quarter in which it identifies the failure, or the relevant tests are otherwise satisfied within that time frame.

If we should fail to satisfy the asset tests at the end of a calendar quarter, including any failure to satisfy the 75% asset test as a result of any future investments in TBAs, such a failure would not cause us to lose our REIT

qualification if we (1) satisfied the asset tests at the close of the preceding calendar quarter and (2) the discrepancy between the value of our assets and the asset requirements was not wholly or partly caused by an acquisition of non-qualifying assets, but instead arose from changes in the market value of our assets. If the condition described in (2) were not satisfied, we still could avoid disqualification by eliminating any discrepancy within 30 days after the close of the calendar quarter in which it arose or by making use of relief provisions described below.

#### Annual Distribution Requirements

In order to qualify as a REIT, we are required to distribute dividends, other than capital gain dividends, to our stockholders in an amount at least equal to:

(a) the sum of

(1) 90% of our REIT taxable income, computed without regard to our net capital gains and the deduction for dividends paid, and

(2) 90% of our net income, if any, (after tax) from foreclosure property (as described below), minus

(b) the sum of specified items of non-cash income.

We generally must make these distributions in the taxable year to which they relate, or in the following taxable year if declared before we timely file our tax return for the year and if paid with or before the first regular dividend payment after such declaration. In order for distributions to be counted as satisfying the annual distribution requirements for REITs, and to provide us with a tax deduction for us, the distributions must not be preferential dividends. A dividend is not a preferential dividend if the distribution is (1) pro rata among all outstanding shares of stock within a particular class, and (2) in accordance with the preferences among different classes of stock as set forth in our organizational documents.

To the extent that we distribute at least 90%, but less than 100%, of our REIT taxable income, as adjusted, we will be subject to tax at ordinary corporate tax rates on the retained portion. We may elect to retain, rather than distribute, our net long-term capital gains and pay tax on such gains. In this case, we could elect for our stockholders to include their proportionate shares of such undistributed long-term capital gains in income, and to receive a corresponding credit for their share of the tax that we paid. Our stockholders would then increase their adjusted basis of their stock by the difference between (a) the amounts of capital gain dividends that we designated and that they include in their taxable income, minus (b) the tax that we paid on their behalf with respect to that income.

To the extent that in the future we may have available net operating losses carried forward from prior tax years, such losses may reduce the amount of distributions that we must make in order to comply with the REIT distribution requirements. Such losses, however, will generally not affect the character, in the hands of our stockholders, of any distributions that are actually made as ordinary dividends or capital gains. See Taxation of Stockholders Taxation of Taxable Domestic Stockholders Distributions.

If we should fail to distribute during each calendar year at least the sum of (a) 85% of our REIT ordinary income for such year, (b) 95% of our REIT capital gain net income for such year, and (c) any undistributed taxable income from prior periods, we would be subject to a non-deductible 4% excise tax on the excess of such required distribution over the sum of (x) the amounts actually distributed, plus (y) the amounts of income we retained and on which we have paid corporate income tax.

It is possible that, from time to time, we may not have sufficient cash to meet the distribution requirements due to timing differences between (a) our actual receipt of cash, including receipt of distributions from any

subsidiaries, and (b) our inclusion of items in income for federal income tax purposes. Other potential sources of non-cash taxable income include:

loans or mortgage-backed securities held as assets that are issued at a discount and require the accrual of taxable economic interest in advance of receipt in cash; and

loans on which the borrower is permitted to defer cash payments of interest, and distressed loans on which we may be required to accrue taxable interest income even though the borrower is unable to make current servicing payments in cash. In the event that such timing differences occur, in order to meet the distribution requirements, it might be necessary for us to arrange for short-term, or possibly long-term, borrowings, or to pay dividends in the form of taxable in-kind distributions of property.

We may be able to rectify a failure to meet the distribution requirements for a year by paying deficiency dividends to stockholders in a later year, which may be included in our deduction for dividends paid for the earlier year. In this case, we may be able to avoid losing REIT qualification or being taxed on amounts distributed as deficiency dividends. We will be required to pay interest and a penalty based on the amount of any deduction taken for deficiency dividends.

#### **Prohibited Transactions**

Net income that we derive from a prohibited transaction is subject to a 100% tax. The term prohibited transaction generally includes a sale or other disposition of property (other than foreclosure property, as discussed below) that is held primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of a trade or business by us or by a borrower that has issued a shared appreciation mortgage or similar debt instrument to us. We intend to conduct our operations so that no asset that we own (or are treated as owning) will be treated as, or as having been, held for sale to customers, and that a sale of any such asset will not be treated as having been in the ordinary course of our business. Whether property is held primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of a trade or business depends on the particular facts and circumstances. No assurance can be given that any property that we sell will not be treated as property held for sale to customers, or that we can comply with certain safe-harbor provisions of the Internal Revenue Code that would prevent such treatment. The 100% tax does not apply to gains from the sale of property that is held through a TRS or other taxable corporation, although such income will be subject to tax in the hands of the corporation at regular corporate rates. We intend to continue to structure our activities to avoid prohibited transaction characterization.

#### Foreclosure Property

Foreclosure property is real property and any personal property incident to such real property (1) that we acquire as the result of having bid in the property at foreclosure, or having otherwise reduced the property to ownership or possession by agreement or process of law, after a default (or upon imminent default) on a lease of the property or a mortgage loan held by us and secured by the property, (2) for which we acquired the related loan or lease at a time when default was not imminent or anticipated, and (3) with respect to which we made a proper election to treat the property as foreclosure property. We generally will be subject to tax at the maximum corporate rate (currently 35%) on any net income from foreclosure property, including any gain from the disposition of the foreclosure property for which a foreclosure property election has been made will not be subject to the 100% tax on gains from prohibited transactions described above, even if the property would otherwise constitute inventory or dealer property. Because we will invest exclusively in agency securities, we not anticipate receiving any income from foreclosure property that does not qualify for purposes of the 75% gross income test.

#### **Derivatives and Hedging Transactions**

We and our subsidiaries may enter into hedging transactions with respect to interest rate exposure on one or more of our assets or liabilities. Any such hedging transactions could take a variety of forms, including the use of derivative instruments such as interest rate swap contracts, interest rate cap or floor contracts, futures or forward contracts, and options. Except to the extent provided by Treasury regulations, any income from a hedging transaction we enter into (1) in the normal course of our business primarily to manage risk of interest rate or price changes or currency fluctuations with respect to borrowings made or to be made, or ordinary obligations incurred or to be incurred, to acquire or carry real estate assets, which is clearly identified as specified in Treasury regulations before the close of the day on which it was acquired, originated, or entered into, including gain from the sale or disposition of such a transaction, and (2) primarily to manage risk of currency fluctuations with respect to any item of income or gain that would be qualifying income under the 75% or 95% income tests which is clearly identified as such before the close of the day on which it was acquired, originated, or entered into, will not constitute gross income for purposes of the 75% or 95% gross income test. To the extent that we enter into other types of hedging transactions, the income from those transactions is likely to be treated as non-qualifying income for purposes of both of the 75% and 95% gross income tests. We intend to structure any hedging transactions in a manner that does not jeopardize our qualification as a REIT. We may conduct some or all of our hedging activities (including hedging activities relating to currency risk) through our TRS or other corporate entity, the income from which may be subject to federal income tax, rather than by participating in the arrangements directly or through pass-through subsidiaries. No assurance can be given, however, that our hedging activities will not give rise to income that does not qualify for purposes of either or both of the REIT gross income tests, or that our hedging activities will not adversely affect our ability to satisfy the REIT qualification requirements.

#### Failure to Qualify

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

If we fail to qualify for taxation as a REIT in any taxable year, and the relief provisions described above do not apply, we would be subject to tax, including any applicable alternative minimum tax, on our taxable income at regular corporate rates. We cannot deduct distributions to stockholders in any year in which we are not a REIT, nor would we be required to make distributions in such a year. In this situation, to the extent of current and accumulated earnings and profits, distributions to domestic stockholders that are individuals, trusts and estates will generally be taxable at capital gains rates (through 2010). In addition, subject to the limitations of the Internal Revenue Code, corporate distributees may be eligible for the dividends received deduction. Unless we are entitled to relief under specific statutory provisions, we would also be disqualified from re-electing to be taxed as a REIT for the four taxable years following the year during which we lost qualification. It is not possible to state whether, in all circumstances, we would be entitled to this statutory relief.

#### **Taxation of Stockholders**

#### Taxation of Taxable Domestic Stockholders

*Distributions*. So long as we qualify as a REIT, the distributions that we make to our taxable domestic stockholders out of current or accumulated earnings and profits that we do not designate as capital gain dividends will generally be taken into account by stockholders as ordinary income and will not be eligible for the dividends received deduction for corporations. With limited exceptions, our dividends are not eligible for taxation at the preferential income tax rates (i.e., the 15% maximum federal rate through 2010) for qualified dividends received by domestic stockholders that are individuals, trusts and estates from taxable C corporations. Such stockholders,

however, are taxed at the preferential rates on dividends designated by and received from REITs to the extent that the dividends are attributable to:

income retained by the REIT in the prior taxable year on which the REIT was subject to corporate level income tax (less the amount of tax);

dividends received by the REIT from TRSs or other taxable C corporations; or

income in the prior taxable year from the sales of built-in gain property acquired by the REIT from C corporations in carryover basis transactions (less the amount of corporate tax on such income).

Distributions that we designate as capital gain dividends will generally be taxed to our stockholders as long-term capital gains, to the extent that such distributions do not exceed our actual net capital gain for the taxable year, without regard to the period for which the stockholder that receives such distribution has held its stock. We may elect to retain and pay taxes on some or all of our net long-term capital gains, in which case provisions of the Internal Revenue Code will treat our stockholders as having received, solely for tax purposes, our undistributed capital gains, and the stockholders will receive a corresponding credit for taxes that we paid on such undistributed capital gains. See Taxation of American Capital Agency Corp. Annual Distribution Requirements. Corporate stockholders may be required to treat up to 20% of some capital gain dividends as ordinary income. Long-term capital gains are generally taxable at maximum federal rates of 15% (through 2010) in the case of stockholders that are individuals, trusts and estates, and 35% in the case of stockholders that are corporations. Capital gains attributable to the sale of depreciable real property held for more than 12 months are subject to a 25% maximum federal income tax rate for taxpayers who are taxed as individuals, to the extent of previously claimed depreciation deductions.

Distributions in excess of our current and accumulated earnings and profits will generally represent a return of capital and will not be taxable to a stockholder to the extent that the amount of such distributions does not exceed the adjusted basis of the stockholder s shares in respect of which the distributions were made. Rather, the distribution will reduce the adjusted basis of the stockholder s shares. To the extent that such distributions exceed the adjusted basis of a stockholder s shares, the stockholder generally must include such distributions in income as long-term capital gain, or short-term capital gain if the shares have been held for one year or less. In addition, any dividend that we declare in October, November or December of any year and that is payable to a stockholder of record on a specified date in any such month will be treated as both paid by us and received by the stockholder on December 31 of such year, provided that we actually pay the dividend before the end of January of the following calendar year.

To the extent that we have available net operating losses and capital losses carried forward from prior tax years, such losses may reduce the amount of distributions that we must make in order to comply with the REIT distribution requirements. See Taxation of American Capital Agency Corp. Annual Distribution Requirements. Such losses, however, are not passed through to stockholders and do not offset income of stockholders from other sources, nor would such losses affect the character of any distributions that we make, which are generally subject to tax in the hands of stockholders to the extent that we have current or accumulated earnings and profits.

*Dispositions of American Capital Agency Corp. Stock.* In general, capital gains recognized by individuals, trusts and estates upon the sale or disposition of our stock will be subject to a maximum federal income tax rate of 15% (through 2010) if the stock is held for more than one year, and will be taxed at ordinary income rates (of up to 35% through 2010) if the stock is held for one year or less. Gains recognized by stockholders that are corporations are subject to federal income tax at a maximum rate of 35%, whether or not such gains are classified as long-term capital gains. Capital losses recognized by a stockholder upon the disposition of our stock that was held for more than one year at the time of disposition will be considered long-term capital losses, and are generally available only to offset capital gain income of the stockholder but not ordinary income (except in the case of individuals, who may offset up to \$3,000 of ordinary income each year). In addition, any loss upon a sale

or exchange of shares of our stock by a stockholder who has held the shares for six months or less, after applying holding period rules, will be treated as a long-term capital loss to the extent of distributions that we make that are required to be treated by the stockholder as long-term capital gain.

If an investor recognizes a loss upon a subsequent disposition of our stock or other securities in an amount that exceeds a prescribed threshold, it is possible that the provisions of Treasury regulations involving reportable transactions could apply, with a resulting requirement to separately disclose the loss-generating transaction to the IRS. These regulations, though directed towards tax shelters, are broadly written and apply to transactions that would not typically be considered tax shelters. The Code imposes significant penalties for failure to comply with these requirements. You should consult your tax advisor concerning any possible disclosure obligation with respect to the receipt or disposition of our stock or securities or transactions that we might undertake directly or indirectly. Moreover, you should be aware that we and other participants in the transactions in which we are involved (including their advisors) might be subject to disclosure or other requirements pursuant to these regulations.

*Passive Activity Losses and Investment Interest Limitations.* Distributions that we make and gain arising from the sale or exchange by a domestic stockholder of our stock will not be treated as passive activity income. As a result, stockholders will not be able to apply any passive losses against income or gain relating to our stock. To the extent that distributions we make do not constitute a return of capital, they will be treated as investment income for purposes of computing the investment interest limitation.

# Taxation of Foreign Stockholders

The following is a summary of certain U.S. federal income and estate tax consequences of the ownership and disposition of our stock applicable to non-U.S. holders. A non-U.S. holder is any person other than:

a citizen or resident of the United States;

a corporation (or entity treated as a corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes) created or organized in the United States or under the laws of the United States, or of any state thereof, or the District of Columbia;

an estate, the income of which is includable in gross income for U.S. federal income tax purposes regardless of its source; or

a trust if a United States court is able to exercise primary supervision over the administration of such trust and one or more United States fiduciaries have the authority to control all substantial decisions of the trust.

If a partnership, including for this purpose any entity that is treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes, holds our common stock, the tax treatment of a partner in the partnership will generally depend upon the status of the partner and the activities of the partnership. An investor that is a partnership and the partners in such partnership should consult their tax advisors about the U.S. federal income tax consequences of the acquisition, ownership and disposition of our common stock.

The following discussion is based on current law, and is for general information only. It addresses only selected, and not all, aspects of U.S. federal income and estate taxation.

*Ordinary Dividends*. The portion of dividends received by non-U.S. holders that is (1) payable out of our earnings and profits, (2) which is not attributable to our capital gains and (3) which is not effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business of the non-U.S. holder, will be subject to U.S. withholding tax at the rate of 30%, unless reduced or eliminated by treaty.

In general, non-U.S. holders will not be considered to be engaged in a U.S. trade or business solely as a result of their ownership of our stock. In cases where the dividend income from a non-U.S. holder s investment

in our stock is, or is treated as, effectively connected with the non-U.S. holder s conduct of a U.S. trade or business, the non-U.S. holder generally will be subject to U.S. federal income tax at graduated rates, in the same manner as domestic stockholders are taxed with respect to such dividends. Such income must generally be reported on a U.S. income tax return filed by or on behalf of the non-U.S. holder. The income may also be subject to the 30% branch profits tax in the case of a non-U.S. holder that is a corporation.

*Non-Dividend Distributions.* Unless our stock constitutes a U.S. real property interest (a USRPI), distributions that we make which are not dividends out of our earnings and profits will not be subject to U.S. income tax. If we cannot determine at the time a distribution is made whether or not the distribution will exceed current and accumulated earnings and profits, the distribution will be subject to withholding at the rate applicable to dividends. The non-U.S. holder may seek a refund from the IRS of any amounts withheld if it is subsequently determined that the distribution was, in fact, in excess of our current and accumulated earnings and profits. If our stock constitutes a USRPI, as described below, distributions that we make in excess of the sum of (a) the stockholder s proportionate share of our earnings and profits, plus (b) the stockholder s basis in its stock, will be taxed under the Foreign Investment in Real Property Tax Act of 1980 (FIRPTA), at the rate of tax, including any applicable capital gains rates, that would apply to a domestic stockholder of the same type (e.g., an individual or a corporation, as the case may be), and the collection of the tax will be enforced by a refundable withholding at a rate of 10% of the amount by which the distribution exceeds the stockholder s share of our earnings and profits.

*Capital Gain Dividends.* Under FIRPTA, a distribution that we make to a non-U.S. holder, to the extent attributable to gains from dispositions of USRPIs that we held directly or through pass-through subsidiaries, or USRPI capital gains, will, except as described below, be considered effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business of the non-U.S. holder and will be subject to U.S. income tax at the rates applicable to U.S. individuals or corporations, without regard to whether we designate the distribution as a capital gain dividend. See above under Taxation of Foreign Stockholders Ordinary Dividends, for a discussion of the consequences of income that is effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business. In addition, we will be required to withhold tax equal to 35% of the maximum amount that could have been designated as USRPI capital gains dividends. Distributions subject to FIRPTA may also be subject to a 30% branch profits tax in the hands of a non-U.S. holder that is a corporation. A distribution is not a USRPI capital gain if we held an interest in the underlying asset solely as a creditor. Capital gain dividends received by a non-U.S. holder that are attributable to dispositions of our assets other than USRPIs are not subject to U.S. federal income or withholding tax, unless (1) the gain is effectively connected with respect to such gain, or (2) the non-U.S. holder is a nonresident alien individual who was present in the United States for 183 days or more during the taxable year and has a tax home in the United States, in which case the non-U.S. holder will incur a 30% tax on his capital gains.

A capital gain dividend that would otherwise have been treated as a USRPI capital gain will not be so treated or be subject to FIRPTA, and generally will not be treated as income that is effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business, and instead will be treated in the same manner as an ordinary dividend (see Taxation of Foreign Stockholders Ordinary Dividends ), if (1) the capital gain dividend is received with respect to a class of stock that is regularly traded on an established securities market located in the United States, and (2) the recipient non-U.S. holder does not own more than 5% of that class of stock at any time during the year ending on the date on which the capital gain dividend is received. We anticipate that our common stock will be regularly traded on an established securities exchange following this offering.

*Dispositions of American Capital Agency Corp. Stock.* Unless our stock constitutes a USRPI, a sale of our stock by a non-U.S. holder generally will not be subject to U.S. taxation under FIRPTA. Our stock will not be treated as a USRPI if less than 50% of our assets throughout a prescribed testing period consist of interests in real property located within the United States, excluding, for this purpose, interests in real property solely in a

capacity as a creditor. It is not currently anticipated that our stock will constitute a USRPI. However, we cannot assure you that our stock will not become a USRPI.

Even if the foregoing 50% test is not met, our stock nonetheless will not constitute a USRPI if we are a domestically-controlled qualified investment entity. A domestically-controlled qualified investment entity includes a REIT, less than 50% of value of which is held directly or indirectly by non-U.S. holders at all times during a specified testing period. We believe that we are, and we will be, a domestically-controlled qualified investment entity, and that a sale of our stock should not be subject to taxation under FIRPTA. However, no assurance can be given that we are or will remain a domestically-controlled qualified investment entity.

In the event that we are not a domestically controlled qualified investment entity, but our stock is regularly traded, as defined by applicable Treasury regulations, on an established securities market, a non-U.S. holder s sale of our common stock nonetheless would not be subject to tax under FIRPTA as a sale of a USRPI, provided that the selling non-U.S. holder held 5% or less of our outstanding common stock any time during the one-year period ending on the date of the sale. We expect that our common stock will be regularly traded on an established securities market following this offering.

If gain on the sale of our stock were subject to taxation under FIRPTA, the non-U.S. holder would be required to file a U.S. federal income tax return and would be subject to the same treatment as a U.S. stockholder with respect to such gain, subject to applicable alternative minimum tax and a special alternative minimum tax in the case of non-resident alien individuals, and the purchaser of the stock could be required to withhold 10% of the purchase price and remit such amount to the IRS.

Gain from the sale of our stock that would not otherwise be subject to FIRPTA will nonetheless be taxable in the United States to a non-U.S. holder in two cases: (1) if the non-U.S. holder s investment in our stock is effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business conducted by such non-U.S. holder, the non-U.S. holder will be subject to the same treatment as a U.S. stockholder with respect to such gain, or (2) if the non-U.S. holder is a nonresident alien individual who was present in the United States for 183 days or more during the taxable year and has a tax home in the United States, the nonresident alien individual will be subject to a 30% tax on the individual s capital gain. In addition, even if we are a domestically controlled qualified investment entity, upon disposition of our stock (subject to the 5% exception applicable to regularly traded stock described above), a non-U.S. holder may be treated as having gain from the sale or exchange of a USRPI if the non-U.S. holder (1) disposes of our common stock within a 30-day period preceding the ex-dividend date of a distribution, any portion of which, but for the disposition, would have been treated as gain from the sale or exchange of a USRPI and (2) acquires, or enters into a contract or option to acquire, other shares of our common stock within 30 days after such ex-dividend date.

*Estate Tax.* If our stock is owned or treated as owned by an individual who is not a citizen or resident (as specially defined for U.S. federal estate tax purposes) of the United States at the time of such individual s death, the stock will be includable in the individual s gross estate for U.S. federal estate tax purposes, unless an applicable estate tax treaty provides otherwise, and may therefore be subject to U.S. federal estate tax.

#### Taxation of Tax-Exempt Stockholders

Tax-exempt entities, including qualified employee pension and profit sharing trusts and individual retirement accounts, generally are exempt from federal income taxation. However, they may be subject to taxation on their unrelated business taxable income (UBTI). While some investments in real estate may generate UBTI, the IRS has ruled that dividend distributions from a REIT to a tax-exempt entity do not constitute UBTI. Based on that ruling, and provided that (1) a tax-exempt stockholder has not held our stock as debt financed property within the meaning of the Internal Revenue Code (i.e., where the acquisition or holding of the property is financed through a borrowing by the tax-exempt stockholder), and (2) our stock is not otherwise used in an unrelated trade or business, distributions that we make and income from the sale of our stock generally should not give rise to UBTI to a tax-exempt stockholder.

Tax-exempt stockholders that are social clubs, voluntary employee benefit associations, supplemental unemployment benefit trusts, and qualified group legal services plans exempt from federal income taxation under

sections 501(c)(7), (c)(9), (c)(17) and (c)(20) of the Internal Revenue Code are subject to different UBTI rules, which generally require such stockholders to characterize distributions that we make as UBTI.

In certain circumstances, a pension trust that owns more than 10% of our stock could be required to treat a percentage of the dividends as UBTI if we are a pension-held REIT. We will not be a pension-held REIT unless (1) we are required to look through one or more of our pension trust stockholders in order to satisfy the REIT closely-held test, and (2) either (i) one pension trust owns more than 25% of the value of our stock, or (ii) one or more pension trusts, each individually holding more than 10% of the value of our stock, collectively owns more than 50% of the value of our stock. Certain restrictions on ownership and transfer of our stock generally should prevent a tax-exempt entity from owning more than 10% of the value of our stock and generally should prevent us from becoming a pension-held REIT.

# Tax-exempt stockholders are urged to consult their tax advisors regarding the federal, state, local and foreign income and other tax consequences of owning American Capital Agency Corp. stock.

#### **Other Tax Considerations**

#### Legislative or Other Actions Affecting REITs

The Housing and Economic Recovery Tax Act of 2008 (the 2008 Act ) contains a number of rules intended to permit REITs additional flexibility in conducting their operations. For example, the 2008 Act liberalizes the rules relating to foreign currency income associated with real estate activities and permits the value of taxable REIT subsidiaries to represent up to 25% of a REIT s assets (rather than the current 20% limit). The 2008 Act, among other things, shortens from four years to two years the minimum holding period under the safe harbor provisions of the Code that prevent the imposition of the 100% prohibited transactions tax. While the 2008 Act generally applies to taxable years beginning after the date of enactment, the rules relating to the prohibited transaction safe harbor apply to sales made after the date of enactment.

The present federal income tax treatment of REITs may be modified, possibly with retroactive effect, by legislative, judicial or administrative action at any time. The REIT rules are constantly under review by persons involved in the legislative process and by the IRS and the U.S. Treasury Department which may result in statutory changes as well as revisions to regulations and interpretations. Changes to the federal tax laws and interpretations thereof could adversely affect an investment in our stock.

#### State, Local and Foreign Taxes

We and our subsidiaries and stockholders may be subject to state, local or foreign taxation in various jurisdictions including those in which we or they transact business, own property or reside. We may own properties located in numerous jurisdictions, and may be required to file tax returns in some or all of those jurisdictions. Our state, local or foreign tax treatment and that of our stockholders may not conform to the federal income tax treatment discussed above. We may pay foreign property taxes, and dispositions of foreign property or operations involving, or investments in, foreign property may give rise to foreign income or other tax liability in amounts that could be substantial. Any foreign taxes that we incur do not pass through to stockholders as a credit against their U.S. federal income tax liability. Prospective investors should consult their tax advisors regarding the application and effect of state, local and foreign income and other tax laws on an investment in our stock.

#### LEGAL MATTERS

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP, New York, will provide opinions regarding the authorization and validity of the Securities. Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP, New York may also provide opinions regarding certain other

matters. Any underwriters will also be advised about legal matters by their own counsel, who will be identified in the prospectus supplement.

#### EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements of American Capital Agency Corp. appearing in American Capital Agency Corp. s Annual Report (Form 10-K) for the period from May 20, 2008 (commencement of operations) through December 31, 2008, have been audited by Ernst & Young LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, as set forth in their report thereon, included therein, and incorporated herein by reference. Such consolidated financial statements are incorporated herein by reference in reliance upon such report given on the authority of such firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

#### WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We file annual, quarterly, and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. You may read and copy any reports or other information that we file with the SEC at the SEC s Public Reference Room located at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington D.C. 20549. You may also receive copies of these documents upon payment of a duplicating fee, by writing to the SEC s Public Reference Room. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the Public Reference Room in Washington D.C. and other locations. Our Securities and Exchange Commission filings, including our registration statement, are also available to you, free of charge, on the Securities and Exchange Commission s website at *www.sec.gov*. You may also obtain additional information by visiting our website at *www.agnc.com*.

### INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN DOCUMENTS BY REFERENCE

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference information into this prospectus which has been previously filed, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to another document filed separately with the SEC. The information incorporated by reference is deemed to be part of this prospectus, except for any information superseded by information in this prospectus. We have filed the documents listed below with the SEC (File No. 001-34057) under the Exchange Act and these documents are incorporated herein by reference:

Our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the period from May 20, 2008 through December 31, 2008 filed on February 17, 2009, and Amendment No. 1 thereto on Form 10-K/A filed on June 26, 2009;

Our Definitive Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A filed on March 12, 2009;

Our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2009 filed on May 6, 2009;

Our Current Report on Form 8-K filed on January 15, 2009; and

The description of our common stock set forth in our registration statement on Form 8-A filed on May 9, 2008, and any amendment or report filed for the purpose of updating such description.

All documents that we file (but not those that we furnish) with the SEC pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act after the date of the initial registration statement of which this prospectus is a part and prior to effectiveness of the registration statement will be deemed to be incorporated by reference into this prospectus and will automatically update and supersede the information in this prospectus, and any previously filed document. In addition, all documents that we file (but not those that we furnish) with the SEC pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act after the date of this prospectus and prior to the termination of the offering of shares hereby will be deemed to be incorporated by reference into this prospectus

and will automatically update and supersede the information in this prospectus, any accompanying prospectus supplement and any previously filed document.

We will provide to each person, including any beneficial owner, to whom a copy of this prospectus is delivered, a copy of any or all of the information that has been incorporated by reference in this prospectus but not delivered with this prospectus (other than the exhibits to such documents which are not specifically incorporated by reference herein); we will provide this information at no cost to the requester upon written or oral request to American Capital Agency Corp., 2 Bethesda Metro Center, 14<sup>th</sup> Floor, Bethesda, MD 20814, telephone number (301) 968-9300.

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# 3,250,000 Shares

**Common Stock** 

PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

August , 2009

# Citi

**Deutsche Bank Securities** 

**Credit Suisse** 

**JMP Securities** 

**UBS Investment Bank**