

MID AMERICA APARTMENT COMMUNITIES INC

Form S-3/A

March 19, 2004

Table of Contents

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on March 19, 2004

Registration No. 333-112469

---

# SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

---

Amendment No. 1

to

**FORM S-3**

**REGISTRATION STATEMENT**

*UNDER*

*THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933*

---

**MID-AMERICA APARTMENT COMMUNITIES, INC.**

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

---

Tennessee  
(State or Other Jurisdiction of

62-1543819  
(I.R.S Employer

Incorporation or Organization)

6584 Poplar Avenue, Suite 340 Memphis, Tennessee 38138

Identification Number)

(901) 682-6600.

(Address, Including Zip Code, and Telephone Number, Including Area Code, of Registrant's Principal Executive Offices)

**H. Eric Bolton, Jr.**

**President and Chief Executive Officer**

**6584 Poplar Avenue, Suite 340 Memphis, Tennessee 38138 (901) 682-6600.**

(Name, Address, Including Zip Code, and Telephone Number Including Area Code, of Agent For Service)

---

*Copy to:*

**John A. Good, Esq.**

**Bass, Berry & Sims PLC**

**100 Peabody Place, Suite 900**

**Memphis, Tennessee 37103**

**(901) 543-5900**

---

**Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to the public:** From time to time after the effective date of this Registration Statement, as determined by the Registrant.

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

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

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

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

If delivery of the prospectus is expected to be made pursuant to Rule 434, please check the following box. "

---

**The registrant hereby amends this Registration Statement on such date or dates as may be necessary to delay its effective date until the registrant shall file a further amendment which specifically states that this Registration Statement shall thereafter become effective in accordance with Section 8(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 or until the Registration Statement shall become effective on such date as the Commission, acting pursuant to said Section 8(a), may determine.**

---

**Table of Contents**

**The information in this prospectus is not complete and may be changed. We may not sell these securities until the registration statement filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission is effective. This prospectus is not an offer to sell these securities, and it is not soliciting an offer to buy these securities, in any state where the offer or sale is not permitted.**

**Subject to completion, dated March 19, 2004**

**PROSPECTUS**

**MID-AMERICA APARTMENT COMMUNITIES, INC.**

**BY THIS PROSPECTUS, WE MAY OFFER UP TO \$200,000,000 OF**

**Debt Securities**

**Preferred Stock**

**Common Stock**

**Depository Shares**

---

We will provide specific terms of these securities in supplements to this prospectus. You should read this prospectus and any supplement carefully before you invest. This prospectus may not be used to consummate sales of these securities unless accompanied by a prospectus supplement.

THE NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE LISTS OUR

Common Stock (symbol: MAA);

9<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>% Series F Cumulative Preferred Stock (symbol: MAA PrF); and

8.30% Series H Cumulative Preferred Stock (symbol: MAA PrH).

To ensure that we qualify as a REIT, no person may own more than 9.9% of the total value of our outstanding capital stock, unless our Board of Directors waives this limitation.

---

**Investing in our securities involves risks. Before buying our securities, you should refer to the risk factors included in our periodic reports, in prospectus supplements relating to specific offerings and in other information filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. You should also refer to Risk Factors beginning on page 3 of this prospectus.**

---

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

---

**This Prospectus is dated \_\_\_\_\_, 2004**

**Table of Contents****Table of Contents**

	<b>Page</b>
<u>Where You Can Find More Information</u>	1
<u>About This Prospectus</u>	1
<u>Cautionary Statement Regarding Forward-Looking Statements</u>	2
<u>Risk Factors</u>	3
<u>Mid-America Apartment Communities, Inc.</u>	7
<u>Use of Proceeds</u>	7
<u>Consolidated Ratio of Earnings to Combined Fixed Charges and Preferred Stock Distributions and Consolidated Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges</u>	8
<u>Description of Capital Stock</u>	8
<u>Description of Debt Securities</u>	15
<u>Description of Depositary Shares</u>	20
<u>Legal Ownership of Securities</u>	22
<u>Federal Income Tax Considerations</u>	25
<u>Plan of Distribution</u>	43
<u>Experts</u>	44
<u>Legal Matters</u>	44

*In this prospectus, the terms we, us or our include Mid-America Apartment Communities, Inc., Mid-America Apartments, L.P. and their subsidiaries. Substantially all of our assets are held by, and all of our operations are conducted through, Mid-America Apartments, L.P., of which Mid-America Apartment Communities, Inc. is the sole general partner and owns an approximate 85.4% ownership interest as of December 31, 2003.*

---

You should only rely on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus and in the prospectus supplement. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with different information. If anyone provides you with different or inconsistent information, you should not rely on it. We will not make an offer to sell these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer and sale is not permitted. You should assume that the information appearing in this prospectus, as well as information we previously filed with the SEC and incorporated by reference, is accurate as of the date on the front cover of this prospectus only. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since that date.

**Table of Contents**

**WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION**

We file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. In addition, the registration statement that contains this prospectus (including the exhibits to the registration statement) has been filed with the SEC. All of these filings are available to the public over the Internet at the SEC's web site at <http://www.sec.gov>. You may also read and copy documents at the SEC's public reference rooms in Washington, D.C., New York, New York and Chicago, Illinois. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the public reference rooms. Our reports, proxy statements and other information about us may also be inspected at The New York Stock Exchange, 20 Broad Street, New York, New York 10005.

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference the information we file with them, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those documents. The information incorporated by reference is an important part of this prospectus, and information that we file later with the SEC will automatically update and supersede this information. We incorporate by reference the documents listed below. We also incorporate all future filings made with the SEC under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14, or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 until we have sold all of the securities.

Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2003;

Current Reports on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on January 23, 2004, January 26, 2004, January 28, 2004, February 3, 2004, February 3, 2004 and February 13, 2004;

the description of our common stock contained in Form 8-A filed with the SEC on December 14, 1993;

the description of our 9 1/4% Series F Cumulative Redeemable Preferred Stock contained in Form 8-A/A filed with the SEC on October 11, 2002; and

the description of our 8.30% Series H Cumulative Redeemable Preferred Stock contained in Form 8-A filed with the SEC on July 10, 2003.

You may request a copy of these filings at no cost, by writing or telephoning us at the following address: Corporate Secretary, Mid-America Apartment Communities, Inc., 6584 Poplar Avenue, Suite 340, Memphis, Tennessee 38138, (901) 682-6600.

**ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS**

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we filed with the SEC. By using a shelf registration statement, we may sell from time to time in one or more offerings up to an aggregate amount of \$213,251,881 of any combination of the securities described in this prospectus. This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities we may offer. Each time we sell securities, we will provide a prospectus supplement that will describe the securities being offered and the terms of that offering. The prospectus supplement may also add to, update or change information contained in this prospectus. Before purchasing any securities, you should carefully read both this prospectus and any prospectus supplement, together with all information, including that described in "Where You Can Find More Information" above, incorporated by reference either in this prospectus or any prospectus supplement.





**Table of Contents**

**CAUTIONARY STATEMENT REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS**

This document, including the documents incorporated by reference in this document, contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, and the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Forward-looking statements, by their nature, involve estimates, projections, goals, forecasts, assumptions, risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results or outcomes to differ materially from those expressed in a forward-looking statement. Such forward-looking statements include, without limitation, statements concerning property acquisitions and dispositions, capital expenditures, capital raising activities, rent growth, occupancy and expense growth or control. Examples of forward-looking statements also include statements regarding our expectations, beliefs, plans, goals, objectives and future financial or other performance. Words such as expects, anticipates, intends, plans, believes, seeks, estimates and variations of such words and similar expressions are intended to identify such forward-looking statements. Any forward-looking statement speaks only as of the date on which it is made; and, except to fulfill our obligations under the United States securities laws, we undertake no obligation to update any such statement to reflect events or circumstances after the date on which it is made.

Examples of factors that can affect our expectations, beliefs, plans, goals, objectives and future financial or other performance include, but are not limited to, the following:

- competition from other apartment communities,
- overbuilding of new apartment units in our markets,
- increased operating costs,
- inability to rent apartment units on favorable economic terms,
- changes in interest rate levels, generally,
- the level of indebtedness on our properties,
- the fact that a substantial amount of our debt is variable rate debt,
- inability to acquire additional apartment units on favorable economic terms,
- increasing insurance costs and property taxes, and
- adverse legislative or regulatory tax changes.

All of the foregoing factors are difficult to predict, contain uncertainties that may materially affect actual results, and may be beyond our control. New factors emerge from time to time that could adversely affect our business. It is not possible for us to predict all of the factors that may from time to time affect our business or to assess the potential impact of each such factor. You are advised to read carefully the section of this prospectus entitled Risk Factors beginning on page 5 for a more in depth discussion of the material risks to our business.



**Table of Contents**

**RISK FACTORS**

Before you invest in our securities, you should be aware that your investment is subject to various risks, including those described below. You should consider carefully these risks together with all of the other information included in this Prospectus before you decide to purchase any of our securities.

**Our Ability To Make Distributions May Be Adversely Affected By Factors Beyond Our Control.**

Our ability to make distributions to you depends on our ability to generate funds from operations in excess of scheduled principal payments on debt and capital expenditure requirements. Funds from operations and the value of our properties may be less than expected because of factors that are beyond our control. Such events or conditions could include:

competition from other apartment communities;

overbuilding of new apartment units in our markets, which might adversely affect apartment occupancy or rental rates;

increases in operating costs (including real estate taxes and insurance) due to inflation and other factors, which may not be offset by increased rents;

our inability to rent properties on favorable economic terms;

changes in governmental regulations and the related costs of compliance;

changes in tax laws and housing laws including the enactment of rent control laws or other laws regulating multifamily housing;

changes in interest rate levels and the availability of financing, which could lead renters to purchase homes (if interest rates drop and home loans are available more readily) or increase our acquisition and operating costs (if interest rates increase and financing is less readily available); and

the relative illiquidity of real estate investments.

Any decline in our funds from operations or property values because of these factors that are beyond our control could adversely affect our ability to make distributions to you.

**Our Current Debt Service And Distribution Rate Exceed Our Cash Available For Distribution.**

## Edgar Filing: MID AMERICA APARTMENT COMMUNITIES INC - Form S-3/A

We currently have a substantial amount of debt. Payments of principal and interest on borrowings and the payment of distributions at our current rate presently exceed our cash available for distribution. Accordingly, we are borrowing on existing credit lines to pay our distributions at current rates. Any significant decline in our operating results could leave us with insufficient cash resources to service our debt, operate the apartment communities or pay distributions that we must pay in order for us to maintain our qualification as a REIT. We intend to keep our total debt below 60% of the undepreciated book value of our assets, although our charter and bylaws do not limit our debt levels. Circumstances may cause us to exceed that target from time to time. As of December 31, 2003, our ratio of debt to undepreciated book value was approximately 54%. Our Board of Directors can modify this policy at any time that could allow us to become more highly leveraged and decrease our ability to make distributions to our shareholders.

### **Variable Interest Rates May Prevent Us From Making Distributions.**

At December 31, 2003, approximately \$223 million of our debt bore interest at a variable rate. We may incur additional debt in the future that also bears interest at variable rates. Variable-rate debt creates higher debt service requirements if market interest rates increase, which would adversely affect our funds from operations and the amounts available to pay distributions to shareholders. Our \$804 million credit facility with Fannie Mae

## **Table of Contents**

is predominately a floating rate facility, the interest rates on which have been hedged by means of a number of interest rate swaps and caps. Upon the termination of these swaps and caps, we will be exposed to the risks of varying interest rates.

### **Inability To Access Debt Or Equity Capital Markets Or Loss of Existing Credit Facilities May Adversely Affect Our Financial Condition And Ability To Pay Distributions.**

As a REIT, we are required to pay out as distributions to shareholders substantially all our earnings. Moreover, our business of owning and operating real estate assets is a capital-intensive business. Accordingly, we are heavily dependent upon availability of debt and equity capital to finance acquisitions and growth in our business. In addition, our existing credit facilities must be renewed from time to time, and our lenders have the option to refuse to renew our credit facilities. From time to time in the recent past, REITs have had difficulty accessing capital in the equity markets. Also, availability of debt financing at an acceptable cost may vary from time to time. Our inability to renew our existing credit facilities, access equity capital or obtain debt financing at an acceptable cost could have a material adverse effect on our growth, financial condition and operating results.

Each of our credit facilities is subject to various covenants and conditions on usage. If we were to fail to satisfy a condition to borrowing, the available credit under one or more of our credit facilities could not be drawn, which could adversely affect our liquidity. Moreover, if we were to fail to make a payment or violate a covenant under a credit facility, after applicable cure periods one or more of our lenders could declare a default, accelerate the due date for repayment of all amounts outstanding and/or foreclose on properties securing such facilities. In order to repay such debt, we could be required to, among other things, sell properties, possibly at losses or at non-optimal prices, suspend or reduce the rate of our dividend or file a petition in bankruptcy to reorganize or liquidate the company.

### **Increasing Insurance Costs May Negatively Impact Our Financial Condition.**

Because we have substantial real estate holdings, the cost of insuring our properties is a significant item of expense. Due to the events of September 11, 2001 and other recent disasters, premiums for property and casualty insurance have risen significantly in recent years. In addition, the effects of September 11, 2001 made it more likely that lenders will begin to require us to carry insurance against acts of terrorism on our properties. The cost of such insurance is likely to be high. If the cost of property and casualty insurance continues to rise, and if our lenders require us to begin insuring our properties against terrorism, our cost of doing business would likely rise, which may in turn negatively impact our financial condition and results of operations.

### **Noncompliance With Government Regulations May Affect Operating Results.**

#### *Environmental Matters*

Phase I environmental site assessments have been obtained on all of our apartment communities. The purpose of Phase I environmental site assessments is to identify potential sources of contamination for which we may be responsible and to assess the status of environmental regulatory compliance. The Phase I environmental site assessments did not reveal any environmental condition, liability or compliance concern that we believe would have a material adverse effect on our business, assets or results of operations, nor are we aware of any such condition, liability or concern by any other means. However, it is possible that the environmental site assessments relating to any one of the properties did not reveal all environmental conditions, liabilities or compliance concerns. It is also possible that there are material environmental conditions,

## Edgar Filing: MID AMERICA APARTMENT COMMUNITIES INC - Form S-3/A

liabilities or compliance concerns that arose at a property after the related review was completed. If environmental contamination exists or existed at an apartment community, we may be liable for the costs of removal or remediation of the contamination and may be liable for personal injury or similar claims by private plaintiffs. Moreover, the existence of an environmental contamination at an apartment community could adversely affect the occupancy of the apartment community and our ability to sell or borrow against that apartment community.

## **Table of Contents**

### *Americans With Disabilities Act Compliance*

Under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (the ADA), all public accommodations and commercial facilities must meet certain Federal requirements related to access and use by disabled persons. Compliance with the ADA requirements could require removal of access barriers, and non-compliance could result in the U.S. government imposing fines or private litigants winning damages. The ADA does not consider apartment communities to be public accommodations or commercial facilities, except to the extent portions of such facilities, such as a leasing office, are open to the public. We believe that our properties are substantially in compliance with these requirements.

### *Fair Housing Amendments Act Compliance*

The Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988 (the FHA) requires apartment communities first occupied after March 13, 1990 to be accessible to the handicapped. Non-compliance with the FHA could result in the U.S. government imposing fines or private litigants winning damages. We believe that our properties are substantially in compliance with these requirements.

### **Our Failure To Qualify As A REIT Would Have A Substantial Negative Effect On Our Ability To Pay Distributions**

We believe that we operate in a manner that enables us to meet the requirements for qualification as a REIT for federal income tax purposes. We have not requested, and do not plan to request, a ruling from the Internal Revenue Service that we qualify as a REIT. We have, however, received an opinion from the law firm of Bass, Berry & Sims PLC that we met the requirements for qualification as a REIT for the taxable years ended December 31, 1999 through 2002, and that we are in a position to continue such qualification. You should be aware that opinions of counsel are not binding on the IRS or any court. Furthermore, the conclusions stated in the opinion are conditioned on, and our continued qualification as a REIT will depend on, our meeting various requirements.

If we fail to qualify as a REIT, we would not be allowed a deduction for distributions to shareholders in computing our taxable income and would be required to pay substantial federal and state income taxes. We also could be subject to the federal alternative minimum tax. Therefore, if we lose our REIT status, the funds available for distribution to you would be reduced substantially for each of the years involved. Unless we were entitled to relief under specific statutory provisions, we could not elect to be taxed as a REIT for four taxable years following the year during which we were disqualified.

### **Limits On Ownership Of Shares May Result in Adverse Consequences**

Our charter limits ownership of our capital stock by any single shareholder to 9.9% of the value of all outstanding shares of our capital stock, both common and preferred. The charter also prohibits anyone from buying shares if the purchase would result in our losing REIT status. This could happen if a share transaction results in fewer than 100 persons owning all of our shares or in five or fewer persons, applying certain broad attribution rules of the Internal Revenue Code, owning 50% or more of our shares. If you acquire shares in excess of the ownership limit or in violation of the ownership requirements of the Internal Revenue Code for REITs, we:

will consider the transfer to be null and void;

will not reflect the transaction on our books;

may institute legal action to enjoin the transaction;

will not pay dividends or other distributions with respect to those shares;

will not recognize any voting rights for those shares;



**Table of Contents**

will consider the shares held in trust for our benefit; and

will either direct you to sell the shares and turn over any profit to us, or we will redeem the shares. If we redeem the shares, you will be paid a price equal to the lesser of:

(a) the price you paid for the shares; or

(b) the average of the last reported sales prices on the New York Stock Exchange on the ten trading days immediately preceding the date fixed for redemption by our Board of Directors.

If you acquire shares in violation of the limits on ownership described above:

you may lose your power to dispose of the shares;

you may not recognize profit from the sale of such shares if the market price of the shares increases; and

you may be required to recognize a loss from the sale of such shares if the market price decreases.

**Ability Of Board Of Directors To Change Certain Policies**

Our major policies, including our policies with respect to acquisitions, financing, growth, operations, debt capitalization and distributions, will be determined by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors may amend or revise these policies from time to time without your consent, which could affect our ability to make distributions.

**Provisions Of Our Charter And Tennessee Law May Limit The Ability Of A Third Party To Acquire Control Of Us.**

*Ownership Limit*

The 9.9% ownership limit discussed above may have the effect of precluding acquisition of control of us by a third party without the consent of our Board of Directors.

*Preferred Stock*

## Edgar Filing: MID AMERICA APARTMENT COMMUNITIES INC - Form S-3/A

Our charter authorizes our Board of Directors to issue up to 20 million shares of preferred stock. The Board of Directors may establish the preferences and rights of any preferred shares issued. The issuance of preferred stock could have the effect of delaying or preventing someone from taking control of us, even if a change in control were in our shareholders' best interests. Currently, we have the following amounts of preferred stock issued and outstanding:

474,500 shares of 9<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>% Series F Cumulative Redeemable Preferred Stock;

400,000 shares of 8<sup>5</sup>/<sub>8</sub>% Series G Cumulative Redeemable Preferred Stock; and

6,200,000 shares of 8.30% Series H Cumulative Redeemable Preferred Stock

### *Tennessee Anti-Takeover Statutes*

As a Tennessee corporation, we are subject to various legislative acts which impose restrictions on and require compliance with procedures designed to protect shareholders against unfair or coercive mergers and acquisitions. These statutes may delay or prevent offers to acquire us and increase the difficulty of consummating any such offers, even if our acquisition would be in our shareholders' best interests.

**Table of Contents**

**MID-AMERICA APARTMENT COMMUNITIES, INC.**

We are a Memphis, Tennessee-based real estate investment trust, or REIT. As of December 31, 2003, we owned, or had an ownership interest in, and operated 127 apartment communities containing 35,734 apartment units in 12 states. Our apartment communities appeal to middle and upper income residents primarily in large to mid-size cities in the southeastern United States and Texas. Approximately 75% of our apartment units are located in Tennessee, Georgia, Florida and Texas markets. As of December 31, 2003, our apartment communities had an average occupancy rate of 92.7%. We presently employ approximately 1,100 people. Currently our executive officers and directors beneficially own approximately 10.3% of our common stock.

Our strategic focus is to provide our residents high quality apartment units in attractive community settings, characterized by extensive landscaping and attention to aesthetic detail. We utilize our experience and expertise in maintenance, landscaping and management to provide highly competitive apartment communities, with a goal of maintaining high occupancy levels and increasing per unit average rentals. We manage expenses through our system of detailed management reporting and accountability in order to achieve increases in cash flow from operations. We seek to increase cash flow from operations and earnings per share to maximize shareholder value through a balanced strategy of internal and external growth.

In order to meet our strategic and financial objectives, we strive to:

empower our property managers to adjust rents in response to local market conditions and to concentrate resident turnover in peak rental demand months;

offer new services, including telephone and cable access, to residents to increase our revenue, and reduce our operating costs through initiatives such as the installation of individual apartment unit water and utility meters and billing for trash collection in certain apartment communities;

maintain a highly competitive portfolio with attractive curb appeal through extensive landscaping and exterior improvements and a research-based program of selective property additions and dispositions;

pursue joint venture relationships to generate additional fee income;

compensate employees through performance-based compensation and stock ownership programs;

maintain a hands-on management style and flat organizational structure that emphasizes senior management's continued close contact with the market and employees; and

improve our cost of capital through refinancing, repurchasing and issuing debt, shares of common stock and preferred stock and by managing our interest rate risk.

Our principal executive offices are located at 6584 Poplar Avenue, Suite 340, Memphis, Tennessee 38138 and our telephone number is (901) 682-6600.

**USE OF PROCEEDS**

Unless otherwise described in a prospectus supplement, we will contribute the net proceeds of any sale of the offered securities to Mid-America Apartments, L.P. in exchange for units of limited partnership interests having characteristics similar to those of the offered securities. Mid-America Apartments, L.P. will use the net proceeds for general purposes, which may include the acquisition or development of apartment communities, the improvement of apartment communities and the repayment of debt.

**Table of Contents**

**CONSOLIDATED RATIO OF EARNINGS TO COMBINED  
FIXED CHARGES AND PREFERRED STOCK DISTRIBUTIONS AND  
CONSOLIDATED RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES**

The consolidated ratio of earnings to combined fixed charges and preferred stock distributions and the consolidated ratio of earnings to fixed charges for each of the periods indicated is as follows:

	YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31,					
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Ratio of Earnings to Combined Fixed Charges and Preferred Stock Distributions	1.2x	1.2x	1.2x	1.2x	1.0x	1.1x
Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges	1.5x	1.6x	1.5x	1.5x	1.3x	1.4x

For the purpose of calculating the consolidated ratio of earnings to combined fixed charges and preferred stock dividends, earnings consist of income from continuing operations before loss from investments in unconsolidated entities, plus fixed charges less capitalized interest. Fixed charges consist of interest expense, capitalized interest, amortized premiums, discounts and capitalized expenses relating to debt and an estimate of the interest component of rent expense.

**DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK**

The summary of the terms of the shares of our capital stock set forth below does not purport to be complete and is subject to and qualified in its entirety by reference to our Amended and Restated Charter as further amended, and our Amended and Restated bylaws, both of which we may amend at a later time and both of which are incorporated in this prospectus by reference. References to the TBCA are to the Tennessee Business Corporation Act, as amended.

**General**

Our authorized capital stock consists of 50,000,000 shares of common stock and 20,000,000 shares of preferred stock. Each outstanding share of common stock entitles the holder to one vote on all matters presented to shareholders for a vote.

**Common Stock**

Subject to such preferential rights granted by the Board of Directors in connection with the issuance of shares of our preferred stock, holders of shares of common stock are entitled to one vote per share on all matters to be voted on by shareholders and are entitled to receive ratably such

## Edgar Filing: MID AMERICA APARTMENT COMMUNITIES INC - Form S-3/A

dividends as may be declared in respect of the common stock by the Board of Directors in its discretion from funds legally available therefor. In the event of our liquidation, dissolution or winding up, holders of common stock are entitled to share ratably in all assets remaining after payment of all debts and other liabilities and any liquidation preference of the holders of our then-outstanding preferred stock. Holders of common stock have no subscription, redemption, conversion or preemptive rights. Matters submitted for shareholder approval generally require a majority vote of the shares present and voting thereon. The outstanding shares of common stock are fully paid and nonassessable.

### **Preferred Stock**

The following description of the terms of our preferred stock sets forth general terms and provisions of our preferred stock to which a prospectus supplement may relate. Specific terms of any series of preferred stock offered by a prospectus supplement will be described in that prospectus supplement. The description set forth below is subject to and qualified in its entirety by reference to the articles of amendment to our charter fixing the preferences, limitations and relative rights of a particular series of preferred stock.

## **Table of Contents**

### **General**

Under our charter, our Board of Directors is authorized, without further shareholder action, to provide for the issuance of up to 20,000,000 shares of preferred stock, in such series, with such preferences, conversion or other rights, voting powers, restrictions, limitations as to dividends, qualifications or other provisions, as may be fixed by the Board of Directors. As a result, the Board of Directors may afford the holders of any series or class of preferred stock preferences, powers, and rights, voting or otherwise, senior to the rights of holders of common stock. As of the date of this prospectus, our Board of Directors has designated 2,000,000 shares of 9.5% Series A Cumulative Preferred Stock, of which no shares are outstanding, 1,938,830 shares of 8 <sup>7</sup>/<sub>8</sub>% Series B Cumulative Preferred Stock, of which no shares are outstanding, 2,000,000 shares of 9 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>8</sub>% Series C Cumulative Preferred Stock, of which no shares are outstanding, 1,000,000 shares of 9.5% Series E Cumulative Preferred Stock, of which no shares are outstanding, 3,000,000 shares of 9 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>% Series F Cumulative Redeemable Preferred Stock, of which 474,500 shares are outstanding, 400,000 shares of 8 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>8</sub>% Series G Cumulative Redeemable Preferred Stock, of which 400,000 shares are outstanding and 6,200,000 shares of 8.30% Series H Cumulative Redeemable Preferred Stock, of which 6,200,000 shares are outstanding. The descriptions of our Series F preferred stock, our Series G preferred stock, and our Series H preferred stock are contained in documents filed with the SEC.

Our preferred stock will have the dividend, liquidation, redemption, conversion and voting rights set forth below unless otherwise provided in the prospectus supplement relating to a particular series of preferred stock. Reference is made to the prospectus supplement relating to the particular series of preferred stock offered thereby for specific terms, including: (i) the title and liquidation preference per share of such preferred stock and the number of shares offered; (ii) the price at which such series will be issued; (iii) the dividend rate (or method of calculation), the dates on which dividends shall be payable and the dates from which dividends shall commence to accumulate; (iv) any redemption or sinking fund provisions of such series; (v) any conversion provisions of such series; and (vi) any additional dividend, liquidation, redemption, sinking fund and other rights, preferences, privileges, limitations and restrictions of such series.

Our preferred stock will, when issued, be fully paid and nonassessable. Unless otherwise specified in the prospectus supplement relating to a particular series of preferred stock, each series will rank on a parity as to dividends and distributions in the event of a liquidation with each other series of preferred stock and, in all cases, will be senior to our common stock.

### **Dividend Rights**

Holders of preferred stock of each series will be entitled to receive, when, as and if declared by the Board of Directors, out of our assets legally available for distribution, cash dividends at such rates and on such dates as are set forth in the prospectus supplement relating to such series of preferred stock. Such rate may be fixed or variable or both and may be cumulative, noncumulative or partially cumulative.

If the applicable prospectus supplement so provides, as long as any shares of preferred stock are outstanding, no dividends will be declared or paid or any distributions be made on our common stock, other than a dividend payable in common stock, unless the accrued dividends on each series of preferred stock have been fully paid or declared and set apart for payment and we will have set apart all amounts, if any, required to be set apart for all sinking funds, if any, for each series of preferred stock.

If the applicable prospectus supplement so provides, when dividends are not paid in full upon any series of preferred stock and any other series of preferred stock ranking on a parity as to dividends with such series of preferred stock, all dividends declared upon such series of preferred stock and any other series of preferred stock ranking on a parity as to dividends will be declared pro rata so that the amount of dividends declared per share on such series of preferred stock and such other series will in all cases bear to each other the same ratio that accrued dividends

per share on such series of preferred stock and such other series bear to each other.



## **Table of Contents**

Each series of preferred stock will be entitled to dividends as described in the prospectus supplement relating to such series, which may be based upon one or more methods of determination. Different series of preferred stock may be entitled to dividends at different dividend rates or based upon different methods of determination. Except as provided in the applicable prospectus supplement, no series of preferred stock will be entitled to participate in our earnings or assets.

## **Rights Upon Liquidation**

In the event of our voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution or winding up, the holders of each series of our preferred stock will be entitled to receive out of our assets available for distribution to shareholders the amount stated or determined on the basis set forth in the prospectus supplement relating to such series, which may include accrued dividends, if such liquidation, dissolution or winding up is involuntary or may equal the current redemption price per share (otherwise than for the sinking fund, if any provided for such series) provided for such series set forth in such prospectus supplement, if such liquidation, dissolution or winding up is voluntary, and on such preferential basis as is set forth in such prospectus supplement. If, upon our voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution or winding up the amounts payable with respect to preferred stock of any series and any other of our shares of stock ranking as to any such distribution on a parity with such series of preferred stock are not paid in full, the holders of preferred stock of such series and of such other shares will share ratably in any such distribution of our assets in proportion to the full respective preferential amounts to which they are entitled or on such other basis as is set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. The rights, if any, of the holders of any series of preferred stock to participate in our assets remaining after the holders of other series of preferred stock have been paid their respective specified liquidation preferences upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up will be described in the prospectus supplement relating to such series.

## **Redemption**

A series of preferred stock may be redeemable, in whole or in part, at our option, and may be subject to mandatory redemption pursuant to a sinking fund, in each case upon terms, at the times, the redemption prices and for the types of consideration set forth in the prospectus supplement relating to such series. The prospectus supplement relating to a series of preferred stock which is subject to mandatory redemption shall specify the number of shares of such series that shall be redeemed by us in each year commencing after a date to be specified, at a redemption price per share to be specified, together with an amount equal to any accrued and unpaid dividends thereon to the date of redemption.

If, after giving notice of redemption to the holders of a series of preferred stock, we deposit with a designated bank funds sufficient to redeem such preferred stock, then from and after such deposit, all shares called for redemption will no longer be outstanding for any purpose, other than the right to receive the redemption price and the right to convert such shares into other classes of our stock. The redemption price will be stated in the prospectus supplement relating to a particular series of preferred stock.

Except as indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, our preferred stock is not subject to any mandatory redemption at the option of the holder.

## **Sinking Fund**

The prospectus supplement for any series of preferred stock will state the terms, if any, of a sinking fund for the purchase or redemption of that series.

**Conversion And Preemptive Rights**

The prospectus supplement for any series of preferred stock will state the terms, if any, on which shares of that series are convertible into or redeemable for shares of common stock or another series of preferred stock. Our preferred stock will have no preemptive rights.

## **Table of Contents**

### **Voting Rights**

Except as indicated in the prospectus supplement relating to a particular series of preferred stock, or except as expressly required by Tennessee law, a holder of preferred stock will not be entitled to vote. Except as indicated in the prospectus supplement relating to a particular series of preferred stock, in the event we issue full shares of any series of preferred stock, each such share will be entitled to one vote on matters on which holders of such series of preferred stock are entitled to vote.

Under Tennessee law, the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of all series of preferred stock entitled to vote, voting as a separate voting group, or of all outstanding votes of all series of preferred stock equally affected, as a voting group, will be required for (i) the authorization of any class of stock ranking senior to or on a parity with Preferred Stock or the increase in the number of authorized shares of any such stock, (ii) any increase in the number of authorized shares of preferred stock and (iii) certain amendments to the Charter that may be adverse to the rights of preferred stock outstanding.

### **Charter And Bylaw Provisions**

The Tennessee Business Corporation Act, our charter and our bylaws govern shareholders' rights and related matters. Certain provisions of our charter and bylaws, which are summarized below, may make it more difficult to change the composition of the Board of Directors and may discourage or make more difficult any attempt by a person or group to obtain control of us.

### **Voting Requirement**

Our charter may not be amended without the affirmative vote of at least a majority of the shares entitled to vote generally in the election of directors, voting as a single voting group. Our bylaws may be amended by either the affirmative vote of a majority of all shares outstanding and entitled to vote generally in the election of directors, voting as a single group, or by an affirmative vote of a majority of the Board of Directors then holding office, unless the shareholders prescribe that any such bylaw may not be amended or repealed by the Board of Directors. Notwithstanding the foregoing, we cannot take any action intended to terminate our qualification as a REIT without the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the outstanding shares of common stock.

### **Special Meetings**

Under our bylaws, shareholders may call special meetings of the shareholders only if such shareholders hold outstanding shares representing more than 50% of all votes entitled to be cast on any issue proposed to be considered at any such special meeting.

### **Staggered Board Of Directors**

## Edgar Filing: MID AMERICA APARTMENT COMMUNITIES INC - Form S-3/A

Our Board of Directors is divided into three classes of directors serving staggered three year terms. Under the listing standards of the New York Stock Exchange, a majority of our directors must be persons who are independent within the meaning of the listing standards, meaning generally that they have no material financial relationship with us other than arising out of their directorships. In addition, our charter provides that a majority of the members of our Board of Directors may not be our officers or employees. This requirement and the provisions for staggered terms of directors may not be changed without approval of a majority of the shareholders or by 80% of the members of the Board of Directors. Certain provisions of our charter, including the use of a staggered board, may render more difficult a change in control of us or removal of incumbent management.

### **Advance Notice Of Director Nominations And New Business**

Our bylaws provide that with respect to an annual meeting of shareholders, the proposal of business to be considered by shareholders may be made only (i) by or at the direction of the Board of Directors, or (ii) by a

## **Table of Contents**

shareholder who has complied with the advance notice procedures set forth in the bylaws. In addition, with respect to any meeting of shareholders, nominations of persons for election to the Board of Directors may be made only (x) by or at the direction of the Board of Directors or (y) by any shareholder who is entitled to vote at the meeting and has complied with the advance notice provisions set forth in the bylaws.

The advance notice provisions of the bylaws could have the effect of discouraging a takeover or other transaction in which holders of some, or a majority, of the shares of common stock might receive a premium for their shares over the then prevailing market price or which such holders might believe to be otherwise in their best interests.

## **Limitation Of Directors Liability**

Our charter eliminates, subject to certain exceptions, the personal liability of a director to us or our shareholders for monetary damages for breaches of such director's duty of care or other duties as a director. The charter does not provide for the elimination of or any limitation on the personal liability of a director for (i) any breach of a director's duty of loyalty to us, (ii) acts or omissions which involve intentional misconduct or knowing violations of law, (iii) unlawful corporate distributions, or (iv) acts or omissions which involve transactions from which the director derived an improper personal benefit. The charter further provides that if the TBCA is amended to authorize corporate action further eliminating or limiting the personal liability of a director, such personal liability shall be eliminated or limited to the fullest extent permitted by the TBCA, as amended. These provisions of the charter will limit the remedies available to a shareholder in the event of breaches of any director's duties to such shareholder.

## **Tennessee Anti-Takeover Statutes**

In addition to certain of our charter provisions discussed above, Tennessee has adopted a series of statutes which can have an anti-takeover effect and may delay or prevent a tender offer or takeover attempt that a shareholder might consider in its best interest, including those attempts that might result in a premium over the market price for our common stock.

Under the Tennessee Investor Protection Act, unless a company's board of directors has recommended a takeover offer to shareholders, no offeror beneficially owning 5% or more of any class of equity securities of the offeree company, any of which was purchased within one year prior to the proposed takeover offer (unless the offeror, before making such purchase, has made a public announcement of his intention with respect to changing or influencing the management or control of the offeree company, has made a full, fair and effective disclosure of such intention to the person from whom he intends to acquire such securities and has filed with the Tennessee Commissioner of Commerce and Insurance (the Commissioner) and the offeree company a statement signifying such intentions and containing such additional information as the Commissioner by rule prescribes), may offer to acquire any class of equity security of an offeree company pursuant to a tender offer if after the acquisition thereof the offeror would be directly or indirectly a beneficial owner of more than 10% of any class of outstanding equity securities of the company (a Takeover Offer). Such an offeror must provide that any equity securities of an offeree company deposited or tendered pursuant to a Takeover Offer may be withdrawn by an offeree at any time within seven days from the date the offer has become effective following filing with the Commissioner and the offeree company and public announcement of the terms or after 60 days from the date the offer has become effective. If an offeror makes a Takeover Offer for less than all the outstanding equity securities of any class, and if the number of securities tendered is greater than the number the offeror has offered to accept and make for, the securities shall be accepted pro rata. If an offeror varies the terms of a Takeover Offer before its expiration date by increasing the consideration offered to offeree, the offeror shall make the increased consideration for all equity securities accepted, whether accepted before or after the variation in the terms of the offer.

Edgar Filing: MID AMERICA APARTMENT COMMUNITIES INC - Form S-3/A

Under the Tennessee Business Combination Act, subject to certain exceptions, no Tennessee corporation may engage in any business combination with an interested shareholder for a period of five years following

## **Table of Contents**

the date that such shareholder became an interested shareholder unless prior to such date the Board of Directors of the corporation approved either the business combination or the transaction which resulted in the shareholder becoming an interested shareholder.

A **business combination** is defined by the Tennessee Business Combination Act as any (i) merger or consolidation; (ii) share exchange; (iii) sale, lease, exchange, mortgage, pledge or other transfer of assets representing 10% of more of (A) the aggregate market value of the corporation's consolidated assets, (B) the aggregate market value of the corporation's shares, or (C) the corporation's consolidated net income; (iv) issuance or transfer of shares from the corporation to the interested shareholder; (v) plan of liquidation or dissolution proposed by the interested shareholder; (vi) transaction or recapitalization which increases the proportionate share of any outstanding voting securities owned or controlled by the interested shareholder; or (vii) financing arrangement whereby any interested shareholder receives, directly or indirectly, a benefit except proportionately as a shareholder.

An **interested shareholder** is defined as (i) any person that is the beneficial owner of 10% or more of the voting power of any class or series of outstanding voting stock of the corporation or (ii) an affiliate or associate of the corporation who at any time within the five-year period immediately prior to the date in question was the beneficial owner, directly or indirectly, of 10% or more of the voting power of any class or series of the outstanding stock of the corporation. Consummation of a business combination that is subject to the five-year moratorium is permitted after such period when the transaction (a) (i) complies with all applicable charter and bylaw requirements and (ii) is approved by the holders of two-thirds of the voting stock not beneficially owned by the interested shareholder; and (b) meets certain fair price criteria.

The Tennessee Greenmail Act prohibits a Tennessee corporation from purchasing, directly or indirectly, any of its shares at a price above the market value of such shares (defined as the average of the highest and lowest closing market price for such shares during the 30 trading days preceding the purchase and sale or preceding the commencement or announcement of a tender offer if the seller of such shares has commenced a tender offer or announced an intention to seek control of the corporation) from any person who holds more than 3% of the class of securities to be purchased if such person has held such shares for less than two years, unless the purchase has been approved by the affirmative vote of a majority of the outstanding shares of each class of voting stock issued by such corporation or the corporation makes an offer, of at least equal value per share, to all holders of shares of such class.

## **Ownership Limitations**

For us to qualify as a REIT under the Code, among other things, no more than 50% in value of our outstanding shares of capital stock, or the **Ownership Limit**, may be owned, directly or indirectly, by five or fewer shareholders (as defined in the Code to include certain entities) during the last half of a taxable year, and such 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. To ensure that we continue to meet the requirements for qualification as a REIT, our charter, subject to certain exceptions, provides that no holder may own, or be deemed to own by virtue of the attribution provisions of the Code, shares of our capital stock in excess of the Ownership Limit. The Board of Directors may waive the Ownership Limit with respect to a shareholder if evidence satisfactory to the Board of Directors and our tax counsel is presented that the changes in ownership will not then or in the future jeopardize our status as a REIT. Any transfer of capital stock or any security convertible into capital stock that would result in a direct or indirect ownership of capital stock by a shareholder in excess of the Ownership Limit or that would result in our failure to meet the requirements for qualification as a REIT, including any transfer that results in the capital stock being owned by fewer than 100 persons or results in us being **closely held** within the meaning of section 856(h) of the Code, shall be null and void, and the intended transferee will acquire no rights to the capital stock. The foregoing restrictions on transferability and ownership will not apply if the 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.

## **Table of Contents**

Shares of capital stock owned, or deemed to be owned, or transferred to a shareholder in excess of the Ownership Limit shall be deemed Excess Shares held by such holder as agent on behalf of, and in trust for the exclusive benefit of the transferees (which may include us) to whom such capital stock may be ultimately transferred without violating the Ownership Limit. While the Excess Shares are held in trust, the holder thereof will not be entitled to vote, the Excess Shares will not be considered issued and outstanding for purposes of any shareholder vote or the determination of a quorum for such vote and, except upon liquidation, will not be entitled to participate in dividends or other distributions. Any dividend or distribution paid to a proposed transferee of Excess Shares prior to our discovery that capital stock has been transferred in violation of the Ownership Limitation shall be repaid to us upon demand.

Excess Shares are further subject to transfer at the direction of the Board of Directors. If the Board of Directors directs a holder of Excess Shares to sell such Excess Shares, such holder shall pay us out of the proceeds of such sale all expenses incurred by us in connection with such sale plus any remaining amount of such proceeds that exceeds that amount paid by such holder for the Excess Shares.

In addition, we will have the right, for a period of six months during the time any Excess Shares are held by the holder in trust, to redeem all or any portion of the Excess Shares from the holder for the lesser of the price paid for the capital stock by the holder or the market price (as determined in the manner set forth in our charter) of the capital stock on the date we give notice of our intent to redeem such Excess Shares. The six month period begins on the date on which we receive written notice of the transfer or other event resulting in the classification of capital stock as Excess Shares.

Each shareholder shall upon demand be required to disclose to us in writing any information with respect to the direct, indirect and constructive ownership of beneficial interests in us as the Board of Directors deems necessary to comply with the provisions of the Code applicable to REITs, to comply with the requirements of any taxing authority or governmental agency or to determine any such compliance.

The Ownership Limitation may have the effect of precluding acquisition of control of us unless the Board of Directors determines that maintenance of REIT status is no longer in our best interests.

## **Other Matters**

The transfer agent and registrar for our common stock is Wachovia Bank N.A., Charlotte, North Carolina.

Pursuant to the Tennessee Business Corporation Act, we cannot merge with or sell all or substantially all of our assets except pursuant to a resolution approved by the affirmative vote of a majority of the outstanding shares of common stock entitled to vote on the resolution. In addition, the partnership agreement of Mid-America Apartments, L.P. requires that any merger or sale of all or substantially all of the assets of or dissolution of the partnership be approved by the affirmative vote of a majority of the outstanding units.



**Table of Contents**

**DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES**

The following description, together with the additional information we include in any applicable prospectus supplements, summarizes the material terms and provisions of the debt securities that we may offer under this prospectus. While the terms we have summarized below will apply generally to any future debt securities we may offer, we will describe the particular terms of any debt securities that we may offer in more detail in the applicable prospectus supplement. If we indicate in a prospectus supplement, the terms of any debt securities we offer under that prospectus supplement may differ from the terms we describe below.

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

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

**General**

We will describe in each prospectus supplement the following terms relating to a series of debt securities:

the title;

any limit on the amount that may be issued;

whether or not we will issue the series of debt securities in global form, the terms and who the depository will be;

the maturity date;

the annual interest rate, which may be fixed or variable, or the method for determining the rate and the date interest will begin to accrue, the dates interest will be payable and the regular record dates for interest payment dates or the method for determining such dates;

whether or not the debt securities will be secured or unsecured, and the terms of any secured debt;

the terms of the subordination of any series of subordinated debt;

the place where payments will be payable;

our right, if any, to defer payment of interest and the maximum length of any such deferral period;

the date, if any, after which, and the price at which, we may, at our option, redeem the series of debt securities pursuant to any optional redemption provisions;

the date, if any, on which, and the price at which we are obligated, pursuant to any mandatory sinking fund provisions or otherwise, to redeem, or at the holder's option to purchase, the series of debt securities;

whether the indenture will restrict our ability to pay dividends, or will require us to maintain any asset ratios or reserves;

whether we will be restricted from incurring any additional indebtedness;

a discussion on any material or special United States federal income tax considerations applicable to the debt securities;

## **Table of Contents**

the denominations in which we will issue the series of debt securities, if other than denominations of \$1,000 and any integral multiple thereof; and

any other specific terms, preferences, rights or limitations of, or restrictions on, the debt securities.

## **Conversion or Exchange Rights**

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

## **Consolidation, Merger or Sale**

The indentures do not contain any covenant which restricts our ability to merge or consolidate, or sell, convey, transfer or otherwise dispose of all or substantially all of our assets. However, any successor to or acquirer of such assets must assume all of our obligations under the indentures or the debt securities, as appropriate.

## **Events of Default Under the Indentures**

The following are events of default under the indentures with respect to any series of debt securities that we may issue:

if we fail to pay interest when due and our failure continues for a number of days to be stated in the indenture and the time for payment has not been extended or deferred;

if we fail to pay the principal, or premium, if any, when due and the time for payment has not been extended or delayed;

if we fail to observe or perform any other covenant contained in the debt securities or the indentures, other than a covenant specifically relating to another series of debt securities, and our failure continues for a number of days to be stated in the indenture after we receive notice from the debenture trustee or holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of the applicable series; and

if specified events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization occur as to us.

If an event of default with respect to debt securities of any series occurs and is continuing, the debenture trustee or the holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series, by notice to us in writing, and to the debenture trustee if notice is given by such holders, may declare the unpaid principal of, premium, if any, and accrued interest, if any, due and payable immediately.

The holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of an affected series may waive any default or event of default with respect to the series and its consequences, except defaults or events of default regarding payment of principal, premium, if any, or interest, unless we have cured the default or event of default in accordance with the indenture. Any waiver shall cure the default or event of default.

Subject to the terms of the indentures, if an event of default under an indenture shall occur and be continuing, the debenture trustee will be under no obligation to exercise any of its rights or powers under such indenture at the request or direction of any of the holders of the applicable series of debt securities, unless such holders have offered the debenture trustee reasonable indemnity. The holders of a majority in principal amount of

## **Table of Contents**

the outstanding debt securities of any series will have the right to direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the debenture trustee, or exercising any trust or power conferred on the debenture trustee, with respect to the debt securities of that series, provided that:

the direction so given by the holder is not in conflict with any law or the applicable indenture; and

subject to its duties under the Trust Indenture Act, the debenture trustee need not take any action that might involve it in personal liability or might be unduly prejudicial to the holders not involved in the proceeding.

A holder of the debt securities of any series will only have the right to institute a proceeding under the indentures or to appoint a receiver or trustee, or to seek other remedies if:

the holder has given written notice to the debenture trustee of a continuing event of default with respect to that series;

the holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series have made written request, and such holders have offered reasonable indemnity to the debenture trustee to institute the proceeding as trustee; and

the debenture trustee does not institute the proceeding, and does not receive from the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series other conflicting directions within 60 days after the notice, request and offer.

These limitations do not apply to a suit instituted by a holder of debt securities if we default in the payment of the principal, premium, if any, or interest on, the debt securities.

We will periodically file statements with the debenture trustee regarding our compliance with specified covenants in the indentures.

## **Modification of Indenture; Waiver**

We and the debenture trustee may change an indenture without the consent of any holders with respect to specific matters, including:

to fix any ambiguity, defect or inconsistency in the indenture; and

to change anything that does not materially adversely affect the interests of any holder of debt securities of any series.

In addition, under the indentures, the rights of holders of a series of debt securities may be changed by us and the debenture trustee with the written consent of the holders of at least a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of each series that is affected. However, we and the debenture trustee may only make the following changes with the consent of each holder of any outstanding debt securities affected:

extending the fixed maturity of the series of debt securities;

reducing the principal amount, reducing the rate of or extending the time of payment of interest, or any premium payable upon the redemption of any debt securities; or

reducing the percentage of debt securities, the holders of which are required to consent to any amendment.

**Discharge**

Each indenture provides that we can elect to be discharged from our obligations with respect to one or more series of debt securities, except for obligations to:

register the transfer or exchange of debt securities of the series;

## **Table of Contents**

replace stolen, lost or mutilated debt securities of the series;

maintain paying agencies;

hold monies for payment in trust;

compensate and indemnify the trustee; and

appoint any successor trustee.

In order to exercise our rights to be discharged, we must deposit with the trustee money or government obligations sufficient to pay all the principal of, any premium, if any, and interest on, the debt securities of the series on the dates payments are due.

## **Form, Exchange and Transfer**

We will issue the debt securities of each series only in fully registered form without coupons and, unless we otherwise specify in the applicable prospectus supplement, in denominations of \$1,000 and any integral multiple thereof. The indentures provide that we may issue debt securities of a series in temporary or permanent global form and as book-entry securities that will be deposited with, or on behalf of, The Depository Trust Company or another depository named by us and identified in a prospectus supplement with respect to that series. See [Legal Ownership of Securities](#) for a further description of the terms relating to any book-entry securities.

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

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

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

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

issue, register the transfer of, or exchange any debt securities of that series during a period beginning at the opening of business 15 days before the day of mailing of a notice of redemption of any debt securities that may be selected for redemption and ending at the close of business on the day of the mailing; or

register the transfer of or exchange any debt securities so selected for redemption, in whole or in part, except the unredeemed portion of any debt securities we are redeeming in part.

**Information Concerning the Debenture Trustee**

The debenture trustee, other than during the occurrence and continuance of an event of default under an indenture, undertakes to perform only those duties as are specifically set forth in the applicable indenture. Upon



## **Table of Contents**

an event of default under an indenture, the debenture trustee must use the same degree of care as a prudent person would exercise or use in the conduct of his or her own affairs. Subject to this provision, the debenture trustee is under no obligation to exercise any of the powers given it by the indentures at the request of any holder of debt securities unless it is offered reasonable security and indemnity against the costs, expenses and liabilities that it might incur.

## **Payment and Paying Agents**

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

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

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

## **Governing Law**

The indentures and the debt securities will be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Tennessee, except to the extent that the Trust Indenture Act is applicable.

## **Subordination of Subordinated Notes**

The subordinated notes will be unsecured and will be subordinate and junior in priority of payment to certain of our other indebtedness to the extent described in a prospectus supplement. The subordinated indenture does not limit the amount of subordinated notes which we may issue. It also does not limit us from issuing any other secured or unsecured debt.

**Table of Contents**

**DESCRIPTION OF DEPOSITARY SHARES**

**General**

We may, at our option, elect to offer fractional shares of preferred stock, rather than full shares of preferred stock ( **Depositary Shares** ). In such event, we will issue to the public receipts for Depositary Shares, each of which will represent a fraction (to be set forth in the prospectus supplement relating to a particular series of preferred stock) of a share of a particular series of preferred stock as described below.

The shares of any series of preferred stock represented by Depositary Shares will be deposited under a Deposit Agreement (the **Deposit Agreement** ) between us and the depositary named in the applicable prospectus supplement (the **Depositary** ). Subject to the terms of the Deposit Agreement, each owner of a Depositary Share will be entitled, in proportion to the applicable fraction of a share of preferred stock represented by such Depositary Share, to all the rights and preferences of our preferred stock represented thereby (including dividend, voting, redemption and liquidation rights).

The Depositary Shares will be evidenced by depositary receipts issued pursuant to the Deposit Agreement ( **Depositary Receipts** ). Depositary Receipts will be distributed to those persons purchasing the fractional shares of preferred stock in accordance with the terms of the offering. If Depositary Shares are issued, copies of the forms of Deposit Agreement and Depositary Receipt will be incorporated by reference in the Registration Statement of which this Prospectus is a part, and the following summary is qualified in its entirety by reference to such documents.

Pending the preparation of definitive engraved Depositary Receipts, the Depositary may, upon the written order of the Company, issue temporary Depositary Receipts substantially identical to (and entitling the holders thereof to all the rights pertaining to) the definitive Depositary Receipts but not in definitive form. Definitive Depositary Receipts will be prepared thereafter without unreasonable delay, and temporary Depositary Receipts will be exchangeable for definitive Depositary Receipts at our expense.

**Dividends And Other Distributions**

The Depositary will distribute all cash dividends or other cash distributions received in respect of our preferred stock to the record holders of Depositary Shares relating to such preferred stock in proportion to the number of such Depositary Shares owned by such holders. The Depositary shall distribute only such amount, however, as can be distributed without attributing to any holder of Depositary Shares a fraction of one cent, and the balance not so distributed shall be added to and treated as part of the next sum received by the Depositary for distribution to record holders of Depositary Shares.

In the event of a distribution other than in cash, the Depositary will distribute property received by it to the record holders of Depositary Shares entitled thereto, unless the Depositary determines that it is not feasible to make such distribution, in which case the Depositary may, with the approval of we, sell such property and distribute the net proceeds from such sale to such holders.

The Deposit Agreement will also contain provisions relating to the manner in which any subscription or similar rights offered by us to holders of our preferred stock shall be made available to the holders of Depositary Shares.

#### **Redemption Of Depositary Shares**

If a series of preferred stock represented by Depositary Shares is subject to redemption, the Depositary Shares will be redeemed from the proceeds received by the Depositary resulting from the redemption, in whole or in part, of such series of preferred stock held by the Depositary. The redemption price per depositary share will be equal to the applicable fraction of the redemption price per share payable with respect to such series of preferred stock. Whenever we redeem shares of preferred stock held by the Depositary, the Depositary will

## **Table of Contents**

redeem as of the same redemption date the number of Depositary Shares representing the shares of preferred stock so redeemed. If fewer than all the Depositary Shares are to be redeemed, the Depositary Shares to be redeemed will be selected by lot or pro rata as may be determined by the Depositary.

After the date fixed for redemption, the Depositary Shares so called for redemption will no longer be outstanding and all rights of the holders of the Depositary Shares will cease, except the right to receive the money, securities or other property payable upon such redemption and any money, securities or other property to which the holders of such Depositary Shares were entitled upon such redemption upon surrender to the Depositary of the Depositary Receipts evidencing such Depositary Shares.

## **Voting Our Preferred Stock**

Upon receipt of notice of any meeting at which the holders of preferred stock are entitled to vote, the Depositary will mail the information contained in such notice of meeting to the record holders of the Depositary Shares relating to such preferred stock. Each record holder of such Depositary Shares on the record date (which will be the same date as the record date for our preferred stock) will be entitled to instruct the Depositary as to the exercise of the voting rights pertaining to the amount of preferred stock represented by such holder's Depositary Shares. The Depositary will endeavor, insofar as practicable, to vote the amount of preferred stock represented by such Depositary Shares in accordance with such instructions, and we will agree to take all action which may be deemed necessary by the Depositary in order to enable the Depositary to do so. The Depositary may abstain from voting shares of preferred stock to the extent it does not receive specific instructions from the holders of Depositary Shares representing such preferred stock.

## **Amendment And Termination Of The Depositary Agreement**

The form of Depositary Receipt evidencing the Depositary Shares and any provision of the Deposit Agreement may at any time be amended by agreement between the Company and the Depositary. However, any amendment that materially and adversely alters the rights of the holders of Depositary Shares will not be effective unless such amendment has been approved by the holders of at least a majority of the depositary shares then outstanding. The Deposit Agreement may be terminated by us or the Depositary only if (i) all outstanding Depositary Shares have been redeemed or (ii) there has been a final distribution in respect of our preferred stock in connection with any liquidation, dissolution or winding up of the Company and such distribution has been distributed to the holders of Depositary Receipts.

## **Charges Of Depositary**

We will pay all transfer and other taxes and governmental charges arising solely from the existence of the depositary arrangements. We will pay charges of the Depositary in connection with the initial deposit of our preferred stock and any redemption of our preferred stock. Holders of Depositary Receipts will pay other transfer and other taxes and governmental charges and such other charges, including a fee for the withdrawal of shares of preferred stock upon surrender of Depositary Receipts, as are expressly provided in the Deposit Agreement to be for their accounts.

## **Miscellaneous**

## Edgar Filing: MID AMERICA APARTMENT COMMUNITIES INC - Form S-3/A

The Depositary will forward to holders of Depositary Receipts all reports and communications from us that are delivered to the Depositary and that we are required to furnish to holders of preferred stock.

Neither the Depositary nor the Company will be liable if it is prevented or delayed by law or any circumstance beyond its control in performing its obligations under the Deposit Agreement. The obligations of the Company and the Depositary under the Deposit Agreement will be limited to performance in good faith of their duties thereunder and they will not be obligated to prosecute or defend any legal proceeding in respect of any Depositary Shares or preferred stock unless satisfactory indemnity is furnished. They may rely upon written

## **Table of Contents**

advice of counsel or accountants, or upon information provided by persons presenting preferred stock for deposit, holders of Depositary Receipts or other persons believed to be competent and on documents believed to be genuine.

### **Resignation And Removal Of The Depositary**

The Depositary may resign at any time by delivering to us notice of its election to do so, and we may at any time remove the Depositary, any such resignation or removal to take effect upon the appointment of a successor Depositary and its acceptance of such appointment. Such successor Depositary must be appointed within 60 days after delivery of the notice of resignation or removal.

### **Restrictions On Ownership**

In order to safeguard the Company against an inadvertent loss of REIT status, the Deposit Agreement will contain provisions restricting the ownership and transfer of Depositary Shares. Such restrictions will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement and will be referenced on the applicable Depositary Receipts.

## **LEGAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES**

We can issue securities in registered form or in the form of one or more global securities. We describe global securities in greater detail below. We refer to those persons who have securities registered in their own names on the books that we or any applicable trustee maintain for this purpose as the holders of those securities. These persons are the legal holders of the securities. We refer to those persons who, indirectly through others, own beneficial interests in securities that are not registered in their own names, as indirect holders of those securities. As we discuss below, indirect holders are not legal holders, and investors in securities issued in book-entry form or in street name will be indirect holders.

### **Book-Entry Holders**

We may issue securities in book-entry form only, as we will specify in the applicable prospectus supplement. This means securities may be represented by one or more global securities registered in the name of a financial institution that holds them as depositary on behalf of other financial institutions that participate in the depositary's book-entry system. These participating institutions, which are referred to as participants, in turn, hold beneficial interests in the securities on behalf of themselves or their customers.

Only the person in whose name a security is registered is recognized as the holder of that security. Securities issued in global form will be registered in the name of the depositary or its participants. Consequently, for securities issued in global form, we will recognize only the depositary as the holder of the securities, and we will make all payments on the securities to the depositary. The depositary passes along the payments it receives to its participants, which in turn pass the payments along to their customers who are the beneficial owners. The depositary and its participants do so under agreements they have made with one another or with their customers; they are not obligated to do so under the terms of the securities.

As a result, investors in a book-entry security will not own securities directly. Instead, they will own beneficial interests in a global security, through a bank, broker or other financial institution that participates in the depositary's book-entry system or holds an interest through a participant. As long as the securities are issued in global form, investors will be indirect holders, and not holders, of the securities.

**Street Name Holders**

We may terminate a global security or issue securities in non-global form. In these cases, investors may choose to hold their securities in their own names or in street name. Securities held by an investor in street

## **Table of Contents**

name would be registered in the name of a bank, broker or other financial institution that the investor chooses, and the investor would hold only a beneficial interest in those securities through an account he or she maintains at that institution.

For securities held in street name, we will recognize only the intermediary banks, brokers and other financial institutions in whose names the securities are registered as the holders of those securities, and we will make all payments on those securities to them. These institutions pass along the payments they receive to their customers who are the beneficial owners, but only because they agree to do so in their customer agreements or because they are legally required to do so. Investors who hold securities in street name will be indirect holders, not holders, of those securities.

## **Legal Holders**

Our obligations, as well as the obligations of any applicable trustee and of any third parties employed by us or a trustee, run only to the legal holders of the securities. We do not have obligations to investors who hold beneficial interests in global securities, in street name or by any other indirect means. This will be the case whether an investor chooses to be an indirect holder of a security or has no choice because we are issuing the securities only in global form.

For example, once we make a payment or give a notice to the holder, we have no further responsibility for the payment or notice even if that holder is required, under agreements with depositary participants or customers or by law, to pass it along to the indirect holders but does not do so. Similarly, we may want to obtain the approval of the holders to amend an indenture, to relieve us of the consequences of a default or of our obligation to comply with a particular provision of the indenture or for other purposes. In such an event, we would seek approval only from the holders, and not the indirect holders, of the securities. Whether and how the holders contact the indirect holders is up to the holders.

## **Special Considerations for Indirect Holders**

If you hold securities through a bank, broker or other financial institution, either in book-entry form or in street name, you should check with your own institution to find out:

how it handles securities payments and notices;

whether it imposes fees or charges;

how it would handle a request for the holders' consent, if ever required;

whether and how you can instruct it to send you securities registered in your own name so you can be a holder, if that is permitted in the future;

how it would exercise rights under the securities if there were a default or other event triggering the need for holders to act to protect their interests; and



if the securities are in book-entry form, how the depositary's rules and procedures will affect these matters.

### **Global Securities**

A global security is a security held by a depositary which represents one or any other number of individual securities. Generally, all securities represented by the same global securities will have the same terms.

Each security issued in book-entry form will be represented by a global security that we deposit with and register in the name of a financial institution or its nominee that we select. The financial institution that we select

## **Table of Contents**

for this purpose is called the depository. Unless we specify otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, The Depository Trust Company, New York, New York, known as DTC, will be the depository for all securities issued in book-entry form.

A global security may not be transferred to or registered in the name of anyone other than the depository, its nominee or a successor depository, unless special termination situations arise. We describe those situations below under Special Situations When a Global Security Will Be Terminated. As a result of these arrangements, the depository, or its nominee, will be the sole registered owner and holder of all securities represented by a global security, and investors will be permitted to own only beneficial interests in a global security. Beneficial interests must be held by means of an account with a broker, bank or other financial institution that in turn has an account with the depository or with another institution that does. Thus, an investor whose security is represented by a global security will not be a holder of the security, but only an indirect holder of a beneficial interest in the global security.

If the prospectus supplement for a particular security indicates that the security will be issued in global form only, then the security will be represented by a global security at all times unless and until the global security is terminated. If termination occurs, we may issue the securities through another book-entry clearing system or decide that the securities may no longer be held through any book-entry clearing system.

### **Special Considerations for Global Securities**

As an indirect holder, an investor's rights relating to a global security will be governed by the account rules of the investor's financial institution and of the depository, as well as general laws relating to securities transfers. We do not recognize an indirect holder as a holder of securities and instead deal only with the depository that holds the global security.

If securities are issued only in the form of a global security, an investor should be aware of the following:

An investor cannot cause the securities to be registered in his or her name, and cannot obtain non-global certificates for his or her interest in the securities, except in the special situations we describe below;

An investor will be an indirect holder and must look to his or her own bank or broker for payments on the securities and protection of his or her legal rights relating to the securities;

An investor may not be able to sell interests in the securities to some insurance companies and to other institutions that are required by law to own their securities in non-book-entry form;

An investor may not be able to pledge his or her interest in a global security in circumstances where certificates representing the securities must be delivered to the lender or other beneficiary of the pledge in order for the pledge to be effective;

The depository's policies, which may change from time to time, will govern payments, transfers, exchanges and other matters relating to an investor's interest in a global security. We and any applicable trustee have no responsibility for any aspect of the depository's actions or for its records of ownership interests in a global security. We and the trustee also do not supervise the depository in any way;

## Edgar Filing: MID AMERICA APARTMENT COMMUNITIES INC - Form S-3/A

The depositary may, and we understand that DTC will, require that those who purchase and sell interests in a global security within its book-entry system use immediately available funds, and your broker or bank may require you to do so as well; and

Financial institutions that participate in the depositary's book-entry system, and through which an investor holds its interest in a global security, may also have their own policies affecting payments, notices and other matters relating to the securities. There may be more than one financial intermediary in the chain of ownership for an investor. We do not monitor and are not responsible for the actions of any of those intermediaries.

## **Table of Contents**

### **Special Situations when a Global Security will be Terminated**

In a few special situations described below, the global security will terminate and interests in it will be exchanged for physical certificates representing those interests. After that exchange, the choice of whether to hold securities directly or in street name will be up to the investor. Investors must consult their own banks or brokers to find out how to have their interests in securities transferred to their own name, so that they will be direct holders. We have described the rights of holders and street name investors above.

The global security will terminate when the following special situations occur:

if the depositary notifies us that it is unwilling, unable or no longer qualified to continue as depositary for that global security and we do not appoint another institution to act as depositary within 90 days;

if we notify any applicable trustee that we wish to terminate that global security; or

if an event of default has occurred with regard to securities represented by that global security and has not been cured or waived.

The prospectus supplement may also list additional situations for terminating a global security that would apply only to the particular series of securities covered by the prospectus supplement. When a global security terminates, the depositary, and not we or any applicable trustee, is responsible for deciding the names of the institutions that will be the initial direct holders.

## **FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSIDERATIONS**

This section summarizes the federal income tax issues that you may consider relevant in acquiring our securities. The discussion contained herein does not purport to deal with all aspects of taxation that may be relevant to prospective purchasers in light of their personal investment or tax circumstances, or to persons who are subject to special treatment under the federal income tax laws, such as insurance companies, tax-exempt organizations, financial institutions or broker-dealers, foreign corporations and persons who are not citizens or residents of the United States. Throughout this section Mid-America Apartment Communities, Inc. will be referred to as **Mid-America** in order to distinguish it from its subsidiaries.

The statements in this section are based on the current federal income tax laws governing qualification as a REIT. We cannot assure you that new laws, interpretations thereof, or court decisions, any of which may take effect retroactively, will not cause any statement in this section to be inaccurate.

We urge you to consult your own tax advisor regarding the specific tax consequences to you of investing in our securities and of Mid-America's election to be taxed as a REIT. Specifically, you should consult your own tax advisor regarding the federal, state, local, foreign, and other tax consequences of such investment and election, and regarding potential changes in applicable tax laws.

**Taxation of Mid-America**

Mid-America elected to be taxed as a REIT for its taxable year ended on December 31, 1994. Mid-America believes that it has operated in a manner intended to qualify as a REIT since its election to be a REIT and it intends to continue to operate in such a manner. This section discusses the laws governing the federal income tax treatment of a REIT and its shareholders. These laws are highly technical and complex.

Mid-America's qualification as a REIT depends on its ability to meet on a continuing basis the qualification tests required by the federal tax laws. Those qualification tests involve the percentage of income that Mid-America earns from specified sources, the percentage of its assets that fall within specified categories, the diversity of its share ownership, and the percentage of its earnings that it distributes. We describe the REIT

## **Table of Contents**

qualification tests in more detail below. For a discussion of the tax treatment of Mid-America and its shareholders if Mid-America fails to qualify as a REIT, please read [Failure to Qualify](#) on page 33.

If Mid-America qualifies as a REIT, it generally will not be subject to federal income tax on the taxable income that it distributes to its shareholders. The benefit of that tax treatment to shareholders is that they avoid the [double taxation](#) (i.e., at both the corporate and shareholder levels) that generally results from owning stock in a corporation. However, even if Mid-America qualifies as a REIT, it will be subject to federal tax in the following circumstances:

Mid-America will pay federal income tax on taxable income (including net capital gain) that it does not distribute to its shareholders during, or within a specified time period after, the calendar year in which the income is earned.

Mid-America may be subject to the [alternative minimum tax](#) on any items of tax preference that it does not distribute or allocate to its shareholders.

Mid-America will pay income tax at the highest corporate rate on (1) net income from the sale or other disposition of property acquired through foreclosure ( [foreclosure property](#) ) that it holds primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of business and (2) other non-qualifying income from foreclosure property.

Mid-America will pay a 100% tax on net income from certain sales or other dispositions of property (other than foreclosure property) that it holds primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of business.

If Mid-America fails to satisfy the [75% gross income test](#) or the [95% gross income test](#), which are described below under [Requirements for Qualification - Income Tests](#) on page 29, and nonetheless continues to qualify as a REIT because it meets certain other requirements, it will pay a 100% penalty tax on (1) the gross income attributable to the greater of (a) the amount by which it fails the 95% gross income test (but only if the qualifying income is less than 90% of its gross income) or (b) the amount by which it fails the 75% gross income test, multiplied by (2) a fraction intended to reflect its profitability.

If Mid-America fails to distribute during a calendar year at least the sum of (1) 85% of its REIT ordinary income for such year, (2) 95% of its REIT capital gain net income for such year, and (3) any undistributed taxable income from prior periods, it will pay a 4% excise tax on the excess of such required distribution over the amount it actually distributed. Mid-America may elect to retain and pay income tax on its net long-term capital gain.

Mid-America acquires any asset from a C corporation, or a corporation generally subject to full corporate-level tax, in a merger or other transaction in which it acquires a basis in the asset that is determined by reference to the C corporation's basis in the asset, or another asset, it will pay tax at the highest regular corporate rate applicable if it recognizes gain on the sale or disposition of such asset during the 10-year period after it acquires such asset. The amount of gain on which it will pay tax is the lesser of (1) the amount of gain that it recognizes at the time of the sale or disposition and (2) the amount of gain that it would have recognized if it had sold the asset at the time it acquired the asset. Beginning with transactions occurring after January 2, 2002, the rule described in this paragraph will apply unless Mid-America elects deemed sale treatment.

## **Requirements for Qualification**

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

(1) it is managed by one or more trustees or directors;

(2) its beneficial ownership is evidenced by transferable shares or by transferable certificates of beneficial interest;

(3) it would be taxable as a domestic corporation, but for the REIT provisions of the federal income tax laws;

**Table of Contents**

- (4) it is neither a financial institution nor an insurance company subject to special provisions of the federal income tax laws;
- (5) at least 100 persons are beneficial owners of its shares or ownership certificates;
- (6) not more than 50% in value of its outstanding shares or ownership certificates is owned, directly or indirectly, by five or fewer individuals, as defined in the federal income tax laws to include certain entities, during the last half of any taxable year;
- (7) it elects to be a REIT, or has made such election for a previous taxable year, and satisfies all relevant filing and other administrative requirements established by the Internal Revenue Service that must be met to elect and maintain REIT status;
- (8) it uses a calendar year for federal income tax purposes and complies with the record keeping requirements of the federal income tax laws; and
- (9) it meets certain other qualification tests, described below, regarding the nature of its income and assets.

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

Mid-America believes that it has issued sufficient common stock with sufficient diversity of ownership to satisfy requirements (5) and (6) set forth above. In addition, Mid-America's charter restricts the ownership and transfer of the common and preferred stock so that Mid-America should continue to satisfy requirements (5) and (6). The provisions of the charter restricting the ownership and transfer of the common stock and preferred stock are described in [Description of Capital Stock Ownership Limitations](#) on page 15.

Mid-America currently has 11 corporate subsidiaries and may have additional corporate subsidiaries in the future. A corporation that is a qualified REIT subsidiary is not treated as a corporation separate from its parent REIT. All assets, liabilities, and items of income, deduction, and credit of a qualified REIT subsidiary are treated as assets, liabilities, and items of income, deduction, and credit of the REIT. A qualified REIT subsidiary is a corporation, all of the capital stock of which is owned by the REIT and which does not make an election to be a taxable REIT subsidiary. Thus, in applying the requirements described herein, the separate existence of any qualified REIT subsidiary of Mid-America will be ignored, and all assets, liabilities, and items of income, deduction, and credit of such subsidiary will be treated as assets, liabilities, and items of income, deduction, and credit of Mid-America. All of Mid-America's corporate subsidiaries are qualified REIT subsidiaries. Accordingly, they are not subject to federal corporate income taxation, though they may be subject to state and local taxation.



## Edgar Filing: MID AMERICA APARTMENT COMMUNITIES INC - Form S-3/A

In the case of a REIT that is a partner in a partnership, the REIT is treated as owning its proportionate share of the assets of the partnership and as earning its allocable share of the gross income of the partnership for purposes of the applicable REIT qualification tests. Thus, Mid-America s proportionate share of the assets, liabilities, and items of income of Mid-America Apartments, L.P., and of any other partnership, joint venture, or limited liability company that is treated as a partnership for federal income tax purposes in which Mid-America

## **Table of Contents**

has acquired or will acquire an interest, directly or indirectly (a Subsidiary Partnership ), is treated as assets and gross income of Mid-America for purposes of applying the various REIT qualification requirements.

REITs are permitted to own up to 100% of the stock of one or more taxable REIT subsidiaries, or TRSs, after January 1, 2001. A TRS is a fully taxable corporation that may earn income that would not be qualifying income if earned directly by the parent REIT. However, a TRS may not directly or indirectly operate or manage any hotels or health care facilities or provide rights to any brand name under which any hotel or health care facility is operated. The subsidiary and the REIT must jointly elect to treat the subsidiary as a TRS. A TRS will pay income tax at regular corporate rates on any income that it earns. In addition, 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 do not currently have any TRSs, but we may form or acquire one or more TRSs in the future.

## **Income Tests**

Mid-America must satisfy two gross income tests annually to maintain its qualification as a REIT. First, at least 75% of its gross income for each taxable year must consist of defined types of income that it derives, directly or indirectly, from investments relating to real property or mortgages on real property or temporary investment income. Qualifying income for purposes of that 75% gross income test includes, but is not limited to:

rents from real property;

interest on debt secured by mortgages on real property or on interests in real property;

gain from the sale or other disposition of real property, including interests in real property and interests in mortgages on real property, that is not inventory or other dealer property; and

dividends or other distributions on and gain from the sale of shares in other REITs.

Second, at least 95% of its gross income for each taxable year must consist of income that is qualifying income for purposes of the 75% gross income test, dividends, other types of interest or gain from the sale or disposition of stock or securities. Gross income from Mid-America's sale of property that it holds primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of business is excluded from both income tests. The following paragraphs discuss the specific application of these tests to Mid-America.

Rent that Mid-America receives from real property that it owns and leases to its residents will qualify as rents from real property, which is qualifying income for purposes of the 75% and 95% gross income tests, only if the following conditions are met:

First, the rent must not be based, in whole or in part, on the income or profits of any person, but may be based on a fixed percentage or percentages of receipts or sales;

## Edgar Filing: MID AMERICA APARTMENT COMMUNITIES INC - Form S-3/A

Second, neither Mid-America nor a direct or indirect owner of 10% or more of its stock may own, actually or constructively, 10% or more of a tenant from whom it receives rent (except with respect to TRSs);

Third, none of the rent attributable to personal property received under a lease of real property will qualify as rent from real property if the rent attributable to personal property exceeds 15% of the total rent received under the lease; and

Finally, Mid-America generally must not operate or manage its real property or furnish or render services to its tenants, other than services customarily furnished in connection with the rental of real property and other than services through an independent contractor who is adequately compensated and from whom Mid-America does not derive revenue. An independent contractor is any person who does not own, directly or indirectly, more than 35% of Mid-America's stock and in which not more than 35% interest is owned, directly or indirectly by one or more persons also owning 35% or more of Mid-America. However, Mid-America need not provide services through an independent contractor, but

## Table of Contents

instead may provide services directly, if the services are usually or customarily rendered in connection with the rental of space for occupancy only and are not considered to be provided for the tenants' convenience. In addition, Mid-America may provide a minimal amount of non-customary services to the tenants of a property, other than through an independent contractor, as long as its income from the services does not exceed 1% of its income from the related property.

Mid-America Apartments, L.P. receives fees in consideration of the performance of management, landscaping and administrative services with respect to properties that are not wholly owned, directly or indirectly, by Mid-America Apartments, L.P. A portion of such fees generally will not qualify under the 75% or 95% gross income tests. Mid-America also receives other non-qualifying income, such as income from coin-operated laundry machines and income from corporate and guests apartments. We believe, however, that the aggregate amount of such fees and other non-qualifying income in any taxable year will not cause Mid-America to exceed the limits on non-qualifying income under the 75% and 95% gross income tests.

A REIT will incur a 100% tax on the net income derived from any sale or other disposition of property, other than foreclosure property, that the REIT holds primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of a trade or business. We believe that none of Mid-America's assets is held for sale to customers and that a sale of any such asset would not be in the ordinary course of its business. Whether a REIT holds an asset primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of a trade or business depends, however, on the facts and circumstances in effect from time to time, including those related to a particular asset. Nevertheless, we will attempt to comply with the terms of safe-harbor provisions in the federal income tax laws prescribing when an asset sale will not be characterized as a prohibited transaction. We cannot provide assurance, however, that we can comply with such safe-harbor provisions or that Mid-America will avoid owning property that may be characterized as property that it holds primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of a trade or business.

From time to time, Mid-America or Mid-America Apartments, L.P. may enter into hedging transactions with respect to one or more of its assets or liabilities. Its hedging activities may include entering into interest rate swaps, caps, and floors, options to purchase such items, and futures and forward contracts. To the extent that Mid-America or Mid-America Apartments, L.P. enters into an interest rate swap or cap contract, option, futures contract, forward rate agreement, or any similar financial instrument to hedge its indebtedness incurred to acquire or carry real estate assets, any periodic income or gain from the disposition of such contract should be qualifying income for purposes of the 95% gross income test, but not the 75% gross income test. To the extent that Mid-America or Mid-America Apartments, L.P. hedges with other types of financial instruments, or in other situations, it is not entirely clear how the income from those transactions will be treated for purposes of the gross income tests. We intend to structure any hedging transactions in a manner that does not jeopardize Mid-America's status as a REIT.

If Mid-America fails to satisfy one or both of the gross income tests for any taxable year, it nevertheless may qualify as a REIT for such year if it qualifies for relief under certain provisions of the Code. Those relief provisions generally will be available if:

our failure to meet such tests is due to reasonable cause and not due to willful neglect;

we attach a schedule of the sources of our income to our tax return; and

any incorrect information on the schedule was not due to fraud with intent to evade tax.

We cannot predict, however, whether in all circumstances Mid-America would qualify for the relief provisions. In addition, even if the relief provisions apply, Mid-America would incur the penalty tax on excess gross income described above in Taxation of Mid-America.

**Asset Tests**

To maintain its qualification as a REIT, Mid-America also must satisfy two asset tests at the close of each quarter of each taxable year.

**Table of Contents**

First, at least 75% of the value of our total assets must consist of:

cash or cash items, including certain receivables;

government securities;

interests in real property, including leaseholds and options to acquire real property and leaseholds;

interests in mortgages on real property;

stock in other REITs; and

investments in stock or debt instruments during the one-year period following our receipt of new capital that we raise through equity offerings or offerings of debt with at least a five-year term.

The second asset test has two components:

First, of Mid-America's investments not included in the 75% asset class, the value of our interest in any one issuer's securities may not exceed 5% of the value of our total assets; and

Second, Mid-America may not own more than 10% of any one issuer's outstanding voting securities or more than 10% of the total value of the outstanding securities of a single issuer. For purposes of the 10% value test, the term "securities" excludes securities includible under the 75% asset test as well as "straight debt," which is non-contingent, non-convertible debt issued by an individual, by a partnership in which Mid-America owns at least a 20% profit interest or by a corporation in which Mid-America owns no other securities.

For purposes of both components of the second asset test, "securities" does not include Mid-America's stock in any qualified REIT subsidiary, other REITs, a TRS or our equity interest in any partnership.

In addition to the asset tests set forth above, no more than 20% of the value of Mid-America's total assets may consist of the securities of one or more TRSs.

If Mid-America should fail to satisfy the asset tests at the end of a calendar quarter, it would not lose its REIT status if:

(1) it satisfied the asset tests at the close of the preceding calendar quarter; and

(2) the discrepancy between the value of its assets and the asset test requirements arose from changes in the market values of its assets and was not wholly or partly caused by the acquisition during the calendar quarter of one or more non-qualifying assets.

If we fail to satisfy the condition described in clause (2) of the preceding sentence, we still could avoid disqualification as a REIT by eliminating any discrepancy within 30 days after the close of the calendar quarter in which the discrepancy arose.

### **Distribution Requirements**

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

the sum of (1) 90% of our REIT taxable income (computed without regard to the dividends paid deduction and our net capital gain or loss) and (2) 90% of our after-tax net income, if any, from foreclosure property; minus

the sum of particular items of non-cash income.

Mid-America must pay such distributions in the taxable year to which they relate, or in the following taxable year if it declares the distribution before it timely files its federal income tax return for such year and pay the distribution on or before the first regular dividend payment date after such declaration.

## **Table of Contents**

Mid-America will pay federal income tax on taxable income, including net capital gain, that it does not distribute to shareholders. Furthermore, if Mid-America fails to distribute during a calendar year, or by the end of January following such calendar year in the case of distributions with declaration and record dates falling in the last three months of the calendar year, at least the sum of:

85% of its REIT ordinary income for such year;

95% of its REIT capital gain income for such year; and

any undistributed taxable income from prior periods,

Mid-America will incur a 4% nondeductible excise tax on the excess of such required distribution over the amounts it actually distributed. Mid-America may elect to retain and pay income tax on the net long-term capital gain it receives in a taxable year. If it so elects, Mid-America will be treated as having distributed any such retained amount for purposes of the 4% excise tax described above. Mid-America has made, and intends to continue to make, timely distributions sufficient to satisfy the annual distribution requirements.

It is possible that, from time to time, Mid-America may experience timing differences between (1) the actual receipt of income and actual payment of deductible expenses and (2) the inclusion of that income and deduction of such expenses in arriving at our REIT taxable income. For example, Mid-America may not deduct recognized capital losses from our REIT taxable income. Further, it is possible that, from time to time, Mid-America may be allocated a share of net capital gain attributable to the sale of depreciated property that exceeds our allocable share of cash attributable to that sale. As a result of the foregoing, Mid-America may have less cash than is necessary to distribute all of our taxable income and thereby avoid corporate income tax and the excise tax imposed on certain undistributed income. In such a situation, we may need to borrow funds or issue additional common or preferred stock.

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

## **Record Keeping Requirement**

Mid-America must maintain certain records in order to qualify as a REIT. In addition, to avoid a monetary penalty, we must request on an annual basis particular information from our shareholders designed to disclose the actual ownership of its outstanding stock. Mid-America has complied, and Mid-America intends to continue to comply, with such requirements.

## **Failure to Qualify**

If Mid-America failed to qualify as a REIT in any taxable year, and no relief provision applied, we would be subject to federal income tax and any applicable alternative minimum tax on our taxable income at regular corporate rates. In calculating our taxable income in a year in which we failed to qualify as a REIT, Mid-America would not be able to deduct amounts distributed to our shareholders. In fact, Mid-America would not



## Edgar Filing: MID AMERICA APARTMENT COMMUNITIES INC - Form S-3/A

be required to distribute any amounts to shareholders in such year. In such event, to the extent of our current and accumulated earnings and profits, all distributions to shareholders would be taxable as ordinary income. Subject to certain limitations of the federal income tax laws, corporate shareholders might be eligible for the dividends received deduction. Unless Mid-America qualified for relief under specific statutory provisions, we also would be disqualified from taxation as a REIT for the four taxable years following the year during which we ceased to qualify as a REIT. We cannot predict whether in all circumstances Mid-America would qualify for such statutory relief.

## Table of Contents

### **Taxation of Taxable U.S. Shareholders**

As long as Mid-America qualifies as a REIT, a taxable U.S. shareholder must take into account as ordinary income distributions made out of Mid-America's current or accumulated earnings and profits and not designated either as capital gain dividends or retained long-term capital gain. Mid-America's earnings and profits will be allocated first to its preferred stock and then to its common stock. A U.S. shareholder will not qualify for the dividends received deduction generally available to corporations. As used herein, the term U.S. shareholder means a holder of Mid-America's capital stock that for U.S. federal income tax purposes is:

a citizen or resident of the United States;

a corporation, partnership, or other entity created or organized in or under the laws of the United States or of a political subdivision thereof;

an estate whose income from sources without the United States is includible in gross income for U.S. federal income tax purposes regardless of its source; or

any trust with respect to which (1) a U.S. court is able to exercise primary supervision over the administration of such trust and (2) one or more U.S. persons have the authority to control all substantial decisions of the trust.

A U.S. shareholder generally will recognize distributions that we designate as capital gain dividends as long-term capital gain without regard to the period for which the U.S. shareholder has held its stock. Subject to certain limitations, we will designate our capital gain dividends as either 20% or 25% rate distributions.

Mid-America may elect to retain and pay income tax on the net long-term capital gain that we receive in a taxable year. In that case, a U.S. shareholder must include its proportionate share of Mid-America's undistributed long-term capital gain as long-term capital gain. The U.S. shareholder would then receive a credit or refund for its proportionate share of the tax Mid-America paid. The U.S. shareholder would increase the basis in its stock by the amount of its proportionate share of Mid-America's undistributed long-term capital gain, minus its share of the tax Mid-America paid.

A U.S. shareholder will not incur tax on a distribution in excess of Mid-America's current and accumulated earnings and profits if such distribution does not exceed the adjusted basis of the U.S. shareholder's Mid-America stock. Instead, such distribution will reduce the adjusted basis of such stock. A U.S. shareholder will recognize a distribution in excess of both Mid-America's current and accumulated earnings and profits and the U.S. shareholder's adjusted basis in its Mid-America stock as long-term capital gain, or short-term capital gain if the Mid-America Preferred Stock has been held for one year or less, assuming the Mid-America Preferred Stock is a capital asset in the hands of the U.S. shareholder. In addition, if Mid-America declares a distribution in October, November, or December of any year that is payable to a U.S. shareholder of record on a specified date in any such month, such distribution shall be treated as both paid by Mid-America and received by the U.S. shareholder on December 31st of such year, provided that Mid-America actually pays the distribution during January of the following calendar year.

Shareholders may not include in their individual income tax returns any net operating losses or capital losses of Mid-America. Instead, such losses would be carried over by Mid-America for potential offset against our future income generally. Taxable distributions from Mid-America and gain from the disposition of the Mid-America Preferred Stock will not be treated as passive activity income and, therefore, shareholders

## Edgar Filing: MID AMERICA APARTMENT COMMUNITIES INC - Form S-3/A

generally will not be able to apply any passive activity losses (such as losses from certain types of limited partnerships in which the shareholder is a limited partner) against such income. In addition, taxable distributions from Mid-America and gain from the disposition of Mid-America Preferred Stock generally will be treated as investment income for purposes of the investment interest limitations. Mid-America will notify shareholders after the close of Mid-America's taxable year as to the portions of the distributions attributable to that year that constitute ordinary income, return of capital, and capital gain.

## **Table of Contents**

### **Taxation Of Shareholders On The Disposition Of The Common Or Preferred Stock**

In general, any gain or loss realized upon a taxable disposition of the stock by a shareholder who is not a dealer in securities will be treated as long-term capital gain or loss if the shares of stock have been held for more than one year and otherwise as short-term capital gain or loss. However, any loss upon a sale or exchange of shares of stock by a shareholder who has held such shares for six months or less (after applying certain holding period rules), will be treated as a long-term capital loss to the extent of distributions from Mid-America required to be treated by such shareholder as long-term capital gain. All or a portion of any loss realized upon a taxable disposition of shares of stock may be disallowed if other shares of stock are purchased within 30 days before or after the disposition.

### **Capital Gains and Losses**

A taxpayer generally must hold a capital asset for more than one year for gain or loss derived from its sale or exchange to be treated as long-term capital gain or loss. The highest marginal individual income tax rate applicable to ordinary income currently is 38.6% (subject to scheduled reductions through 2006). The maximum tax rate on long-term capital gain applicable to non-corporate taxpayers is 20%. The maximum tax rate on long-term capital gain from the sale or exchange of section 1250 property, or depreciable real property, is 25% to the extent that such gain would have been treated as ordinary income if the property were section 1245 property. With respect to distributions that Mid-America designates as capital gain dividends and any retained capital gain that it is deemed to distribute, Mid-America generally may designate whether such a distribution is taxable to its non-corporate shareholders at a 20% or 25% rate. Thus, the tax rate differential between capital gain and ordinary income for non-corporate taxpayers may be significant. In addition, the characterization of income as capital gain or ordinary income may affect the deductibility of capital losses. A non-corporate taxpayer may deduct capital losses not offset by capital gains against its ordinary income only up to a maximum annual amount of \$3,000. A non-corporate taxpayer may carry forward unused capital losses indefinitely. A corporate taxpayer must pay tax on its net capital gain at ordinary corporate rates. A corporate taxpayer can deduct capital losses only to the extent of capital gains, with unused losses being carried back three years and forward five years.

### **Information Reporting Requirements and Backup Withholding**

Mid-America will report to its shareholders and to the IRS the amount of distributions we pay during each calendar year, and the amount of tax we withhold, if any. Under the backup withholding rules, a shareholder may be subject to backup withholding at the rate of 30% (subject to scheduled reductions through 2006) with respect to distributions unless such holder (1) is a corporation or comes within certain other exempt categories and, when required, demonstrates this fact or (2) provides a taxpayer identification number, certifies as to no loss of exemption from backup withholding, and otherwise complies with the applicable requirements of the backup withholding rules. A shareholder who does not provide Mid-America with its correct taxpayer identification number also may be subject to penalties imposed by the IRS. Any amount paid as backup withholding will be creditable against the shareholder's income tax liability. In addition, Mid-America may be required to withhold a portion of capital gain distributions to any shareholders who fail to certify their non-foreign status to Mid-America. See Taxation of Non-U.S. Shareholders.

### **Taxation of Tax-Exempt Shareholders**

Tax-exempt entities, including qualified employee pension and profit sharing trusts and individual retirement accounts and annuities generally are exempt from federal income taxation. However, they are subject to taxation on their unrelated business taxable income. While many investments in real estate generate unrelated business taxable income, the IRS has issued a published ruling that dividend distributions from a REIT to an exempt employee pension trust do not constitute unrelated business taxable income, provided that the exempt employee pension trust

Edgar Filing: MID AMERICA APARTMENT COMMUNITIES INC - Form S-3/A

does not otherwise use the shares of the REIT in an unrelated trade or business of the pension trust. Based on that ruling, amounts that Mid-America distributes to tax-exempt shareholders generally

## **Table of Contents**

should not constitute unrelated business taxable income. However, if a tax-exempt shareholder were to finance its acquisition of the Mid-America Preferred Stock with debt, a portion of the income that it receives from Mid-America would constitute unrelated business taxable income pursuant to the debt-financed property rules. Furthermore, social clubs, voluntary employee benefit associations, supplemental unemployment benefit trusts, and qualified group legal services plans that are exempt from taxation under special provisions of the federal income tax laws are subject to different unrelated business taxable income rules, which generally will require them to characterize distributions that they receive from Mid-America as unrelated business taxable income. Finally, in certain circumstances, a qualified employee pension or profit sharing trust that owns more than 10% of Mid-America's stock is required to treat a percentage of the dividends that it receives from Mid-America as unrelated business taxable income. Such percentage is equal to the gross income Mid-America derives from an unrelated trade or business (determined as if it were a pension trust) divided by its total gross income for the year in which it pays the dividends. That rule applies to a pension trust holding more than 10% of Mid-America's stock only if:

the percentage of its dividends that the tax-exempt trust must treat as unrelated business taxable income is at least 5%;

Mid-America qualifies as a REIT by reason of the modification of the rule requiring that no more than 50% of Mid-America's shares be owned by five or fewer individuals that allows the beneficiaries of the pension trust to be treated as holding Mid-America's stock in proportion to their actuarial interests in the pension trust; and

either (1) one pension trust owns more than 25% of the value of Mid-America's stock or (2) a group of pension trusts individually holding more than 10% of the value of Mid-America's stock collectively owns more than 50% of the value of Mid-America's stock.

## **Taxation of Non-U.S. Shareholders**

The rules governing U.S. federal income taxation of nonresident alien individuals, foreign corporations, foreign partnerships, and other foreign shareholders (collectively, non-U.S. shareholders) are complex. This section is only a summary of such rules. We urge non-U.S. shareholders to consult their own tax advisors to determine the impact of federal, state, and local income tax laws on ownership of the Mid-America Preferred Stock, including any reporting requirements.

A non-U.S. shareholder that receives a distribution that is not attributable to gain from Mid-America's sale or exchange of U.S. real property interests (as defined below) and that Mid-America does not designate as a capital gain dividend or retained capital gain will recognize ordinary income to the extent that Mid-America pays such distribution out of our current or accumulated earnings and profits. A withholding tax equal to 30% of the gross amount of the distribution ordinarily will apply to such distribution unless an applicable tax treaty reduces or eliminates the tax or Mid-America elects to reduce the amount of withholding tax at the time the distribution is made to the extent the distribution is not made out of current or accumulated earnings and profits. However, if a distribution is treated as effectively connected with the non-U.S. shareholder's conduct of a U.S. trade or business, we will not withhold any tax and the non-U.S. shareholder generally will be subject to federal income tax on the distribution at graduated rates, in the same manner as U.S. shareholders are taxed with respect to such distributions and also may be subject to the 30% branch profits tax in the case of a non-U.S. shareholder that is a non-U.S. corporation. Mid-America plans to withhold U.S. income tax at the rate of 30% on the gross amount of any such distribution paid to a non-U.S. shareholder unless either:

a lower treaty rate applies and the non-U.S. shareholder files the required form evidencing eligibility for that reduced rate with Mid-America; or

the non-U.S. shareholder files an IRS Form 4224 with Mid-America claiming that the distribution is effectively connected income.

Edgar Filing: MID AMERICA APARTMENT COMMUNITIES INC - Form S-3/A

A non-U.S. shareholder will not incur tax on a distribution in excess of Mid-America's current and accumulated earnings and profits if such distribution does not exceed the adjusted basis of its Mid-America

## **Table of Contents**

Preferred Stock. Instead, such a distribution will reduce the adjusted basis of such Mid-America Preferred Stock. A non-U.S. shareholder will be subject to tax on a distribution that exceeds both Mid-America's current and accumulated earnings and profits and the adjusted basis of its Mid-America Preferred Stock, if the non-U.S. shareholder otherwise would be subject to tax on gain from the sale or disposition of its Mid-America Preferred Stock, as described below. Because Mid-America generally cannot determine at the time it makes a distribution whether or not the distribution will exceed its current and accumulated earnings and profits, it normally will withhold tax on the entire amount of any distribution at the same rate as it would withhold on a dividend. However, a non-U.S. shareholder may obtain a refund of amounts that Mid-America withholds if it later determines that a distribution in fact exceeded its current and accumulated earnings and profits.

Mid-America must withhold 10% of any distribution that exceeds our current and accumulated earnings and profits. Consequently, although we intend to withhold at a rate of 30% on the entire amount of any distribution, to the extent that we do not do so, we will withhold at a rate of 10% on any portion of a distribution not subject to withholding at a rate of 30%.

For any year in which Mid-America qualifies as a REIT, a non-U.S. shareholder will incur tax on distributions that are attributable to gain from our sale or exchange of U.S. real property interests under special provisions of the federal income tax laws known as FIRPTA. The term U.S. real property interests includes interests in real property and stock in corporations at least 50% of whose assets consists of interests in real property, but excludes mortgage loans. Under those rules, a non-U.S. shareholder is taxed on distributions attributable to gain from sales of U.S. real property interests as if such gain were effectively connected with a U.S. business of the non-U.S. shareholder. A non-U.S. shareholder would be taxed on such a distribution at the normal capital gain rates applicable to U.S. shareholders, subject to applicable alternative minimum tax and a special alternative minimum tax in the case of a nonresident alien individual. A non-U.S. corporate shareholder not entitled to treaty relief or exemption also may be subject to the 30% branch profits tax on such a distribution. Mid-America must withhold 35% of any distribution that it could designate as a capital gain dividend. A non-U.S. shareholder may receive a credit against its tax liability for the amount Mid-America withholds.

A non-U.S. shareholder generally will not incur tax under FIRPTA on gain from the sale of its Mid-America Preferred Stock as long as at all times non-U.S. persons hold, directly or indirectly, less than 50% in value of Mid-America's stock. We cannot assure you that that test will be met. However, a non-U.S. shareholder that owned, actually or constructively, 5% or less of the Mid-America Preferred Stock at all times during a specified testing period will not incur tax under FIRPTA upon the sale of its Mid-America Preferred Stock if the Mid-America Preferred Stock is regularly traded on an established securities market. Because it is expected that the Mid-America Preferred Stock will be regularly traded on an established securities market, a non-U.S. shareholder should not incur tax under FIRPTA with respect to a gain on sale of the Mid-America Preferred Stock unless it owns, actually or constructively, more than 5% of such stock. If the gain on the sale of the Mid-America Preferred Stock were taxed under those provisions, a non-U.S. shareholder would be taxed in the same manner as U.S. shareholders with respect to such gain, subject to applicable alternative minimum tax, a special alternative minimum tax in the case of nonresident alien individuals, and the possible application of the 30% branch profits tax in the case of non-U.S. corporations. Furthermore, a non-U.S. shareholder will incur tax on gain not subject to FIRPTA if (1) the gain is effectively connected with the non-U.S. shareholder's U.S. trade or business, in which case the non-U.S. shareholder will be subject to the same treatment as U.S. shareholders with respect to such gain, or (2) the non-U.S. shareholder is a nonresident alien individual who was present in the U.S. 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. shareholder will incur a 30% tax on his capital gains.

## **Other Tax Considerations**

### *State and Local Taxes*

Both Mid-America and you may be subject to state and local tax in various states and localities, including those states and localities in which Mid-America or you transact business, own property, or reside. The state and





## Table of Contents

local tax treatment in such jurisdictions may differ from the federal income tax treatment described above. Consequently, you should consult your own tax advisor regarding the effect of state and local tax laws upon an investment in the common stock.

### *Tax Aspects of Mid-America's Investments in Mid-America Apartments, L.P. and Subsidiary Partnerships*

The following discussion summarizes certain federal income tax considerations applicable to our direct or indirect investments in Mid-America Apartments, L.P. and its subsidiary partnerships (each individually a Partnership and, collectively, the Partnerships). The discussion does not cover state or local tax laws or any federal tax laws other than income tax laws.

### *Classification as Partnerships*

Mid-America is entitled to include in its income its distributive share of each Partnership's income and to deduct its distributive share of each Partnership's losses only if the Partnerships are classified for federal income tax purposes as partnerships rather than as corporations or associations taxable as corporations. An organization will be classified as a partnership, rather than as a corporation, for federal income tax purposes if it (1) is treated as a partnership under Treasury Regulations, effective January 1, 1997, relating to entity classification (the check-the-box regulations) and (2) is not a publicly traded partnership.

Under the check-the-box regulations, an unincorporated entity with at least two members may elect to be classified either as an association taxable as a corporation or as a partnership. If such an entity fails to make an election, it generally will be treated as a partnership for federal income tax purposes. The federal income tax classification of an entity that was in existence prior to January 1, 1997, such as the Partnerships, will be respected for all periods prior to January 1, 1997 if:

the entity had a reasonable basis for its claimed classification;

the entity and all members of the entity recognized the federal tax consequences of any changes in the entity's classification within the 60 months prior to January 1, 1997; and

neither the entity nor any member of the entity was notified in writing by a taxing authority on or before May 8, 1996 that the classification of the entity was under examination.

Each Partnership reasonably claimed partnership classification under the Treasury Regulations relating to entity classification in effect prior to January 1, 1997. In addition, the Partnerships intend to continue to be classified as partnerships for federal income tax purposes, and no Partnership will elect to be treated as an association taxable as a corporation under the check-the-box regulations.

A publicly traded partnership is a partnership whose interests are traded on an established securities market or are readily tradable on a secondary market or the substantial equivalent thereof. A publicly traded partnership will not, however, be treated as a corporation for any taxable year if 90% or more of the partnership's gross income for such year consists of certain passive-type income, including real property rents, gains from the sale or other disposition of real property, interest, and dividends (the 90% passive income exception).

Treasury regulations (the PTP regulations ) provide limited safe harbors from the definition of a publicly traded partnership. Pursuant to one of those safe harbors (the private placement exclusion ), interests in a partnership will not be treated as readily tradable on a secondary market or the substantial equivalent thereof if (1) all interests in the partnership were issued in a transaction (or transactions) that was not required to be registered under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and (2) the partnership does not have more than 100 partners at any time during the partnership's taxable year. In determining the number of partners in a partnership, a person owning an interest in a partnership, grantor trust, or S corporation that owns an interest in the partnership is treated as a partner in such partnership only if (1) substantially all of the value of the owner's

## **Table of Contents**

interest in the entity is attributable to the entity's direct or indirect interest in the partnership and (2) a principal purpose of the use of the entity is to permit the partnership to satisfy the 100-partner limitation. Each Partnership qualifies for the private placement exclusion.

If a Partnership is considered a publicly traded partnership under the PTP regulations because it is deemed to have more than 100 partners, such Partnership should not be treated as a corporation because it should be eligible for the 90% passive income exception. If, however, for any reason a Partnership were taxable as a corporation, rather than as a partnership, for federal income tax purposes, Mid-America would not be able to qualify as a REIT. See Requirements for Qualification Income Tests and Requirements for Qualification Asset Tests. In addition, any change in a Partnership's status for tax purposes might be treated as a taxable event, in which case Mid-America might incur tax liability without any related cash distribution. See Requirements for Qualification Distribution Requirements. Further, items of income and deduction of such Partnership would not pass through to its partners, and its partners would be treated as shareholders for tax purposes. Consequently, such Partnership would be required to pay income tax at corporate tax rates on its net income, and distributions to its partners would constitute dividends that would not be deductible in computing such Partnership's taxable income.

## **Taxation of Holders of Most Fixed Rate Debt Securities**

This section describes the material United States federal income tax consequences of owning the fixed rate debt securities that we may offer for your general information only. It is not tax advice. It applies to you only if the fixed rate debt securities that you purchase are not original issue discount or zero coupon debt securities and you acquire the fixed rate debt securities in the initial offering at the offering price. If you purchase these fixed rate debt securities at a price other than the offering price, the amortizable bond premium or market discount rules may also apply to you. You should consult your own tax advisor regarding this possibility.

The tax consequences of owning any fixed rate debt securities that are zero coupon debt securities or original issue discount debt securities, floating rate debt securities, zero coupon debt securities, original issue debt securities, or indexed debt securities that we offer will be discussed in the applicable prospectus supplement.

## **United States Debt Security Holders**

This subsection describes the tax consequences to a United States debt security holder. You are a United States debt security holder if you are a beneficial owner of a fixed rate debt security to which this section applies and you are:

a citizen or resident of the United States,

a domestic corporation,

an estate whose income is subject to United States federal income tax regardless of its source, or a trust if a United States court can exercise primary supervision over the trust's administration and one or more United States persons are authorized to control all substantial decisions of the trust.

## Edgar Filing: MID AMERICA APARTMENT COMMUNITIES INC - Form S-3/A

If you are not a United States debt security holder of a fixed rate debt security to which this section applies, this subsection does not apply to you and you should refer to **United States Alien Debt Security Holders** below.

### **Payments of Interest**

You will be taxed on interest on your fixed rate debt security as ordinary income at the time you receive the interest or when it accrues, depending on your method of accounting for tax purposes.

### **Purchase, Sale and Retirement of Fixed Rate Debt Securities**

Your tax basis in your fixed rate debt security generally will be its cost. You will generally recognize capital gain or loss on the sale or retirement of your note equal to the difference between the amount you realize on the

**Table of Contents**

sale or retirement, excluding any amounts attributable to accrued but unpaid interest, and your tax basis in your note. Capital gain of a noncorporate United States debt security holder is generally taxed at preferential rates where the holder has a holding period greater than one year.

**United States Alien Debt Security Holders**

This subsection describes the tax consequences to a United States alien debt security holder. You are a United States alien debt security holder if you are the beneficial owner of a fixed rate debt security to which this section applies and are, for United States federal income tax purposes:

a nonresident alien individual,

a foreign corporation,

a foreign partnership, or

an estate or trust that in either case is not subject to United States federal income tax on a net income basis on income or gain from a debt security.

If you are a United States debt security holder, this subsection does not apply to you.

Under United States federal income and estate tax law, and subject to the discussion of backup withholding below, if you are a United States alien debt security holder:

we and other U.S. payors generally will not be required to deduct United States withholding tax from payments of principal and interest to you if, in the case of payments of interest:

1. you do not actually or constructively own 10% or more of the capital or profits interest of Mid-America;
2. you are not a controlled foreign corporation that is related to Mid-America through stock ownership; and
3. the U.S. payor does not have actual knowledge or reason to know that you are a United States person and:
  - a. you have furnished to the U.S. payor an Internal Revenue Service Form W-8BEN or an acceptable substitute form upon which you certify, under penalties of perjury, that you are a non-United States person,

b. in the case of payments made outside the United States to you at an offshore account (generally, an account maintained by you at a bank or other financial institution at any location outside the United States), you have furnished to the U.S. payor documentation that establishes your identity and your status as a non-United States person,

c. the U.S. payor has received a withholding certificate (furnished on an appropriate Internal Revenue Service Form W-8 or an acceptable substitute form) from a person claiming to be:

i. a withholding foreign partnership (generally a foreign partnership that has entered into an agreement with the Internal Revenue Service to assume primary withholding responsibility with respect to distributions and guaranteed payments it makes to its partners),

ii. a qualified intermediary (generally a non-United States financial institution or clearing organization or a non-United States branch or office of a United States financial institution or clearing organization that is a party to a withholding agreement with the Internal Revenue Service), or

iii. a U.S. branch of a non-United States bank or of a non-United States insurance company, and the withholding foreign partnership, qualified intermediary or U.S. branch has received documentation upon which it may rely to treat the payment as made to a non-United States person in accordance with U.S. Treasury regulations (or, in the case of a qualified intermediary, in accordance with its agreement with the Internal Revenue Service),

**Table of Contents**

d. the U.S. payor receives a statement from a securities clearing organization, bank or other financial institution that holds customers' securities in the ordinary course of its trade or business,

i. certifying to the U.S. payor under penalties of perjury that an Internal Revenue Service Form W-8BEN or an acceptable substitute form has been received from you by it or by a similar financial institution between it and you, and

ii. to which is attached a copy of the Internal Revenue Service Form W-8BEN or acceptable substitute form, or

4. the U.S. payor otherwise possesses documentation upon which it may rely to treat the payment as made to a non-United States person in accordance with U.S. Treasury regulations, and no deduction for any United States federal withholding tax will be made from any gain that you realize on the sale or exchange of your note.

Further, a fixed rate debt security held by an individual who at death is not a citizen or resident of the United States will not be includible in the individual's gross estate for United States federal estate tax purposes if:

the decedent did not actually or constructively own 10% or more of the capital or profits interest of Mid-America at the time of death; and

the income on the fixed rate debt security would not have been effectively connected with a United States trade or business of the decedent at the same time.

**Backup Withholding and Information Reporting**

In general, if you are a noncorporate United States debt security holder, we and other payors are required to report to the Internal Revenue Service all payments of principal and interest on your fixed rate debt security. In addition, we and other payors are required to report to the Internal Revenue Service any payment of proceeds of the sale of your fixed rate debt security before maturity within the United States. Additionally, backup withholding will apply to any payments if you fail to provide an accurate taxpayer identification number, or you are notified by the Internal Revenue Service that you have failed to report all interest and dividends required to be shown on your federal income tax returns.

In general, if you are a United States alien debt security holder, payments of principal or interest made by us and other payors to you will not be subject to backup withholding and information reporting, provided that the certification requirements described above under "United States Alien Debt Security Holders" are satisfied or you otherwise establish an exemption. However, we and other payors are required to report payments of interest on your fixed rate debt securities on Internal Revenue Service Form 1042-S even if the payments are not otherwise subject to information reporting requirements. In addition, payment of the proceeds from the sale of fixed rate debt securities effected at a United States office of a broker will not be subject to backup withholding and information reporting provided that:



## Edgar Filing: MID AMERICA APARTMENT COMMUNITIES INC - Form S-3/A

the broker does not have actual knowledge or reason to know that you are a United States person and you have furnished to the broker:

an appropriate Internal Revenue Service Form W-8 or an acceptable substitute form upon which you certify, under penalties of perjury, that you are not a United States person, or

other documentation upon which it may rely to treat the payment as made to a non-United States person in accordance with U.S. Treasury regulations, or

you otherwise establish an exemption.

If you fail to establish an exemption and the broker does not possess adequate documentation of your status as a non-United States person, the payments may be subject to information reporting and backup withholding. However, backup withholding will not apply with respect to payments made to an offshore account maintained by you unless the broker has actual knowledge that you are a United States person.

## **Table of Contents**

In general, payment of the proceeds from the sale of fixed rate debt securities effected at a foreign office of a broker will not be subject to information reporting or backup withholding. However, a sale effected at a foreign office of a broker will be subject to information reporting and backup withholding if:

the proceeds are transferred to an account maintained by you in the United States,

the payment of proceeds or the confirmation of the sale is mailed to you at a United States address, or

the sale has some other specified connection with the United States as provided in U.S. Treasury regulations, unless the broker does not have actual knowledge or reason to know that you are a United States person and the documentation requirements described above (relating to a sale of debt securities effected at a United States office of a broker) are met or you otherwise establish an exemption.

In addition, payment of the proceeds from the sale of fixed rate debt securities effected at a foreign office of a broker will be subject to information reporting if the broker is:

a United States person,

a controlled foreign corporation for United States tax purposes,

a foreign person 50% or more of whose gross income is effectively connected with the conduct of a United States trade or business for a specified three-year period, or

a foreign partnership, if at any time during its tax year:

one or more of its partners are U.S. persons, as defined in U.S. Treasury regulations, who in the aggregate hold more than 50% of the income or capital interest in the partnership, or

such foreign partnership is engaged in the conduct of a United States trade or business, unless the broker does not have actual knowledge or reason to know that you are a United States person and the documentation requirements described above (relating to a sale of debt securities effected at a United States office of a broker) are met or you otherwise establish an exemption. Backup withholding will apply if the sale is subject to information reporting and the broker has actual knowledge that you are a United States person.

You generally may obtain a refund of any amounts withheld under the backup withholding rules that exceed your income tax liability by filing a refund claim with the Internal Revenue Service.

## **Income Taxation of the Partnerships and their Partners**

## Edgar Filing: MID AMERICA APARTMENT COMMUNITIES INC - Form S-3/A

*Partners, Not the Partnerships, Subject to Federal Tax.*

A partnership is not a taxable entity for federal income tax purposes. Rather, Mid-America is required to take into account its allocable share of each Partnership's income, gains, losses, deductions, and credits for any taxable year of such Partnership ending within or with the taxable year of Mid-America, without regard to whether Mid-America has received or will receive any distribution from such Partnership.

*Partnership Allocations.*

Although a partnership agreement generally will determine the allocation of income and losses among partners, such allocations will be disregarded for tax purposes if they do not comply with the provisions of the federal income tax laws governing partnership allocations. If an allocation is not recognized for federal income tax purposes, the item subject to the allocation will be reallocated in accordance with the partners' interests in the partnership, which will be determined by taking into account all of the facts and circumstances relating to the economic arrangement of the partners with respect to such item. Each Partnership's allocations of taxable income, gain, and loss are intended to comply with the requirements of the federal income tax laws governing partnership allocations.

## **Table of Contents**

### *Tax Allocations With Respect to Contributed Properties.*

Income, gain, loss, and deduction attributable to appreciated or depreciated property that is contributed to a partnership in exchange for an interest in the partnership must be allocated in a manner such that the contributing partner is charged with, or benefits from, respectively, the unrealized gain or unrealized loss associated with the property at the time of the contribution. The amount of such unrealized gain or unrealized loss is generally equal to the difference between the fair market value of contributed property at the time of contribution, and the adjusted tax basis of such property at the time of contribution (a book-tax difference). Such allocations are solely for federal income tax purposes and do not affect the book capital accounts or other economic or legal arrangements among the partners. Mid-America Apartments, L.P. was formed by way of contributions of appreciated property and has received contributions of appreciated property since Mid-America's initial public offering. Mid-America Apartments L.P.'s partnership agreement requires such allocations to be made in a manner consistent with the federal income tax laws governing partnership allocations.

In general, the carryover basis of the facilities contributed by Mid-America to Mid-America Apartments, L.P. will cause Mid-America to be allocated lower depreciation and other deductions, and possibly amounts of taxable income, in the event of a sale of such a facility, in excess of the economic or book income allocated to it as a result of such sale. While these adjustments will tend to eliminate the book-tax differences over the life of the Partnership, the federal income tax laws governing partnership allocations do not always entirely rectify the book-tax difference on an annual basis or with respect to a specific taxable transaction such as a sale. Therefore, elimination of book-tax differences with respect to the facilities contributed by Mid-America may cause Mid-America to recognize taxable income in excess of its proportionate share of the cash proceeds, which might adversely affect Mid-America's ability to comply with the REIT distribution requirements. See Requirements for Qualification Distribution Requirements.

Under the partnership agreement of Mid-America Apartments, L.P., depreciation or amortization deductions of Mid-America Apartments, L.P. generally will be allocated among the partners in accordance with their respective interests in Mid-America Apartments, L.P., except to the extent that Mid-America Apartments, L.P. is required under the federal income tax laws governing partnership allocations to use a method for allocating tax depreciation deductions attributable to contributed properties that results in Mid-America receiving a disproportionate share of such deductions. In addition, gain on sale of a facility that has been contributed (in whole or in part) to Mid-America Apartments, L.P. will be specially allocated to the contributing partners to the extent of any built-in gain with respect to such facility for federal income tax purposes.

### *Basis in Partnership Interest.*

Mid-America's adjusted tax basis in its partnership interest in Mid-America Apartments, L.P. generally is (1) equal to the amount of cash and the basis of any other property contributed to Mid-America Apartments, L.P. by Mid-America, (2) increased by (A) its allocable share of Mid-America Apartments, L.P.'s income and (B) its allocable share of indebtedness of Mid-America Apartments, L.P., and (3) reduced, but not below zero, by (A) Mid-America's allocable share of Mid-America Apartments, L.P.'s loss and (B) the amount of cash distributed to Mid-America, and by any constructive distributions resulting from a reduction in Mid-America's share of indebtedness of Mid-America Apartments, L.P.

If the allocation of Mid-America's distributive share of Mid-America Apartments, L.P.'s loss would reduce the adjusted tax basis of Mid-America's partnership interest in Mid-America Apartments, L.P. below zero, the recognition of such loss will be deferred until such time as the recognition of such loss would not reduce Mid-America's adjusted tax basis below zero. To the extent that Mid-America Apartments, L.P.'s distributions, or any decrease in Mid-America's share of the indebtedness of Mid-America Apartments, L.P. (such decrease being considered a constructive cash distribution to the partners), would reduce Mid-America's adjusted tax basis below zero, such distributions (including such constructive distributions) would constitute taxable income to Mid-America. Such distributions and constructive distributions normally will be characterized as capital gain,



## **Table of Contents**

and, if Mid-America's partnership interest in Mid-America Apartments, L.P. has been held for longer than the long-term capital gain holding period (currently one year), the distributions and constructive distributions will constitute long-term capital gain.

### *Sale of a Partnership's Property*

Generally, any gain realized by a Partnership on the sale of property held by the Partnership for more than one year will be long-term capital gain, except for any portion of such gain that is treated as depreciation or cost recovery recapture. Any gain recognized by a Partnership on the disposition of contributed properties will be allocated first to the partners of the Partnership to the extent of their built-in gain on those properties for federal income tax purposes. The partners' built-in gain on the contributed properties sold will equal the excess of the partners' proportionate share of the book value of those properties over the partners' tax basis allocable to those properties at the time of the sale. Any remaining gain recognized by the Partnership on the disposition of the contributed properties, and any gain recognized by the Partnership on the disposition of the other properties, will be allocated among the partners in accordance with their respective percentage interests in the Partnership.

Mid-America's share of any gain realized by a Partnership on the sale of any property held by the Partnership as inventory or other property held primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of the Partnership's trade or business will be treated as income from a prohibited transaction that is subject to a 100% penalty tax. Such prohibited transaction income also may have an adverse effect upon Mid-America's ability to satisfy the income tests for REIT status. See Requirements for Qualification Income Tests. Mid-America, however, does not presently intend to allow any Partnership to acquire or hold any property that represents inventory or other property held primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of Mid-America's or such Partnership's trade or business.

### **Taxable REIT Subsidiaries**

Mid-America may own up to 100% of the stock of one or more TRSs. A TRS is a fully taxable corporation that may earn income that would not be qualifying income if earned directly by Mid-America. A TRS may provide services to Mid-America's apartment communities and perform activities unrelated to those apartment communities, such as third-party management, development, and other independent business activities. Under the Code, a TRS may not directly or indirectly operate or manage any hotels or health care facilities or provide rights to any brand name under which any hotel or health care facility is operated. For this purpose, a health care facility means a hospital, nursing facility, assisted living facility, congregate care facility, qualified continuing care facility, or other licensed facility which extends medical or nursing or ancillary services to patients and which is operated by a service provider which is eligible for participation in the Medicare program under title XVIII of the Social Security Act with respect to such facility.

Mid-America and its subsidiary must jointly elect for the subsidiary to be treated as a TRS. A corporation of which a qualifying TRS directly or indirectly owns more than 35% of the voting power or value of the stock will automatically be treated as a TRS. Overall, no more than 20% of the value of Mid-America's assets may consist of securities of one or more TRSs, and no more than 25% of the value of its assets may consist of the securities of TRSs and other non-TRS taxable subsidiaries and other assets that are not qualifying assets for purposes of the 75% asset test.

Rent that Mid-America receives from any TRS will qualify as rents from real property as long as at least 90% of the leased space in the property is leased to persons other than TRSs and related party tenants, and the amount paid by the TRS to rent space at the property is substantially comparable to rents paid by other tenants of the property for comparable space. The TRS rules limit the deductibility of interest paid or accrued by a TRS to Mid-America 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 Mid-America or its tenants that are not conducted on an arm's-length basis. Mid-America does not currently have any TRSs, but it may acquire or form one or more TRSs in the future.



**Table of Contents**

**PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION**

We may sell the Offered Securities to one or more underwriters or dealers for public offering and sale by them, or we may sell the Offered Securities to investors directly or through designated agents. Any such underwriter, dealer or agent involved in the offer and sale of the Offered Securities will be named in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Underwriters may offer and sell the Offered Securities at a fixed price or prices, which may be changed, or from time to time at market prices prevailing at the time of sale, at prices related to such prevailing market prices or at negotiated prices. We also may, from time to time, authorize underwriters acting as agents to offer and sell the Offered Securities upon the terms and conditions set forth in any Prospectus Supplement. Underwriters may sell the Offered Securities to or through dealers, and such dealers may receive compensation in the form of discounts, concessions or commissions (which may be changed from time to time) from the underwriters and/or from the purchasers for whom they may act as agent.

Any underwriting compensation paid by us to underwriters or agents in connection with the offering of the Offered Securities and any discounts, concessions or commissions allowed by underwriters to participating dealers will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Underwriters, dealers and agents participating in the distribution of the Offered Securities may be deemed to be underwriters, and any discounts and commissions received by them from us or from purchasers of the Offered Securities and any profit realized by them on resale of the Offered Securities may be deemed to be underwriting discounts and commissions under the Securities Act. Underwriters, dealers and agents may be entitled, under agreements entered into with us, to indemnification against and contribution toward certain civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act.

Offers to purchase the Securities may be solicited by agents designated by us from time to time. Any such agent involved in the offer or sale of the Securities will be named, and any commissions payable by the company to such agent will be set forth in the prospectus supplement. Unless otherwise indicated in the prospectus supplement, any such agent will be acting on a best efforts basis for the period of its appointment. Any such agent may be deemed to be an underwriter, as that term is defined in the Securities Act, of the Securities so offered and sold.

If an underwriter or underwriters are utilized in the sale of Offered Securities, we will execute an underwriting agreement with such underwriter or underwriters at the time an agreement for such sale is reached, and the names of the specific managing underwriter or underwriters, as well as any other underwriters, and the terms of the transactions, including compensation of the underwriters and dealers, if any, will be set forth in the prospectus supplement, which will be used by the underwriters to make resales of the Offered Securities.

If a dealer is utilized in the sale of the Offered Securities, we will sell such Offered Securities to the dealer, as principal. The dealer may then resell such Offered Securities to the public at varying prices to be determined by such dealer at the time of resale. The name of the dealer and the terms of the transactions will be set forth in the prospectus supplement relating thereto.

Offers to purchase the securities may be solicited directly by us and sales thereof may be made by us directly to institutional investors or others. The terms of any such sales, including the terms of any bidding or auction prices, if utilized, will be described in the prospectus supplement relating thereto.



## Edgar Filing: MID AMERICA APARTMENT COMMUNITIES INC - Form S-3/A

Agents, underwriters and dealers may be entitled under agreements which may be entered into with us to indemnification by us against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act, and any such agents, underwriters or dealers, or their affiliates may be customers of, engage in transactions with or perform services for we in the ordinary course of business.

## **Table of Contents**

If so indicated in the prospectus supplement, we will authorize agents and underwriters to solicit offers by certain institutions to purchase debt securities from us at the public offering price set forth in the prospectus supplement pursuant to Delayed Delivery Contracts ( Contracts ) providing for payment and delivery on the date stated in the prospectus supplement. Such Contracts will be subject to only those conditions set forth in the prospectus supplement. Each Contract will be for an amount not less than, and the principal amount of Offered Securities sold pursuant to Contracts shall not be less nor more than, the respective amounts stated in such prospectus supplement. Institutions with which Contracts, when authorized, may be made include commercial and savings banks, insurance companies, pension funds, investment companies, educational and charitable institutions and other institutions, but will in all cases be subject to our approval. Contracts will not be subject to any conditions except (i) the purchase by an institution of the Offered Securities covered by its Contract shall not at the time of delivery be prohibited under the laws of any jurisdiction in the United States to which such institution is subject and (ii) we shall have sold to such underwriters the total principal amount of the Offered Securities less the principal amount thereof covered by Contracts. A commission indicated in the prospectus supplement will be paid to underwriters and agents soliciting purchases of debt securities pursuant to Contracts accepted by us.

## **EXPERTS**

The consolidated financial statements and financial statement schedule of Mid-America Apartment Communities, Inc. and Subsidiaries as of December 31, 2003 and 2002, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2003, have been incorporated by reference herein and in the registration statement in reliance upon the reports of KPMG LLP, independent accountants, appearing elsewhere incorporated by reference herein, and upon the authority of said firm as experts in accounting and auditing. The audit reports covering the December 31, 2003 and 2002 consolidated financial statements refers to the Company's adoption of Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 145, *Recission of FASB statements No. 4, 44, and 64, Amendment of FASB Statement No. 13, and Technical Corrections*.

## **LEGAL MATTERS**

The validity of the issuance of the Offered Securities offered pursuant to this Prospectus or any Prospectus Supplement will be passed upon for Mid-America by Bass, Berry & Sims PLC, Memphis, Tennessee. In addition, the description of federal income tax consequences contained in the section of the Prospectus entitled *Federal Income Tax Considerations* is based on the opinion of Bass, Berry & Sims PLC.

**Table of Contents**

**Table of Contents****PART II****INFORMATION NOT REQUIRED IN PROSPECTUS****Item 14. Other Expenses of Issuance and Distribution.**

The expenses to be paid by us in connection with the distribution of the securities being registered are as set forth in the following table:

Securities and Exchange Commission Fee	\$ 25,340
*Printing and Engraving Expenses	\$ 24,550
*Legal Fees and Expenses	\$ 40,000
*Accounting Fees and Expenses	\$ 40,000
*New York Stock Exchange Fees	\$ 25,000
*Trustee fees	\$ 30,000
*Miscellaneous	\$ 15,000
*Total	\$ 199,890

\* Estimated.

**Item 15. Indemnification of Directors and Officers.**

The Charter of the Company, generally, limits the liability of the Company's directors and officers to the Company and the shareholders for money damages to the fullest extent permitted from time to time by the laws of Tennessee. The Charter also provides, generally, for the indemnification of directors and officers, among others, against judgments, settlements, penalties, fines, and reasonable expenses actually incurred by them in connection with any proceeding to which they may be made a party by reason of their service in those or other capacities except in connection with a proceeding by or in the right of the Company in which the director was adjudged liable to the Company or in connection with any other proceeding charging a personal benefit was improperly received by him. Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act of 1933 (the "Securities Act") may be permitted to directors and officers of the Company pursuant to the foregoing provisions or otherwise, the Company has been advised that, in the opinion of the Securities and Exchange Commission, such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act, and is, therefore, unenforceable.

## Edgar Filing: MID AMERICA APARTMENT COMMUNITIES INC - Form S-3/A

The Company intends to purchase director and officer liability insurance for the purpose of providing a source of funds to pay any indemnification described above.

### ITEM 16. Exhibits.

(a) The following exhibits are filed herewith or incorporated herein by reference:

#### Exhibit Index

<b>Exhibit</b>	
<b>Numbers</b>	<b>Exhibit Description</b>
1.1!	Form of Underwriting Agreement (for Common Stock)
1.2!	Form of Underwriting Agreement (for Preferred Stock)
1.3!	Form of Underwriting Agreement (for Debt Securities)
1.4!	Form of Underwriting Agreement (for Depositary Shares)

II-1

**Table of Contents**

**Exhibit**

<b>Numbers</b>	<b>Exhibit Description</b>
3.1+	Amended and Restated Charter of Mid-America Apartment Communities, Inc. dated as of January 10, 1994, as filed with the Tennessee Secretary of State on January 25, 1994
3.2*****	Articles of Amendment to the Charter of Mid-America Apartment Communities, Inc. dated as of January 28, 1994, as filed with the Tennessee Secretary of State on January 28, 1994
3.3**	Mid-America Apartment Communities, Inc. Articles of Amendment to the Amended and Restated Charter Designating and Fixing the Rights and Preferences of a Series of Preferred Stock dated as of October 9, 1996, as filed with the Tennessee Secretary of State on October 10, 1996
3.4*****	Mid-America Apartment Communities, Inc. Articles of Amendment to the Amended and Restated Charter dated November 17, 1997, as filed with the Tennessee Secretary of State on November 18, 1997
3.5***	Mid-America Apartment Communities, Inc. Articles of Amendment to the Amended and Restated Charter Designating and Fixing the Rights and Preferences of a Series of Shares of Preferred Stock dated as of November 17, 1997, as filed with the Tennessee Secretary of State on November 18, 1997
3.6****	Mid-America Apartment Communities, Inc. Articles of Amendment to the Amended and Restated Charter Designating and Fixing the Rights and Preferences of a Series of Shares of Preferred Stock dated as of June 26, 1998, as filed with the Tennessee Secretary of State on June 30, 1998
3.7	Mid-America Apartment Communities, Inc. Articles of Amendment to the Amended and Restated Charter Designating and Fixing the Rights and Preferences of A Series of Shares of Preferred Stock dated as of December 24, 1998, as filed with the Tennessee Secretary of State on December 30, 1998
3.8*****	Mid-America Apartment Communities, Inc. Articles of Amendment to the Amended and Restated Charter Designating and Fixing the Rights and Preferences of a Series of Shares of Preferred Stock dated as of October 11, 2002, as filed with the Tennessee Secretary of State on October 14, 2002
3.9	Mid-America Apartment Communities, Inc. Articles of Amendment to the Amended and Restated Charter Designating and Fixing the Rights and Preferences of a Series of Shares of Preferred Stock dated as of October 28, 2002, as filed with the Tennessee Secretary of State on October 28, 2002
3.10	Mid-America Apartment Communities, Inc. Articles of Amendment to the Amended and Restated Charter Designating and Fixing the Rights and Preferences of a Series of Shares of Preferred Stock dated as of August 7, 2003, as filed with the Tennessee Secretary of State on August 7, 2003
3.11*	Bylaws of Mid-America Apartment Communities, Inc.
4.1+	Form of Common Share Certificate
4.2**	Form of 9.5% Series A Cumulative Preferred Stock Certificate
4.3***	Form of 8 7/8% Series B Cumulative Preferred Stock Certificate
4.4****	Form of 9 3/8% Series C Cumulative Preferred Stock Certificate
4.5	Form of 9.5% Series E Cumulative Preferred Stock Certificate
4.6*****	Form of 9 1/4% Series F Cumulative Preferred Stock Certificate
4.7	Form of 8.30% Series G Cumulative Preferred Stock Certificate
4.8	Form of 8.30% Series H Cumulative Preferred Stock Certificate

**Table of Contents**

<b>Exhibit</b>	
<b>Numbers</b>	<b>Exhibit Description</b>
4.9+++	Shareholder Protection Rights Agreement dated March 1, 1999
4.10!	Form of Debt Security
4.11!	Form of Preferred Share Certificate
4.12!	Form of Depositary Share
4.13!	Form of Depositary Receipt
4.14!	Form of Depositary Agreement
4.15!	Form of Indenture governing the Debt Securities
5.1@	Opinion of Bass, Berry & Sims PLC Regarding Legality
8.1@	Opinion of Bass, Berry & Sims PLC Regarding Certain Tax Matters
10.1####	Second Amended and Restated Agreement of Limited Partnership of Mid-America Apartments, L.P., a Tennessee limited partnership
10.2+++	Employment Agreement between the Registrant and H. Eric Bolton, Jr.
10.3+++	Employment Agreement between the Registrant and Simon R.C. Wadsworth
10.4#	Fourth Amended and Restated 1994 Restricted Stock and Stock Option Plan
10.5+++	Revolving Credit Agreement (Amended and Restated) between the Registrant and AmSouth Bank dated March 16, 1998
10.6+++	Sixth Amendment to Revolving Credit Agreement between the Registrant and AmSouth Bank dated November 12, 1999
10.8##	Seventh Amendment to Revolving Credit Agreement between the Registrant and AmSouth Bank dated July 21, 2000
10.9###	Eighth Amendment to Revolving Credit Agreement between the Registrant and AmSouth Bank dated April 19, 2001
10.10	AmSouth Revolving Credit Agreement (Amendment and Restated) dated July 17, 2003
10.11+++	Master Credit Facility Agreement between the Registrant and WMF Washington Mortgage Corp. dated November 10, 1999
10.12	Amended and Restated Master Credit Facility Agreement by and among Prudential Multifamily Mortgage, Inc., Mid-America Apartment Communities, Inc. and Mid-America Apartments, L.P., dated December 10, 2003
10.13	First Amendment to Amended and Restated Master Credit Facility Agreement by and among Prudential Multifamily Mortgage, Inc., Mid-America Apartment Communities, Inc. and Mid-America Apartments, L.P., dated December 11, 2003
10.14	Second Amended and Restated Master Credit Facility Agreement by and among Prudential Multifamily Mortgage, Inc., Mid-America Apartment Communities, Inc., Mid-America Apartments, L.P. and Mid-America Apartments of Texas, L.P., dated December 10, 2003
10.15+	Note Purchase Agreement of the Operating Partnership and the Registrant and Prudential Insurance Company of America
10.16+	Amendment 1 to Note Purchase Agreement of the Operating Partnership and the Registrant and Prudential Insurance Company of America

**Table of Contents**

**Exhibit**

<b>Numbers</b>	<b>Exhibit Description</b>
10.17	Master Reimbursement Agreement by and among Fannie Mae, Mid-America Apartments, L.P. and Fairways-Columbia, L.P. dated June 1, 2001
10.18	Amendment No. 1 to Master Reimbursement Agreement by and among Fannie Mae, Mid-America Apartments, L.P. and Fairways-Columbia, L.P. dated December 24, 2002
10.19	Amendment No. 2 to Master Reimbursement Agreement by and among Fannie Mae, Mid-America Apartments, L.P. and Fairways-Columbia, L.P. dated May 30, 2003
10.20	Amendment No. 3 to Master Reimbursement Agreement by and among Fannie Mae, Mid-America Apartments, L.P. and Fairways-Columbia, L.P. dated March 2, 2004.
12.1	Statement re: computation of ratios
21.1	List of Subsidiaries
23.1	Consent of KPMG LLP
23.2@	Consent of Bass, Berry & Sims PLC (included in Exhibit 5.1)
26.1!	Form T-1 Statement of Eligibility and Qualification

@	Previously filed.
!	To be filed by post-effective amendment or by a Current Report on Form 8-K.
!!	Filed as an exhibit to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on February 3, 2004.
*	Filed as an exhibit to the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-11/A (SEC File No. 33-69434) filed on January 21, 1994
**	Filed as Exhibit 1 to the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form 8-A filed with the Commission on October 11, 1996
***	Filed as Exhibit 4.1 to the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form 8-A filed with the Commission on October 11, 1996