

# Strategy Delivering Results 2019 Zelman Housing Summit

Boston, MA -- September 18, 2019

LIFE. BUILT. BETTER.

#### Forward-Looking Statements

This presentation and the accompanying comments during our analyst call contain forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Such statements include management's projected home closings, home closing revenue, home closing gross margin and diluted earnings per share.

Such statements are based on the current beliefs and expectations of Company management, and current market conditions, which are subject to significant uncertainties and fluctuations. Actual results may differ from those set forth in the forward-looking statements. The Company makes no commitment, and disclaims any duty, to update or revise any forward-looking statements to reflect future events or changes in these expectations, except as required by law. Meritage's business is subject to a number of risks and uncertainties. As a result of those risks and uncertainties, the Company's stock and note prices may fluctuate dramatically. These risks and uncertainties include, but are not limited to, the following: changes in interest rates and the availability and pricing of residential mortgages; legislation related to tariffs; the availability and cost of finished lots and undeveloped land; shortages in the availability and cost of labor; the success of strategic initiatives; the ability of our potential buyers to sell their existing homes; inflation in the cost of materials used to develop communities and construct homes; the adverse effect of slow absorption rates; impairments of our real estate inventory; cancellation rates; competition; changes in tax laws that adversely impact us or our homebuyers; a change to the feasibility of projects under option or contract that could result in the write-down or write-off of earnest or option deposits; our potential exposure to and impacts from natural disasters or severe weather conditions; home warranty and construction defect claims; failures in health and safety performance; our success in prevailing on contested tax positions; our ability to obtain performance and surety bonds in connection with our development work; the loss of key personnel; failure to comply with laws and regulations; our limited geographic diversification; fluctuations in quarterly operating results; our level of indebtedness; our ability to obtain financing if our credit ratings are downgraded; our ability to successfully integrate acquired companies and achieve anticipated benefits from these acquisitions; our compliance with government regulations, the effect of legislative and other governmental actions, orders, policies or initiatives that impact housing, labor availability, construction, mortgage availability, our access to capital, the cost of capital or the economy in general, or other initiatives that seek to restrain growth of new housing construction or similar measures; legislation relating to energy and climate change; the replication of our energy-efficient technologies by our competitors; our exposure to information technology failures and security breach; negative publicity that affects our reputation and other factors identified in documents filed by the Company with the Securities and Exchange Commission, including those set forth in our Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2018 and our Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2019 under the caption "Risk Factors," which can be found on our website at www.investors.meritagehomes.com.

### **Management Representatives**

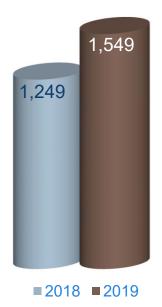
Steven J. Hilton - Chairman & CEO

Hilla Sferruzza – EVP & Chief Financial Officer

Brent Anderson – VP Investor Relations

### Strong order growth through August 2019

+24% July-August



#### Main Drivers

- Higher absorptions per community on slightly fewer communities
- Reflects a greater percentage of entry-level communities

### Strategic pivot ahead of most of our peers



Entry-level communities up to 41% from 34%



Entry-level orders up to 52% from 44%



Entry-level sales/community >50% higher than move-up

### MTH Key Investment Highlights

- + Strategic focus on high-demand entry-level and 1st move-up homes
- Reducing costs & improving margins through streamlining and simplifying products and processes
- Higher velocity in entry-level communities improves asset turnover and leverage
- + Improving operating results in East region (newer markets)

### We're addressing two huge markets with our entry-level and 1<sup>st</sup> move-up homes



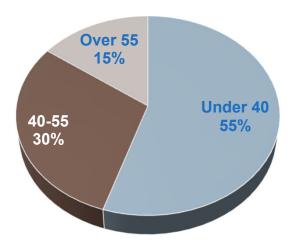
Millions of Millennials entering the market over the next decade in search of a new home



Millions of Baby-Boomers looking to move down and simplify their lives

### LiVE.NOW.® value appeals to all ages

LiVE.NOW. Sales by age group 2017-2Q19



- Moving toward 100% of communities being entry-level (LiVE.NOW.) or 1<sup>st</sup> move-up
  - 41% EL & 45% 1MU at 6/30/19 (<14% other)
- Over 50% of LiVE.NOW. are first-time buyers
  - Other half are a mixture of move-up, movedown or rebounders
- Only half have children living with them

LiVE.NOW. homes appeal equally well to all due to the great value we provide with a variety of sizes, floorplans & attractive elevations, upgraded finishes (granite, tile, LVT, stainless steel, etc), extreme energy efficiency & M.Connected Home.® Automation Suite – together with simplified, transparent & streamlined processes

Simplifying and streamlining to reduce costs and make purchasing a home easier

Deliver a simple, low stress, easier homebuying experience at a great value.

Streamline products and processes to drive down costs

### Right strategy + execution = results

	2Q19	2Q18	Y/Y	1H19	1H18	Y/Y
Orders	2,735	2,250	+22%	5,265	4,608	+14%
Avg Communities	257	253	+2%	263	249	+6%
Absorptions (orders/avg community)	10.6	8.9	+19%	20.0	18.5	+8%

Highest quarterly pace since 2Q06

#### Tenets / Goals



- Make all upgrade pricing transparent to the buyer
- Eliminate a la carte design studio processes
- Focus Upgrade Packages on functional areas that have high consumer value and high take rates
- Bundle Collections and Upgrades to drive option cost down and deliver significant value and higher margins
- Reduce Design Studio appointments to one

## Spec inventory allows us to capture demand and convert orders to closings more quickly



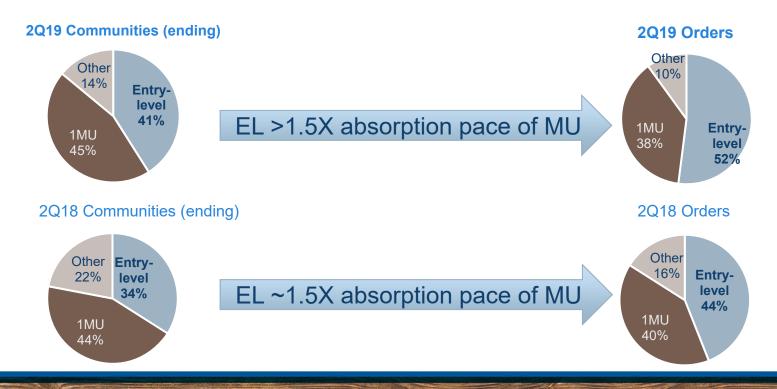


2Q18 Closings



(\$millions except ASP)	2Q19	2Q18	Y/Y %Chg	
Beginning backlog	3,198	3,508	-9%	
Spec inventory	2,406	2,323	4%	
Backlog conversion rate	70%	61%	+900 bps	
Home closings	2,253	2,139	+5%	
ASP (closings)	\$383K	\$408K	-6%	
Home closing revenue	\$863.1	\$872.4	-1%	

### Higher absorptions in entry-level & 1<sup>st</sup> move-up communities driving order growth as mix shifts



### Maintaining lot supply with lower land spending Spec inventory accelerates revenue with quicker sale-to-close

Real assets key metrics	2Q19	2Q18	
As of period ended June 30: Total lots controlled Years supply of lots	34,654 <i>4.0</i>	33,719 <i>4</i> .2	
Unsold homes (specs) Avg specs/community: Under construction Completed	2,406 9.5 77% 23%	2,323 9.2 69% 31%	
Land & development spending	\$175M	\$221M	

#### Guidance provided in July\*

Full Year 2019

- 8,700-9,100 home closings
- \$3.4-3.6 billion home closing revenue
- Home closing gross margin in mid-18's %
- Slightly higher SG&A as % of home closing revenue
- Interest expense trending down through 2019
- Diluted EPS \$5.20-5.50

3Q 2019

- 2,200-2,400 home closings
- \$860-935 million home closing revenue
- Home closing gross margin high-18's %
- Diluted EPS \$1.40-1.50

- 3Q19 beginning backlog +2% Y/Y
- Lower ASP due to product shift toward more entry-level
- Higher GM% reflects fewer incentives& greater efficiencies in 3Q19

\*Should not be interpreted as updating or reaffirming guidance, only providing what was previously issued

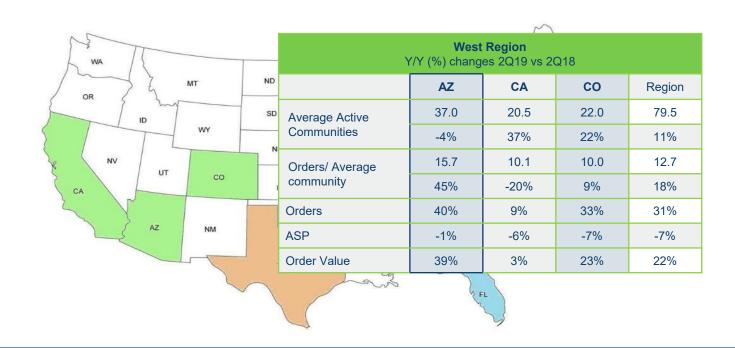
### Summary

- + Healthy demand continues for entry-level homes
- + Extended spring selling season
- + Housing market drivers remain positive
- + Confident in strategic focus on entry-level & 1st move-up
- + Multiple benefits to simplified & streamlined processes

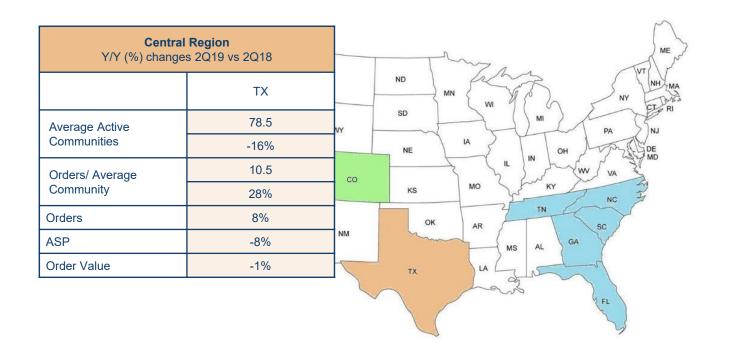


### **Appendix**

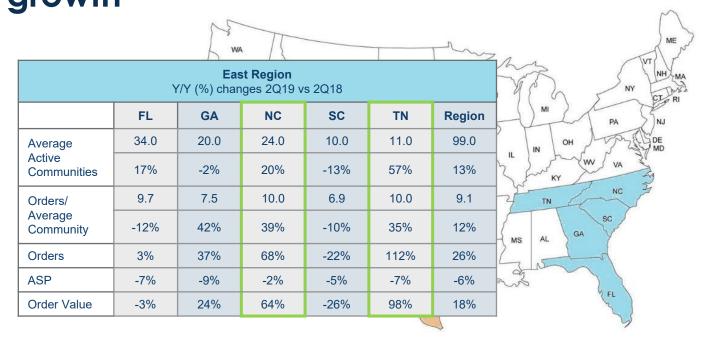
## West: Highest absorptions drove 31% order growth and 22% increase in total order value



### Central: Strong and steady



East: Continued improvement with 26% order growth



### Difficult comparisons against strong first half 2018

(\$millions)	Year to Jun-		
	2019	2018	%Chg
Home closings	4,018	3,864	+4%
ASP (closings)	\$389K	\$414K	-6%
Home closing revenue	\$1,562	\$1,601	-2%
Home closing gross profit	\$276	\$284	-3%
Home closing gross margin	17.6%	17.7%	-10 bps
SG&A expenses	\$181	\$179	
% of home closing revenue	11.6%	11.2%	+40 bps
Earnings before taxes	\$100	\$120	-17%
Interest expense	\$7		n/m
Tax rate	24%	19%	+500 bps
Net earnings	\$76	\$98	-22%

- Increased closing volume mostly offset ASP decline from our pivot to entry-level
- Better margins on entrylevel mix helped maintain gross margin (actually better than 2018 excluding 1-time item)
- Higher interest expense & income taxes accounted for most of Y/Y decline in earnings

### Reconciliation of Non-GAAP Financial Metrics (cont'd)

(\$millions)	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	LTM 6/30/19
Total Debt	\$909	\$925	\$1,117	\$1,127	\$1,284	\$1,310	\$1,308
Shareholders' Equity	\$841	\$1,109	\$1,259	\$1,421	\$1,577	\$1,721	\$1,798
Total Capitalization	\$1,750	\$2,034	\$2,376	\$2,548	\$2,861	\$3,031	\$3,106
Total Debt / Capitalization	51.9%	45.5%	47.0%	44.2%	44.9%	43.2%	42.1%