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Prepared by:
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CERTIFICATE OF AMENDMENT TO THE DECLARATION OF COVENANTS, CONDITIONS AND RESTRICTIONS FOR LAKES ESTATES HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

WE HEREBY CERTIFY THAT the Amendment attached hereto as Exhibit "A" and incorporated herein by reference, to the Bylaws for LAKES ESTATES HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC. as originally recorded at Official Records 1785, Page 2088 of the Public Records of Sarasota County, Florida, was duly adopted at a Special Meeting of the Members called for that purpose on July 27, 2026, by the vote required by the Declaration. The Association certifies that this amendment was proposed and adopted as required by the governing documents and the applicable law.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have affixed our hands this 2 day of October, 2026, at Sarasota, Sarasota County, Florida.

By: _____
Dean Clancy, President

Attest: _____
Lisabeth Begin, Secretary

Pursuant to Section 117.05(13)(a), Florida Statutes, the following notarial certificate is sufficient for an acknowledgment in a representative capacity:

STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF SARASOTA

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me by means of [X] physical presence or [_] online notarization this 2 day of October, 2026, by Dean Clancy as President and Lisabeth Begin as Secretary for LAKES ESTATES HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

(NOTARY SEAL)

Notary Public State of Florida
Theresa L. Grant
My Commission HH 725173
Expires 11/16/2029

_____
(Signature of Notary Public-State of Florida)

Theresa L. Grant
(Name of Notary Typed, Printed, or Stamped)

Personally Known _____ OR Produced Identification X
Type of Identification Produced Florida D.L.

EXHIBIT "A"

CERTIFICATE OF AMENDMENT

TO THE

BYLAWS

FOR

LAKES ESTATES HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

[SECRET BALLOTS]

(Underlined words indicate additions; words ~~stricken through~~ are deletions)

Delete Existing Section 3.7

~~3.7 At any Annual Members' Meeting when elections of Directors are to occur, written ballots are to be supplied for such purposes. Furthermore, at any Annual Members' Meeting at which Directors are to be elected, the Board shall appoint an Election Committee consisting of three (3) Owners who are not Board Members under the supervision of one (1) officer of the Lakes Estates Association to supervise the election, prepare ballots, count and verify ballots and proxies, disqualify votes if such disqualification is justified under the circumstances and to certify the results of the election to the Board. This Committee shall determine questions within its jurisdiction by plurality vote of all three (3) Members.~~

Insert New Section 3.7 as follows:

3.7 Election of Directors; Secret Ballots; Election Procedures

(a) **Secret Ballots Required.** All elections of Directors shall be conducted by secret written ballot. The procedures adopted by the Association shall preserve the secrecy of each Member's vote while permitting verification of the Member's eligibility to vote.

(b) **Balloting Procedure.** The Board shall adopt procedures providing for:

(i) use of inner and outer envelopes, or substantially similar method, whereby:

- the inner envelope contains the ballot and bears no identifying information; and
- the outer envelope contains the Member's name, lot or parcel address, and signature for verification purposes;

(ii) validation of voting eligibility prior to ballot counting; and

(iii) separation of ballots from identifying envelopes prior to tabulation.

(c) **Election Committee.** At least one hundred twenty (120) days prior to each Annual Members' Meeting involving the election of Directors ("election meeting"), the Board shall appoint an Election Committee consisting of three (3) Members who are not candidates for election and are not current

Directors. The Board shall propose a draft ballot form to be used in the election. The Election Committee shall adopt the ballot form after making any changes it deems legally necessary and shall supervise the election process, carrying out the following duties:

- distribute ballots;
- verify voting eligibility;
- collect ballots and proxies;
- count votes;
- determine the validity of ballots and proxies;
- certify results; and
- perform such other duties reasonably necessary to conduct the election.

The Election Committee shall determine questions within its jurisdiction by a majority vote of all three (3) Members.

(d) **Limited Proxies Permitted.** Voting for Directors may occur in person or by mail. Ballots shall count toward quorum requirements for an election meeting. Prior to an election meeting, a Member may execute a proxy, which shall be a limited proxy constituting the presence of such Member for the purpose of determining a quorum and may also be used to vote on questions other than the election of Directors. General proxies shall not be used. Any proxy used in a Director election must:

- be in writing;
- be signed and dated by the Member giving the proxy;
- identify the meeting for which it is given; and
- be filed with the Secretary or Election Committee prior to commencement of ballot counting.

A proxy executed for use at an election meeting shall not disclose how the proxy holder voted the secret ballot.

(e) **Custody and Sequestration of Ballots.** All ballots and proxies received prior to the election meeting shall remain sealed in the outer envelope and in the custody of the Election Committee until opened and counted at the meeting in the presence of the Members. No Director or candidate for election shall collect or have custody of completed ballots or proxies in a Director election.

(f) **Tie Votes.** In the event of a tie vote affecting the outcome of a Director election, the tie shall be resolved by a runoff election between only the tied candidates at a date and time determined by the Board, unless all tied candidates agree in writing to another method of resolution permitted by law.

(g) **Election Challenges.** Any Member in good standing may challenge the conduct or results of an election by written notice delivered to the Board within fourteen (14) days after announcement of the election results. The notice shall state with reasonable particularity the grounds for the challenge. The Board shall consider the challenge at a duly noticed Board meeting and may:

- uphold the election;
- order a recount;
- invalidate particular ballots or proxies; or
- order a new election if the Board determines that material procedural irregularities affected the election outcome.

(h) **Rules and Procedures**. The Board may adopt reasonable additional election rules and procedures not inconsistent with these By-Laws or applicable law, including rules and procedures governing ballot forms, proxy wording, deadlines, recounts, ballot handling, chain of custody, ballot verification, employee and contractor responsibilities, and the authorization and payment of election-related expenses.

(i) **Electronic Voting Prohibited Unless Authorized by Future Amendment**. Director elections shall not be conducted by electronic voting unless expressly authorized by a future amendment to these By-Laws adopted by the Members.