



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wichita Federal Credit Union and Freedom 1st Federal Credit Union Announce Intent to Merge

Wichita, Kansas - (April 4th 2025) – Wichita Federal Credit Union (WFCU) and Freedom 1st Federal Credit Union (Freedom 1st) announced today that they are seeking regulatory approval of their intent to merge. The merger would result in an organization with more than \$254 million in combined assets, serving over 17,000 members.

Currently, WFCU operates three branches in Wichita-WFCU East at 21st and Webb, WFCU West at 13th and West, and City Hall, serving City of Wichita employees and limited access to the general public. Freedom 1st operates one branch on McConnell Air Force Base with limited access to the general public.

"Our members will benefit from combining our two strong organizations," said Ashley Bautista, President & CEO of WFCU. "Our members will enjoy expanded products and services while retaining a branch location on McConnell Air Force Base. Both credit unions have a strong and proven history of supporting members' financial needs while being committed to our employees and the communities we serve."

At the time of the legal merger, the two credit unions will operate under the unified brand name of Wichita Federal Credit Union. Ashley Bautista, President & CEO of WFCU, will lead the newly combined organization. Ronda Posch, current President & CEO of Freedom 1st plans to retire after 36 years of service.

From a member perspective, there will be minimal impact at the legal merger date. Additionally, there will be a combined staff of both credit unions and no job losses. Both organizations will continue to serve members as usual as they prepare to integrate their systems fully by late 2025 early 2026.

About Wichita Federal Credit Union (WFCU) - WFCU was chartered in May 1940 to serve the municipal employees of the City of Wichita. Field of membership includes persons who live, work, worship, or attend school in and businesses and other legal entities located in Butler, Cowley, Harvey, Sedgwick, or Sumner Counties, Kansas.

About Freedom 1st Federal Credit Union (Freedom 1st)—Freedom 1st was chartered in April 1957 as McConnell AFB FCU. In 1988, the name was changed to Freedom 1st Federal Credit Union. Field of membership includes persons who live, work, worship, or attend school in and businesses and other legal entities located in Butler, Cowley, Harvey, Sedgwick, or Sumner Counties, Kansas.

More information, including FAQs regarding the merger, can be found on WFCU and Freedom 1st websites: (wichitafcu.com/merger and freedom1stfcu.org).

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