



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 1, 2024**

**MEDIA CONTACT:** Jessica Richardson-Isenegger

ALM First

(734) 552-5192

[jrichardson@almfirst.com](mailto:jrichardson@almfirst.com)

### **Ignite Credit Union and BlueOx Credit Union Announce Merger Approvals**

*Battle Creek, MI* - Ignite Credit Union and BlueOx Credit Union are excited to announce their merger has received regulatory approval and member approval by a majority vote of the Ignite Credit Union membership. The legal date of the merger for the two organizations is planned for Monday, July 1, 2024.

The newly merged organization will serve more than 32,000 members with a branch network of 11 branches throughout Michigan. Combined, the organization will have assets of over \$376 million.

At the time of the legal merger, the two credit unions will operate under the unified brand name of Ignite Credit Union, with Blue Ox Credit Union becoming a division of Ignite. BlueOx Credit Union's legal name will become "BlueOx Credit Union, a Division of Ignite Credit Union." From a member perspective, there will be minimal impact at the legal merger date, apart from the combined organization aiming for members to be able to conduct transactions at all 11 branch locations. Both organizations will continue to serve members as usual as they ramp up efforts to fully integrate their systems by late 2024/early 2025.

This model, where each organization maintains its individual name, was established in 2022 when Allegan Credit Union and Rivertown Credit Union merged. This collaborative concept allows the credit unions to ensure their rich histories and legacies continue to be honored.

"I am thrilled to see the overwhelming support from our members for the merger of Blue Ox Credit Union and Ignite Credit Union," said Kristopher Lewis, President/CEO of Ignite Credit Union. "This vote of confidence affirms our vision of creating a stronger financial institution that is better equipped to serve our members and communities while preserving their individual credit union histories. Together, under the unified brand of Ignite Credit Union, we will continue to prioritize innovation, personalized service, and community impact, driving positive change and prosperity for members, employees, and communities."

“We are grateful for the significant vote of confidence from members,” added Steven Cobb, President/CEO of BlueOx Credit Union. “We are excited to begin the process of joining forces to demonstrate our mutual dedication to elevating the financial well-being of our members and communities. By joining forces under the Ignite Credit Union banner, we are poised to deliver even greater value and opportunities for our members while still upholding our commitment to personalized service, community support, and long-term success.”

As of the date of the legal merger, Kristopher Lewis, President/CEO of Ignite, will be the CEO, and Steven Cobb, President/CEO of BlueOx, will be the President of the newly combined organization.

More information, including FAQs regarding the merger, can be found on both Ignite and BlueOx Credit Union’s websites ([www.ignitecreditunion.com](http://www.ignitecreditunion.com) and [www.blueoxcu.org](http://www.blueoxcu.org)), and other applicable communication channels.

### **Ignite Credit Union**

Ignite Credit Union is the recent culmination of Allegan Credit Union and Rivertown Community Federal Credit Union, two credit unions that formed a partnership to serve their members, employees, and communities more effectively. Both credit unions share blue-collar roots and believed that by joining together, they could do more than either of them could do alone. Uniquely each credit union has maintained its individual brands under the umbrella credit union created in Ignite.

### **BlueOx Credit Union**

Blue Ox’s story began in 1936 in Battle Creek, Michigan – Inspired by a small handful of educators from the Battle Creek School System. BlueOx’s original field of membership was limited to teachers, principals, supervisors, and superintendents of the Battle Creek School System. Today BlueOx Credit Union’s field of membership is open to the entire state of Michigan.

###