

James Michael Armour Bio

Mike Armour serves Governor Tate Reeves as the 11th director of the Appalachian Regional Commission program for the State of Mississippi. Prior to this appointment, he served Governors Phil Bryant and Haley Barbour in the same position.

Prior to ARC, Armour served as vice-president and senior relations officer at Renasant Bank, Ford Motor Credit Company and Ford Government Affairs in Washington, D.C.

Armour is a fifth generation Mississippian and attended Tupelo and Houlka schools, where he was a member of the state championship baseball team. He is a graduate of Itawamba Community College and Mississippi State University with degrees in Marketing and Business Administration and was a member of Lambda Chi Alpha. He is a graduate of the Owen School of Commercial Lending at Vanderbilt and completed Community and Economic Development studies at the University of Southern Mississippi and University of Central Arkansas. In addition, he graduated from the Ohio University Executive Leadership Institute, MEC Leadership, CECD, CDF-CLI and the Certified Senior Advisor Institute.

Armour has served on the board of directors of the Boys and Girls Club of Northeast Mississippi, Gardner-Simmons Home for Girls, Community Development Foundation, MEGAPOP, Yocona Area Boy Scouts, Elvis Presley Festival Board, and MSU Bulldog Club Foundation. He served three terms as President of the Lee County MSU Alumni Association and the 10 County Bulldog Club, Paul Harris Fellow at Tupelo Rotary Club, Presidents Interagency Coordinating Council for Appalachia, United Way Funds Distribution Team, Commission on the Future of Northeast Mississippi, Habitat for Humanity, MEC, MEDC, MBCC, MS MDOT Freight Advisory Committee, Honorary Vice Commander at Columbus Air Force Base, Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Development Council, and Mississippi Entrepreneurship Network. In addition he coached soccer and baseball for the Tupelo Park and Recreation Department and served 10 years on the Republican Executive Committee for the State of Mississippi.

Armour is a member of the First United Methodist Church where he has served on the Finance Committee, Mexico Mission Team and TV Team. His hobbies include hog hunting, running the BAJA 1000 Mexico course and Copper Canyon trails in Mexico and riding ATVs and motorcycles with family and friends.

The Appalachian Regional Commission (www.arc.gov) is an economic development agency of the federal government and 13 states from New York to Mississippi that serves 420 counties and 23 million citizens. ARC's mission is to innovate, partner, and invest to build community capacity and strengthen economic growth in Appalachia to help the region achieve socioeconomic parity with the nation. The ARC program in Mississippi serves 630 thousand residents in 24 counties in the Appalachia Region of North Mississippi.

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