

= Brereton Jones =

Brereton Chandler Jones (born June 27 , 1939) is an American politician and horse breeder from Kentucky . From 1987 to 1991 , he served as the 50th Lieutenant Governor of Kentucky and from 1991 to 1995 , he was the state 's 58th governor . He now chairs the Kentucky Equine Education Project (KEEP) , a lobbying organization for the Kentucky horse industry .

Born in Ohio and raised in West Virginia , Jones became the youngest @-@ ever member of the West Virginia House of Delegates in 1964 . Two years later , he was chosen as the Republican floor leader in the House . In 1968 , he decided to leave politics and focus on his real estate business . He married Elizabeth " Libby " Lloyd in 1970 and in 1972 , the family moved to historic Airdrie Farm , Libby 's family estate in Woodford County , Kentucky . There , Jones founded Airdrie Stud , now an internationally recognized Thoroughbred farm . Although he remained mostly out of politics , Jones changed his party affiliation to Democratic in 1975 , and was appointed to various boards and commissions by governors John Y. Brown , Jr. and Martha Layne Collins .

In 1987 , Jones announced his candidacy for lieutenant governor , admitting that he considered the office a stepping stone to some day becoming governor . He was elected , but experienced a poor relationship with Governor Wallace Wilkinson throughout their four @-@ year terms . Jones was elected governor in 1991 , turning back a challenge from Governor Wilkinson 's wife Martha in the Democratic primary . (Wilkinson was ineligible to succeed himself in office .) Although Jones maintained a strained relationship with the Kentucky General Assembly following comments he made in the wake of the federal Operation Boprot investigation , he was still able to pass much of his agenda , including an amendment that would allow state officials to succeed themselves in office once . (Jones was able to secure passage of the amendment by exempting the state 's sitting officials , including himself .) However , he achieved only a partial victory on his top priority ? health care reform . While the legislature acceded to many of Jones ' proposals , such as eliminating the practice of denying insurance coverage to those with pre @-@ existing conditions , they did not approve his mandate for universal health care for all Kentuckians . Following his term in office , Jones founded the Kentucky Equine Education Project . He considered running for governor again in 2003 , but never formally became a candidate .

= = Early life = =

Although his family lived in Point Pleasant , West Virginia , Brereton Jones was born on June 27 , 1939 in Gallipolis , Ohio , the site of the nearest hospital to the family 's home . One of six children born to E. Bartow Jones II , who served two terms in the West Virginia Senate , and Nedra Wilhelm Jones , he was raised on a dairy farm in Point Pleasant .

Jones was a star football player in the public schools of Point Pleasant (Point Pleasant High School , Class of 1957) . After graduating from high school as valedictorian , he attended the University of Virginia on a football scholarship , playing both offensive and defensive end . He earned a bachelor 's degree in commerce in 1961 . For one semester , he studied at the University of Virginia School of Law , but he returned home to West Virginia and established a real estate and construction business .

In 1964 , Jones ' political career began with his election as a Republican to the West Virginia House of Delegates . He was the youngest person ever elected to that body . In 1966 , he was chosen as the Republican floor leader in the House . In 1968 , Jones announced that he would not seek re @-@ election to his seat , despite facing no opposition . Among the factors influencing his decision was his perception of corruption in state politics .

After his service in the West Virginia House , Jones began to concentrate on his real estate business and established a small horse farm just outside Huntington . His interest in the horse business led him to make several trips to Keeneland race track in central Kentucky ; it was on one of these trips that he met his future wife , Elizabeth " Libby " Lloyd , daughter of Arthur Lloyd , the former Adjutant General of Kentucky . Jones and Lloyd married in 1970 ; they had two children ? Lucy and Bret . In 1972 , the Joneses moved to Airdrie Farm , Libby 's childhood home in Woodford

County , Kentucky . Jones leased a portion of the farm from his father @-@ in @-@ law and founded Airdrie Stud , a thoroughbred horse farm that has since been internationally recognized for its horses . Airdrie contains the original site of Woodburn Stud , a top thoroughbred farm in the 1800s . The property had not been used for breeding for 70 years prior to Jones ' creation of Airdrie Stud . Jones went on to chair the Kentucky Thoroughbred Commission and serve as treasurer of the Breeders ' Cup .

= = Political career in Kentucky = =

In 1975 , Jones registered as a Democrat , citing his disenchantment with the Nixon administration and his desire to participate in Kentucky primary elections . At the time , Democrats outnumbered Republicans in Kentucky by a 2 @-@ to @-@ 1 margin . Governor John Y. Brown , Jr. named him to the board of directors for the University of Kentucky and the Chandler Medical Center . In the mid @-@ 1980s , Jones created the Kentucky Health Care Access Foundation to provide free health care to individuals who fell below the poverty line but did not qualify for Medicaid . Governor Martha Layne Collins chose Jones to chair her Medicaid Program Review Team and serve on her Council on Education Reform .

= = = Lieutenant governor = = =

In late 1985 , Jones announced his candidacy for lieutenant governor in the 1987 election , conceding that he sought the office because he would like to serve as governor in the future . He convincingly won in the Democratic primary against Paul E. Patton , who later became governor , and David L. Armstrong , the sitting Attorney General and later Mayor of Louisville . Wallace G. Wilkinson , winner of the Democratic gubernatorial primary , praised Jones and said that , if elected , he would make Jones the head of a blue @-@ ribbon economic development council . Wilkinson and Jones went on to win the general election ; Jones defeated Republican nominee Lawrence R. Webster by a convincing vote of 517 @,@ 811 to 186 @,@ 321 .

Soon after the election results were announced , Jones was quoted in a newspaper as saying that he had talked with Wilkinson about opening channels with the media , whom Wilkinson often refused to speak with . Jones also said that he did not agree with all of Wilkinson 's political positions and would not be his " yes man " . These comments angered Wilkinson , who backtracked on his promise to give Jones an active role in the administration . Relations between Jones and Wilkinson further deteriorated as both men tried to recoup the money spent during their campaigns .

During the 1988 legislative session , Governor Wilkinson proposed an amendment to the Kentucky Constitution that would allow state officials , including the sitting incumbents , to succeed themselves in office once . As presiding officer in the Senate , Jones insisted that any such measure also include a runoff provision if a candidate did not receive a majority of votes in the party primary . Wilkinson opposed this provision , and the measure died in the state senate . Wilkinson 's proposed education program also failed in the session , and Jones suggested that the governor should build a consensus among legislators before including the program on the agenda of a special legislative session , which Wilkinson had proposed for January 1989 . After the 1988 session , Wilkinson called Jones a backstabber and accused him of sabotaging the succession amendment . The two did not meet for six months following the session .

As lieutenant governor , Jones advocated for the preservation of family farms and for school reform . He won praise for his efforts to include a " Made in Kentucky " label on produce grown in the state . Further , he claimed the state could save \$ 500 @,@ 000 a year by merging the offices of lieutenant governor , secretary of state , and state treasurer . Jones maintained that the arrangement would give the lieutenant governor something specific to do between legislative sessions and would provide a broader record upon which voters could judge the officeholder should they seek higher office . Jones ' proposal , which would have required a constitutional amendment , was never adopted . Jones also claimed to have saved his office \$ 200 @,@ 000 by choosing not to live in the lieutenant governor 's mansion , by reducing the number of Kentucky State Police troopers used for

security at the mansion , and by giving up seven cars assigned to the office ? two for him and wife Libby , and five used by the state troopers .

= = = Governor = = =

In 1991 , Jones was the front @-@ runner for the governorship for the entire gubernatorial campaign . The rivalry between Jones and Wilkinson had become so strong that Wilkinson 's wife Martha was among Jones ' challengers in the Democratic primary ; she ended her candidacy 18 days before the primary . Advocating campaign finance reform , Jones garnered 184 @,@ 703 votes in the primary , enough to best a field including Scotty Baesler (149 @,@ 352 votes) , Dr. Floyd Poore (132 @,@ 060 votes) , and Gatewood Galbraith (25 @,@ 834) .

In the general election , Jones faced Republican Larry Hopkins , a seven @-@ term congressman representing Kentucky 's 6th congressional district . Hopkins was considered the Republicans ' best hope of capturing the governorship since Louie B. Nunn in 1967 . Instead , Hopkins ' negative campaign ads , mistakes about his record , and involvement in a House scandal involving bounced checks all hurt his chances . Jones won the election by a vote of 540 @,@ 468 to 294 @,@ 542 , the largest margin of victory in a Kentucky gubernatorial race .

A supporter of " good government " , Jones ' first policy action as governor was to issue an executive order restricting the post @-@ government employment of his appointees . He also secured passage of one of the nation 's toughest ethics laws , limiting the activities of lobbyists and instituting campaign finance reform to diminish the advantage of wealthy candidates for office . The so @-@ called " trustees bill " , passed in 1992 , provided for an independent review of all appointees to university boards of trustees . Jones later removed former governor Wilkinson from the board of the University of Kentucky using the bill 's provisions . Despite these reforms , Jones drew criticism from ethics watchdogs because no law required him to disclose the identities of his business partners and associates with Airdrie Stud and because the farm benefited from a 1992 law that set up off @-@ track betting parlors and allowed some of their proceeds to go to successful breeders .

The state faced a \$ 400 million revenue shortfall when Jones took office . Shortly after his election , Jones created the Quality and Efficiency Commission to study ways to streamline state government . Among the enacted recommendations were refinancing state bonds at lower interest rates , cutting the state workforce by 2 @,@ 000 employees (mostly through attrition) , and spurring local economic growth through tax incentives . By the end of Jones ' term , the state enjoyed a \$ 300 million budget surplus .

During the first year of his administration , Jones and five others were traveling in a state helicopter from Frankfort to Fort Knox when a tail rotor blade snapped , causing the helicopter to crash in Shelby County . The pilot was able to guide the helicopter into a treetop to soften the impact . No one was killed , but Jones suffered a severe back strain and a bruised kidney . The National Transportation Safety Board later determined that the pilot and co @-@ pilot had not properly attached an engine cowling that knocked off the tail rotor blade . Both pilots maintained that they did nothing wrong , and Jones credited them for the survival of the passengers aboard the helicopter .

Although fellow Democrats controlled two @-@ thirds of the Kentucky General Assembly , Jones never developed a good working relationship with the legislature . This was due in part to remarks Jones made in the wake of the Operation Boptrot investigation that led to the conviction of 15 sitting or former state legislators . Jones called the investigation " a cleansing process " ; legislators reacted negatively , claiming Jones was trying to take " the high ground " above them . Following Jones ' remarks , state senate president John " Eck " Rose became Jones ' bitter political foe . Nevertheless , Jones was able to enact many of his legislative priorities during his term .

Jones ' top priority as governor was the passage of health care reform . He appointed two health care reform study commissions , and in May 1993 , he called the legislature into a special session to consider a universal health care bill . The only measure to come out of this session was a temporary tax on health care providers . Legislators also agreed to work toward a bill that could be passed in the next regular legislative session . On March 2 , 1994 , the Kentucky House of Representatives

passed a health care reform bill that did not include universal coverage . Angered , Jones began campaigning against the bill , but the Kentucky Senate passed its version on March 22 .

Both chambers worked to reconcile differences between their respective versions of the bill , and on April 1 , 1994 , the last regular day of the legislative session , the Senate passed a compromise bill , but the House killed it on a procedural motion . On April 15 , the last day of the session , which legislators had set aside to override any gubernatorial vetos , the health care bill was reintroduced and passed both houses of the General Assembly . Jones then reversed course and signed it . Among the reforms included in the bill were a mechanism making the policies of all companies uniform and the creation of a Health Policy Board to regulate rate increases . It ensured that insurance companies could not deny coverage because of a pre @-@ existing condition and allowed workers to retain their insurance after changing jobs .

Jones also advocated for an amendment to the state constitution that had major implications for the governor 's office . Under the terms of the amendment , the lieutenant governor no longer became acting governor when the sitting governor left the state . It also allowed candidates for governor and lieutenant governor to run as a ticket instead of being elected on separate ballots . The centerpiece of the amendment , however , was the removal of the restriction on governors from succeeding themselves in office . The state constitution had previously barred the incumbent from seeking a second consecutive term ; under the new amendment , the sitting governor would be allowed to succeed himself once . Succession amendments had been proposed and defeated during the administrations of John Y. Brown , Jr. and Wallace Wilkinson , but Jones was able to see it passed because , unlike Brown and Wilkinson , he was willing to exempt the present incumbents , including himself , from the succession provision . Separate legislation passed during Jones ' term required a runoff election if no gubernatorial candidate won a majority in his or her party primary . (Each of Jones ' three immediate predecessors would have faced a runoff had this law been in effect during their primaries .)

Among Jones ' other accomplishments were the passage of a mandatory seat belt law , an increase in funding for the state park system , and the phasing out of the state inheritance tax . He also established the state 's largest @-@ ever reserve trust fund using income from the state 's sales , income , corporate , coal , severance , and property taxes . He exceeded his goal of having a 7 @.@ 4 percent minority representation in the state workforce , and appointed three times more African @-@ Americans than the previous administration had recruited . He also appointed more women to government positions than his predecessor , including Sara Combs , the first woman to serve on the Kentucky Supreme Court .

= = Later life = =

At the end of his term as governor , Jones retired to Airdrie Stud . He started Commonwealth Broadcasting and joined with partners to purchase several radio and television stations in Kentucky and Tennessee . He remained a public advocate of campaign finance reform and health care reform and was a supporter of posting the Ten Commandments in public schools .

Jones talked openly of running for governor in 2003 but did not enter the race . In 2004 , he founded the Kentucky Equine Education Project (KEEP) , an organization dedicated to educating the public about Kentucky 's horse industry and lobbying the General Assembly for more horse @-@ friendly legislation . He presently serves as chair of KEEP .