Phserving

I-5 Bridge Tolls Debated

Divides mayoral candidates

BY JAKE THOMAS THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A primary election for Mayor of Vancouver on Tuesday, Aug. 18 might have implications for Portland and a proposed new I-5 bridge.

Mayor Royce Pollard faces a serious challenge from Tim Leavitt, a Vancouver City Council member and environmental engineer, over a controversial stance the mayor has taken on tolls to help pay a share of the \$4.2 billion project and serve as a brake to expanding traffic on the bridge.

Mayor Sam Adams and most other state and regional gov-

principle wedge defining the spent \$42,425. Pollard has

mayoral race, according to raked in \$50,429 in contribu-Vancouver City Council tions and spent \$34,895. Member Larry Smith.

Currently there has been talk of charging drivers crossing the bridge up to \$8 during peak rush hours.

Leavitt, who opposes toll-



Royce Pollard Tim Leavitt

ing, has drawn an increasing amount of support.

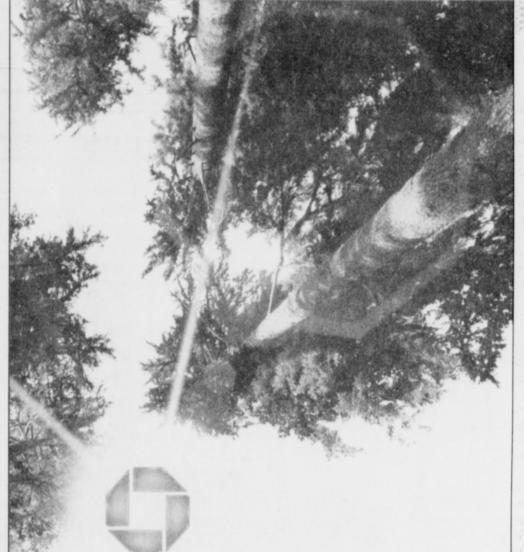
According to campaign fi-Pollard has joined Portland nance records, Leavitt is running a serious campaign. The latest figures show he has ernments in supporting tolls. collected \$51,424 in dona-The issue has been the tions for the campaign and

The final details of the massive public works bridge project are still being hashed out, but whoever ends up assuming the reigns of power in Vancouver will have significant clout on the issue.

If funding doesn't trickle in and a source of revenue doesn't appear soon Pollard worries that the project will be delayed for years.

Leavitt did not respond to a request for comment by

Also running is a third candidate, Charles Stemper who has raised little money and to preserve Vancouver's status as a "bedroom community." Only the top two candidates in the primary election will advance to the general election in No-



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Congressman Avoids Face Time Telephone town halls allow

Opts for telephone 'town hall'

The potential of having a town hall forum collapse into violence has prompted Congressman Brian Baird, D-Vancouver, to completely forgo having such a meeting, instead opting for a "telephone town

Across the country members of Congress have been holding town hall forums during their August recess to engage their constituents on health

care reform. Such meetings have become increasingly explosive, with health care opponents disrupting them and in at least one case, a fist fight broke out.

Brian Baird Baird told the Columbian newspaper that opponents of health care reform who disrupt town hall forums were using tactics akin to those of the Nazis, and was concerned something similar would happen if he held a public forum.

constituents to listen in and ask their member of congress questions if they are selected. Neighboring Congressman

Earl Blumenauer, D-Portland, also has no face-to-face town halls scheduled, according to spokesperson Erin Allweiss, who wouldn't directly address whether or not the decision was rooted in concerns over potential disruptions.

"He wants to engage his constituents more, and get a better diversity of questions," said Allweiss.

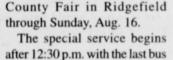
p.m. each evening. The roundtrip cost is \$2 per person or \$4 for groups up to six. Free for

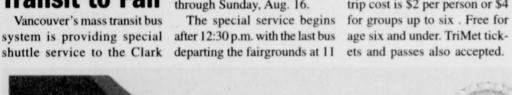


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