



Soldier Hollow - Salt Lake City 2002 Olympic Winter Games, <https://www.flickr.com/photos/andymiah/32639274>

The Winter Olympics were held in
Salt Lake City in 2002.

Should Salt Lake City try
to host
the Winter Olympics
again?

KEARNS, Utah (AP) — Salt Lake City officials don't know exactly when they will get to bid for another Winter Olympics, but the host city of the 2002 Games wants the world to know it is ready and willing whenever given a chance.

Several prominent figures gathered Thursday at the Olympic Oval speed skating facility in the Salt Lake City suburb of Kearns to announce a \$1.4 million solar project that they say illustrates a broader effort to upgrade venues from the 2002 Games.

When Utah officials announced nearly two years ago that they would make a bid for the 2026 Games, it seemed like a longshot.

But in the wake of growing reticence from European cities to spend the money to host future Olympics, Utah officials are feeling more optimistic that they could be a viable candidate for the 2026 or 2030 Olympics.

"It makes those cities like Salt lake City more attractive," said Colin Hilton, CEO of the Utah Olympic Legacy Foundation. "We aren't just making promises. We are continuing to take big steps to show the world we're a leader in sustaining use of our Olympic venues."

Elite athletes still use most of the state's Olympic venues for training and competition.

Oslo, Norway, recently became the fourth city to pull out of the running for the 2022 Olympics. That race was thrown into turmoil in the wake of the 2014 Winter Games in Sochi, where the overall price tag was put at \$51 billion, scaring off politicians and taxpayers.

Utah officials estimate they could put on a Winter Olympics for about \$2 billion, which largely would be spent on renovating and upgrading venues. That figure would be in line with what Vancouver spent on the 2010 Games.

The 2022 race has only two remaining contenders: Beijing and Almaty, Kazakhstan. Spencer Eccles, a prominent philanthropist who was key in bringing the Olympics to Salt Lake City, said Utah would be open to being an emergency backup if those candidates drop out.

"We stand ready to be drafted," said Eccles, a legacy foundation board member.

The U.S. Olympic Committee is still weighing whether to launch a bid for the 2024 Summer Games, a decision expected later this year or early next year. If the U.S. does go for those games, it would not bid for 2026, officials have said.

Denver and Reno-Lake Tahoe, Nevada, also have expressed interest in hosting future Winter Olympics.

If Salt Lake City becomes a serious contender for another Olympics, officials would have to answer questions about a bribery scandal that remains a scar on the otherwise successful 2002 Games.

Utah showered \$1 million in cash, gifts and other favors on International Olympic Committee members. Two Salt Lake bid executives were tried on federal racketeering charges, but were acquitted.

Utah officials downplayed that being an issue for future bids.

"I think it helps, actually, because we were able to clean that up, not just for the state of Utah but for the world," Lt. Gov. Spencer Cox said. "That kind of stuff had been going on everywhere for a long, long time."



What can we learn from history?

Olympics

- Olympics are a modern version of athletic competitions held every 4 years in Olympia, Greece
- First modern Olympics in 1896
- Winter and Summer Olympics every 4 years
 - Winter games in 2018, 2022, 2026
 - Summer games in 2016, 2020, 2024
- City chosen years in advance as host
- Olympics held in different countries and cities



Winter Events

Downhill skiing

Andrej Šporn at the 2010 Winter Olympic downhill,
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/41237417@N08/4369221975>



Martin Rulsch, [Wikimedia Commons](#), CC BY-SA 4.0

Winter Events

- Downhill skiing
- Snowboarding



Winter Events

- Downhill skiing
- Snowboarding
- Ski jumping

Ski Jumping normal hill at the Nordic Mixed Team competition at the 2020 Winter Youth Olympics in Lausanne, ndro Halank, Wikimedia Commons, CC BY-SA 4.0



<https://nara.getarchive.net/media/driver-brian-shimer-and-brakeman-darrin-steele-of-usa-2-hurtle-their-way-down-b91b85>

- Downhill skiing
- Snowboarding
- Ski jumping
- Bob sledding

Winter Events



Winter Events

- Downhill skiing
- Snowboarding
- Ski jumping
- Bob sledding
- Speed skating

Semifinal 1 of the Short Track Speed Skating, Martin Rulsch, [Wikimedia Commons](#), CC BY-SA 4.0



Winter Events

- Downhill skiing
- Snowboarding
- Ski jumping
- Bob sledding
- Speed skating
- Figure skating

Ice dance rhythm dance of Figure skating at the 2020 Winter Youth Olympic, Martin Rulsch, [Wikimedia Commons](#), [CC BY-SA 4.0](#)



<https://picryl.com/media/competing-in-the-biathlon-event-world-class-athlete-sergeant-kristina-sabasteanski-36bdf5>

Winter Events

- Downhill skiing
- Snowboarding
- Ski jumping
- Bob sledding
- Speed skating
- Figure skating
- Biathlon



Winter Events

- Downhill skiing
- Snowboarding
- Ski jumping
- Bob sledding
- Speed skating
- Figure skating
- Biathlon
- Curling

"21-suisse-team-action" by Uncleweed is marked with CC BY-SA 2.0.



Winter Events

- Downhill skiing
- Snowboarding
- Ski jumping
- Bob sledding
- Speed skating
- Figure skating
- Biathlon
- Curling
- Ice hockey

"usa-fin-faceoff" by [Uncleweed](#) is marked with [CC BY-SA 2.0](#).



"racers1" by Uncleweed is marked with CC BY-SA 2.0.

Winter Events

- Downhill skiing
- Snowboarding
- Ski jumping
- Bob sledding
- Speed skating
- Figure skating
- Biathlon
- Curling
- Ice hockey
- Cross country skiing



Salt Lake 2002 Olympic Cauldron Park, Rice-Eccles Stadium, Salt Lake City, Utah;
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/kenlund/99111453>

Opening Ceremony 2002

- Citius
- Altius
- Fortius

- Opening Ceremonies Music
- Opening Ceremonies Speech



Venues



Utah Olympic Oval, Kearns, Utah; <https://www.flickr.com/photos/kenlund/6845584296>

Utah Olympic Oval



Ski Jumps

Ski-jumping hills, Utah Olympic Park, Creative Commons Attribution 2.0 Generic,
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Ski-jumping_hills,_Utah_Olympic_Park.jpg

bobsled, luge,
skeleton run



Beginning of bobsled run at Utah Olympic Park, Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 4.0 International, 3.0 Unported, 2.5 Generic, 2.0 Generic and 1.0 Generic license. https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:0405_Utah_Oly_Park_top_of_run.jpg



Fireworks at the Olympic Medals Plaza in downtown Salt Lake City during the 2002 Winter Olympics by Derek Baird, Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 2.0 Generic license. https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Fireworks_medal_plaza_SLC.jpg



2002 Olympic Torch Relay as it passed thru Washington DC for the Winter Olympic Games in Salt Lake City, UT.
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/boothbearwdc/35045683>

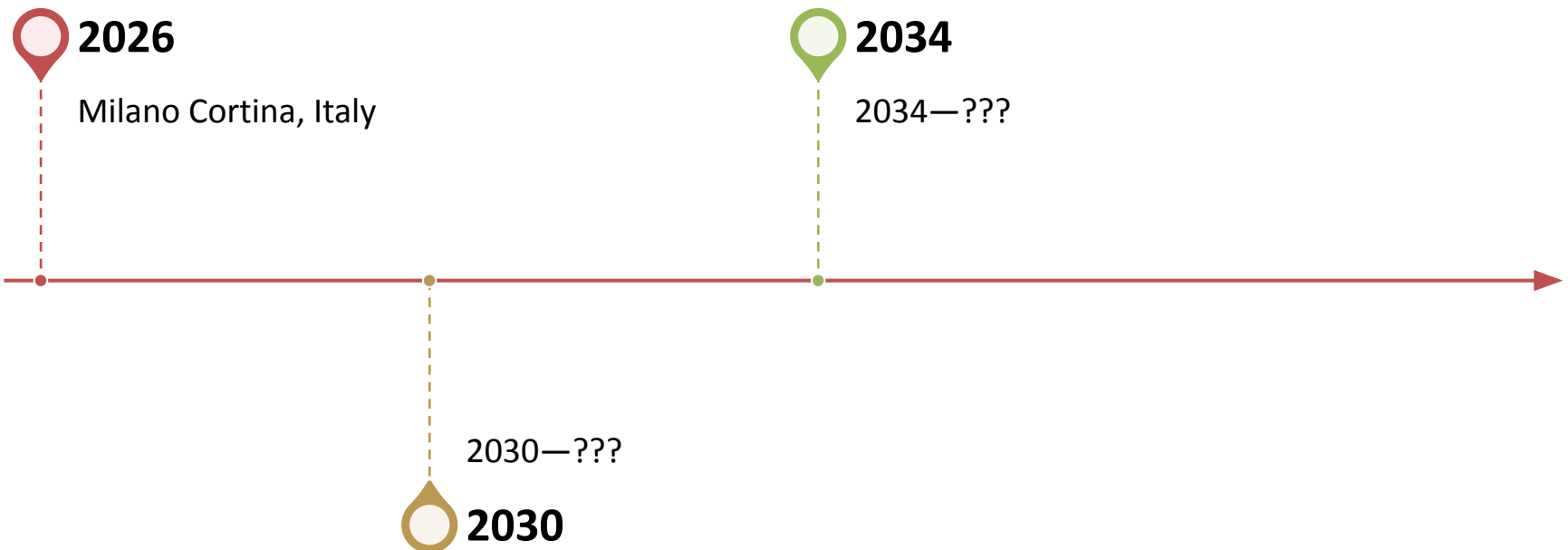


2002 Olympics - 1980 Hockey Team, Public Domain;
<https://picryl.com/media/2002-olympics-1980-hockey-team-7dc20c>



Passing the 2002 Salt Lake City Winter Olympics torch
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/boothbearwdc/73654100>

Future Winter Olympics



Should Salt Lake City try
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again?



Moguls - Matthew Graham - Mt Buller, <https://www.flickr.com/photos/avlxyz/4941068850>

Moguls

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