



Hi Salt Lakers,

Last night, I delivered the 2026 State of the City address from City Hall East, the former Leonardo building (more on that below). I'm always grateful for the opportunity to update you all on the year's most pressing topics:

Maintaining Safety in Our Communities

First and foremost, I want to be clear: recent tactics used by the federal government—in Minnesota, in Maine, and elsewhere—are completely and utterly deplorable. They are resulting in the death of Americans exercising their constitutional rights.

As I said last night, I will not stand for that here in our City. I am prepared to use every tool within my control to protect the values of Salt Lake City and the dignity of every one of our residents.



Project CONNECT

I shared an update on the [Public Safety Plan](#)'s most meaningful element. Project CONNECT leverages City, County, and State resources to connect Salt Lake City Police Department's 50 most-arrested individuals with individualized solutions. Already, 60% of Project CONNECT individuals have been arrested less often since the beginning of the program. This year, we will expand Project CONNECT beyond the first 50 individuals and refine the metrics for long-term success.



Introducing Salt Lake City's Civic Center

The next chapter of our downtown beautification efforts begin at Salt Lake City's Civic Center, which connects Library Square across 200 East to Washington Square.

Last night, I shared the [Civic Center vision study](#) and final renderings. I hope you look through it. Library Square's concrete is worn and unstable. The area can be unbearably hot during the summer. We can repair it while transforming the space to better serve you.

The Future of the Former Leonardo Building

We will strengthen the Civic Center by breathing new life into the former Leonardo—now known as City Hall East—by reutilizing it for three distinct purposes:

- Supporting downtown families with a central location for after-school programming through Salt Lake City's Youth and Family Division;
- Displaying Utah Division of Arts & Museums' Visual and Folk Art programs;
- Housing office space for 70 existing City staff members from three departments, to avoid the cost of constructing another administrative building for years to come; and
- Continuing to welcome Ken Sanders Rare Books customers.



Next Week: The Watch Party

Next Friday, on February 6, the Civic Center area will be filled with thousands of people for opening night of The Watch Party, a free event running Feb. 6-22 and March 6-15 where anyone can come together to cheer on America's most skilled athletes as they compete on the world's biggest stage.

- 📍 Salt Lake City Civic Center, 450 South 200 East
- ⏰ 5-10 p.m., February 6 for opening night
- 🎉 Enjoy live music, food trucks, warming areas, and the primetime broadcast

[RSVP for Opening Night](#)

2025 Accomplishments

We got a lot done in 2025! Here are a few highlights:

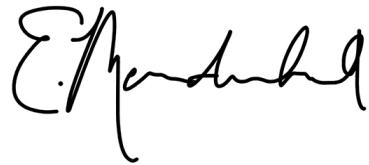
- ✓ We simplified our zoning rules, trimming down our zoning code by nearly 50 pages. (Clearer rules mean housing can be built faster, and more affordably.)
- ✓ We contributed more than 12 billion gallons of high-quality, treated wastewater to the Great Salt Lake. That's 20,000 Olympic-sized swimming pools.
- ✓ Our Regional Athletic Complex marked its tenth year with a record \$25.7 million in economic impact—hosting 19 out-of-state tournaments and welcoming 1.7 million visitors.
- ✓ Along the Jordan River, a multi-department maintenance effort cleared eight blocks of overgrown riverbank with more happening this year.
- ✓ We launched the Future Citizens PATH Program to support eligible green card holders in Salt Lake City through the U.S. citizenship process.
- ✓ We celebrated the opening of Phase One of Glendale Park.
- ✓ We completed the voter-approved streets bond—passed in 2018 after more than a decade of deferred maintenance following the Great Recession.

Wishing you and your families a safe, healthy, and hopeful year ahead.

[Watch the full State of the City address here](#)

As always, feel free to reach out to me at mayor@slc.gov.

Your friend,



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