



Update on Salt Lake City Redevelopment Project

Description

Salt Lake City raised the sales tax rate 18 months ago to help pay for a downtown renovation project. Money from this tax increase and a ticket fee from Delta Center is now coming into the city.

The city added a 0.5% sales tax increase. This has raised nearly \$66 million so far. Salt Lake City and Smith Entertainment Group, which owns the Utah Jazz and Utah Mammoth, signed an agreement in 2024 for a big redevelopment.

Smith Entertainment Group plans to invest \$3 billion. The idea includes a new entrance for Delta Center, pedestrian plazas, a residential tower, and a hotel. Some parts of the Salt Palace Convention Center will be rebuilt, but nearby Abravanel Hall will stay.

The tax increase goes from 7.75% to 8.25%. It is expected to raise about \$1.2 billion over 30 years. The increase does not apply to groceries or big items like cars. The downtown project will not be done until just before the Olympics in 2034.

A new poll shows Utahns are divided on the tax increase. Some support it while others do not. People under 34 years old mostly support it. City residents are more in favour than those in rural areas.

Vocabulary List:

1. **redevelopment** //ri:dɪ'veləpmənt// (noun): building again to improve an area
2. **invest** //ɪn'vest// (verb): put money into something to get benefit
3. **pedestrian** //pə'destrɪən// (adjective): for people walking, not for cars
4. **residential** //,rezɪ'denʃəl// (adjective): used for people to live in
5. **poll** //pɒl// (noun): a survey asking people their opinions
6. **divided** //dɪ'vaɪdɪd// (adjective): having different opinions and not agreeing

Comprehension Questions

Multiple Choice

1. What was the sales tax rate raised to in Salt Lake City?



- Option: 7.75%
- Option: 8.25%
- Option: 9.00%
- Option: 7.50%

2. How much money has the sales tax increase raised so far?

- Option: \$50 million
- Option: \$66 million
- Option: \$100 million
- Option: \$200 million

3. Which group owns the Utah Jazz and Utah Mammoth?

- Option: Smith Entertainment Group
- Option: Salt Lake City
- Option: Delta Center
- Option: Abravanel Hall

4. How much does Smith Entertainment Group plan to invest in the redevelopment?

- Option: \$1 billion
- Option: \$2 billion
- Option: \$3 billion
- Option: \$4 billion

5. When is the downtown project expected to be completed?

- Option: 2030
- Option: 2032
- Option: 2034
- Option: 2036

6. Which aspect of the Salt Palace Convention Center will remain unchanged?

- Option: New entrance
- Option: Pedestrian plazas
- Option: Residential tower
- Option: Abravanel Hall

True-False

7. The sales tax was increased by 0.5%.



8. The tax increase applies to groceries.
9. Utahns are unanimously in favor of the tax increase.
10. The tax increase will generate approximately \$1.2 billion over 30 years.
11. The downtown renovation will be completed before the Olympics in 2034.
12. Residents under 34 years old mostly oppose the tax increase.

Gap-Fill

13. Salt Lake City raised the sales tax rate to help pay for a downtown renovation project _____ months ago.
14. The sales tax increase goes from 7.75% to _____ %.
15. The downtown project is expected to raise about \$ _____ billion over 30 years.
16. Smith Entertainment Group plans to invest \$ _____ billion.
17. Some parts of the Salt Palace Convention Center will be rebuilt, but nearby _____ Hall will stay.
18. People under 34 years old mostly _____ the tax increase.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. 8.25% 2. \$66 million 3. Smith Entertainment Group 4. \$3 billion 5. 2034 6. Abravanel Hall
True-False: 7. True 8. False 9. False 10. True 11. True 12. False
Gap-Fill: 13. 18 14. 8.25 15. 1.2 16. 3 17. Abravanel 18. support

CATEGORY

1. Entertainment - LEVEL1

POST TAG

1. downtown



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