



INTERNATIONAL  
OLYMPIC  
COMMITTEE

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Olympic Games Department

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By e-mail only

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### **Italian Candidature for the Olympic Winter Games 2026**

Dear Ms de Zanna, dear Ms Valle,

Thank you for your letter dated 23 October 2018, addressed to the International Olympic Committee (IOC) President, regarding the Italian candidature for the Olympic Winter Games 2026. We have provided a copy of your correspondence to the Milan / Cortina d'Ampezzo candidature team.

Public engagement is a major part of any Olympic candidature and plays a most important role not only during the candidature process, but also in the lead-up to and during the Olympic Games. Many past Candidature and Olympic Games Organising Committees have gained community support from all levels of society through a wide range of public engagement activities, with some of the most successful ones inspiring large numbers of young people to become more active through education programmes.

The IOC has taken note of the points you raise regarding support and community backing. The decision to organise a referendum in a Candidate City or region lies with the relevant governing authorities and does not fall within the remit of the IOC. Nevertheless, the IOC recognises that public support for a candidature is extremely important.

As part of the Candidature Process, the IOC carries out opinion polls in the Candidate Cities and their respective regions / country. The first polls regarding the Milan / Cortina d'Ampezzo candidature were carried out in April 2018 and the results were made public in the [IOC Working Group 2026 Report](#) (see Annex 1). A second series of opinion polls will be carried out next year in Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo and their respective regions. The findings will be made public as part of the IOC Evaluation Commission 2026 report, which will be released in advance of the Host City election in June 2019.

Your sincerely,

Christophe Dubi  
Olympic Games Executive Director

Jacqueline Barrett  
Associate Director – Olympic Candidatures

Cc: Milan / Cortina d'Ampezzo Candidate City  
Italian Olympic Committee

## ANNEX 1 - Excerpt of IOC Working Group 2026 Report



### 3.3 PUBLIC SUPPORT

**% OF POPULATION THAT AGREES (STRONGLY AGREES + AGREES) WITH THE STATEMENT:  
"I AM IN FAVOUR OF MILAN/CORTINA HOSTING THE OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES IN 2026"**

PEOPLE FROM	IN FAVOUR	NEUTRAL	NOT IN FAVOUR
CITY OF MILAN	83%	12%	6%
REGION OF LOMBARDY	71%	19%	10%
REGION OF VENETO	82%	14%	4%
ITALY	81%	12%	6%

Source: Publicis Media – April 2018

City of Milan: n=610 / Elsewhere in the Region of Lombardy: n=610 / Region of Veneto: n=610 / Italy: n=3,674