



## P R E S S   R E L E A S E

For IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **\$1.9 Million Powerball® Ticket Sold in Porterville** ***Minimart Owner Says Selling Lottery Tickets is ‘Good for Business’***

**SACRAMENTO** – A California Lottery player who purchased a *Powerball*® ticket in Porterville (Tulare County) has won a \$1,904,535 prize (less federal taxes). The ticket matched five of the six winning numbers (27-65-45-20-18) from Saturday night’s draw, missing only the Powerball (6).

The winning ticket was purchased at Express Mart & Gas, located at 1060 West Olive Avenue.

“I’m excited,” said store owner Adel Joudi, who has owned the store with his partners for 14 years. “It’s been rough during COVID, but business has started picking up, especially the Lotto. We hope people think of us as lucky now.” As for having the Lottery be part of your business, Joudi explained, “Most people come in and buy Lottery tickets and buy other stuff too. The Lottery is good for business.”

We will not know the identity of the winner until he or she claims their prize. The ticket must then be verified by the California Lottery.

The Lottery and its employees continue to serve an essential government function, providing funding to the state’s public schools, colleges and universities. In addition, the Lottery provides essential revenue to the local retailers that sell tickets. This money directly helps local businesses – most of which are independently-owned by people and families trying to stay afloat in this challenging economy. Charles Brown General Store will receive an estimated \$9,500 bonus for selling the winning ticket.

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*The California Lottery’s mission is to provide supplemental funding to California public schools, including kindergarten and grades 1-12, community colleges, the California State University, the University of California, and other California public educational entities. The funds the Lottery transfers to public education total approximately \$1.8 billion for fiscal year 2018-19, which amounts to a modest percentage of education’s overall budget. However, this funding is largely non-discretionary, meaning schools can use this for important, yet unfunded instructional programs they would otherwise not afford. During the same period the Lottery generated almost \$7 billion in sales, more than 95% of which goes back to the community in the form of prize payments, retailer commissions and bonuses, and*

*contributions to education. The California Lottery urges its customers to play responsibly. Problem gambling resources are available to anyone at 1-800-GAMBLER.*

[www.calottery.com](http://www.calottery.com)