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## P R E S S   R E L E A S E

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### **California State Lottery – A Winning Year For Public Schools**

**SACRAMENTO** – As we round out 2021, the California State Lottery is pleased to share this year’s highlights – especially those for public schools – and acknowledge the hard work of Lottery employees and retailers.

#### ***Record Sales***

With the support of communities from across the state, the Lottery earned a record \$8.4 billion in sales during (the unaudited) Fiscal Year 2020-21 (July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021) which is estimated to result in the highest contribution to public education—approximately \$1.87 billion. The Lottery’s core mission is to raise supplemental funding for education, supporting more than 1,000 public school districts throughout California. Despite major obstacles that continued through the pandemic, 2021 was a big success, showing that Lottery games continue to be a fun source of entertainment for California Lottery players.

#### ***Committed to Keeping the Community Safe***

The COVID-19 pandemic forced the Lottery to make several changes to its business practices, including finding alternative ways for players to claim their prizes in a safer manner. This year, the Lottery improved and expanded its contactless drop-off system at its district office locations and later, as public health conditions improved, the Lottery began allowing winners to make appointments for in-person service. The latter allows players of validated prizes of \$1,000 and under to receive payment via check on the spot at the Lottery’s district office locations in Sacramento, Fresno, and San Diego. Future program expansion is planned in 2022 at the Lottery’s remaining district offices.

This past year also marked historic participation from the Lottery in support of California’s COVID-19 support efforts. In June, the Lottery facilitated draw support for the Governor’s *Vax for the Win* incentives program designed to motivate Californians to get vaccinated. The Lottery’s participation in the program ensured accuracy and integrity of all draws, totaling \$15 million in cash prizes. The Lottery has been proud to support the state’s pandemic response through contact tracing, digital advertising for the *Vaccinate ALL 58* campaign, and assistance at mass vaccination sites in northern and southern California.

***Making More Millionaires Than Ever***

On the gaming front, the Lottery created a record-breaking single-year tally of more than 146 new millionaires in 2021! That includes the win that made headlines around the world when Scott Godfrey won a **\$699.8 million jackpot** in the **Powerball®** drawing on October 4 with a ticket purchased in Morro Bay (San Luis Obispo County). The drawing also marked the first big Powerball jackpot win since the multi-state game added a Monday drawing in August 2021. The weekly lineup of Powerball drawings is Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday. California’s own in-state game **SuperLotto Plus®** also proved lucky with four separate jackpot wins:

July 10	\$62 million	Van Nuys
August 07	\$14 million	Highland
November 27	\$38 million	Santa Clarita
December 15	\$11 million	San Jose

***Responsible Gaming Program Receives High Recognition***

The year ended on a high note with notification that the California Lottery received recertification from the World Lottery Association (WLA) for its Responsible Gaming Level 4 Framework. The WLA recertification is an integral part of the Lottery’s dedication to Responsible Gaming and is the highest globally recognized award for this kind of program. This certification is renewed every three years and is valid until December 2024. The Lottery works with the Office of Problem Gambling and its business partners to promote the state’s Problem Gambling Helpline (1-800-GAMBLER) and free treatment.

Through it all, the Lottery has remained committed to growing in a responsible manner while staying keenly focused on its mission to provide supplemental funding to California public education. The Lottery would like to thank its employees for their dedication in helping the department achieve a productive and successful 2021. The Lottery also thanks its 23,000 retail partners and many, many players for their continuing support in helping the Lottery achieve such great successes. Happy new year!

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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 transferred to public education totaled more than \$1.8 billion for fiscal year 2020-21, which amounted to a modest percentage of education's overall budget. However, this funding is largely nondiscretionary, meaning schools can use this for important, yet unfunded instructional programs they would otherwise not afford. During the same period, the Lottery generated almost \$8.4 billion in sales, more than 95% of which went back to the community in the form of prize payments, retailer commissions and bonuses, and contributions to education. As jackpots rise, the California Lottery would like to remind players that gambling should be fun. Borrowing money to play, spending above a person's budget or using money intended for other purposes can ultimately lead to significant problems for players and their families. If a player recognizes that they have a gambling problem or if someone knows of someone who may have a problem, the Lottery recommends calling the California Problem Gambling Help Line at 1-800-GAMBLER.*

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