



## P R E S S   R E L E A S E

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### ***Combined Jackpots Exceed \$1 Billion Lottery Reminds Public to Have Fun but “Play Safe”***

**SACRAMENTO** – As the [Mega Millions](#)® and [Powerball](#)® jackpots continue to grow, the CA Lottery urges players to enjoy the games safely and responsibly.

“The California Lottery urges players to follow public health guidelines when purchasing Lottery games at authorized retail locations,” said Alva V. Johnson, California State Lottery Director. “We want to remind players planning to buy *Mega Millions* and *Powerball* tickets to play it safe and purchase tickets during essential shopping trips. While we always encourage responsible play, it’s even more important during these trying times to wear a mask and maintain social distancing when purchasing your tickets.”

The *Mega Millions* jackpot for the Tuesday, January 12 drawing has an estimated annuity value of \$625 million and an estimated cash value of \$458.8 million.

The *Mega Millions* jackpot has been rolling for more than three months, since a ticket purchased in Wisconsin produced a \$120 million jackpot in the Sept. 15, 2020, drawing. The last time the *Mega Millions* jackpot crossed the \$600 million threshold was more than two years ago on Tuesday, October 16, 2018.

Meanwhile, Saturday’s *Powerball* drawing did not produce a grand-prize winner, and the jackpot for the Wednesday, January 13 drawing rolled to an estimated annuity value of \$550 million and an estimated cash value of \$411.4 million. The last *Powerball* jackpot hit came in the September 16, 2020, drawing when a ticket worth \$94.8 million was sold in New York.

At approximately \$1.2 billion, the combined total of the *Mega Millions* and *Powerball* jackpots is the highest it has been since October 2018, when the *Mega Millions* jackpot reached its all-time record of \$1.537 billion on a winning ticket sold in South Carolina.

The estimated contribution to California public schools from this entire *Mega Millions* sequence consisting of 33 draws is currently estimated to be nearly \$57 million and counting, while the estimated contribution to education from the *Powerball* sequence also consisting of 33 draws is estimated to be nearly \$53 million.

All estimated jackpot amounts are before taxes. The estimated annuity and cash values are announced prior to drawing dates and are based on projected sales. Differences between the

estimates and final amounts may exist because a substantial percentage of sales for both *Mega Millions* and *Powerball* occur on the drawing dates.

*Mega Millions* draws are Tuesdays and Fridays at 8 p.m. PT. **Sales close at 7:45 p.m., so players must buy their tickets by then to qualify for this evening's draw.**

*Powerball* draws happen Wednesdays and Saturdays at 7:59 p.m. PT. **Sales close at 7 p.m. for this game, so players must buy their tickets by then to qualify for that draw.**

The California Lottery has more than 23,000 retail partners, most of which are essential businesses and still open in accordance with state and local public health guidelines. Please visit the California Lottery website at [www.calottery.com](http://www.calottery.com) for more information on how to play.

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### **About the California Lottery**

*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)