



P R E S S R E L E A S E

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California Lottery Makes a Record 138 New Millionaires So Far This Year, With More Than a Month to Go

A Bunch of SoCal Winners Score Big Just in Time for the Holiday Spending Season

SACRAMENTO – 2021 has been a record-setting year full of lucky winners with 138 new millionaires so far. That’s more millionaires than the California Lottery has ever recorded in a single year, and there’s still a month and a half to go with more millionaires likely.

With the holidays right around the corner, a handful of Southern California Lottery players are the most recent millionaires, including one mother who wants to use her newfound wealth to become a nurse.

Yolanda Madrigal purchased a winning *Instant Prize Crossword Scratchers*® ticket at the United Oil 76 gas station at 2440 East Anaheim Street in **Long Beach (Los Angeles County)**. She won the \$2 million top prize. After she scanned her ticket in the store, she yelled so loud that her husband thought she broke something! Madrigal explains what happened when she arrived home.

“I was so excited when I won, I woke up my daughter and she asked, ‘Mom, what happened?’” Madrigal and her daughter are both medical assistants, and she tells the California Lottery that she plans to fulfill a lifelong dream of going back to school along with her daughter so they can become registered nurses together.

Elsewhere in Los Angeles County, **Santos Valadez** also hit the \$2 million top prize when he bought an *Instant Prize Crossword Scratchers* ticket. He purchased the lucky ticket at EZB Inc-Gas located at 1904 West Washington Boulevard in **Los Angeles** and plans to pay off debt and possibly buy a new truck.

Just to the north, **Michael Cisneros** won \$3 million on a *Set for Life Scratchers* ticket he purchased at Uncle Don’s Liquor located at 306 East Thompson Boulevard in **Ventura (Ventura County)**. And in Santa Barbara County, **Saul Alvarado** became a millionaire after purchasing a *Monopoly Scratchers* ticket at the 7-Eleven at 10660 Sepulveda Boulevard in **Mission Hills**. As probably a lot of people would, he plans to pay off debt with his million-dollar prize.

Scratchers aren’t the only millionaire makers! **Vicente Malagon** won more than \$2.5 million on *Powerball*® after he matched five numbers but missed the Powerball number. He purchased his ticket

at the General Store located at 614 East El Segundo Boulevard in **Compton (Los Angeles County)**.

The sales from all of these games and more support the mission of the California Lottery, which is to raise supplemental funding for the state's public schools, colleges, and universities. The Lottery also provides essential revenue to more than 23,000 local businesses that sell tickets. This money directly helps local businesses – most of which are independently owned.

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

www.calottery.com