



## P R E S S   R E L E A S E

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### **California Public Schools Earn Millions from Last Night's \$699.8 Million *Powerball*® Jackpot!**

Lottery Players Wait and Wonder Who Holds the Lucky Ticket

**SACRAMENTO** – The mystery continues today as to who purchased the winning \$699.8 million ticket (less federal taxes) at a Morro Bay Albertsons store to win last night's massive *Powerball*® jackpot. As of today, there is no confirmed winner of the nearly three-quarters of a billion-dollar payday!

The winning ticket matched all six numbers that were drawn (66-12-22-54-69 and the red *Powerball* number 15) on a Monday night. California now owns the distinction of being the first state to win a *Powerball* jackpot on a Monday, since a third draw was launched on August 23<sup>rd</sup>. This is the 5th largest jackpot in *Powerball* history and the 7th largest jackpot in U.S. lottery history.

While we still don't know who the Golden State's latest millionaire is, we can confirm that we know California public schools have won big! Total sales for this jackpot run (which began on June 9 and took a record 41 draws for someone to finally hit it big) generated an estimated \$78 million-plus in supplemental funding for public education in our state!

"It's exciting to know that a California Lottery player is sitting on millions of dollars after hitting the *Powerball* jackpot, but we're especially proud that California's public schools will receive \$78 million from just this drawing alone," California Lottery Director Alva V. Johnson said.

We also know the San Luis Obispo County retailer (Albertsons, located at 730 Quintana Road in Morro Bay) is collecting a whopping \$1 million retailer bonus just for selling the winning ticket. "We are thrilled to learn that one of our customers bought the winning *Powerball* ticket and that we were the retailer that sold it!" Melissa Hill, Albertsons spokesperson said.

Californians who purchase *Powerball* tickets to help public schools were definitely due for a big jackpot win! It had been almost two years since the last time a winning *Powerball* ticket was sold in our state. On November 2, 2019, William Lawrence purchased a winning \$150 million *Powerball* ticket at Gold Ranch Lottery, which is located on the Nevada state line in Floriston (Nevada County).

Here are some interesting facts related to last night's winning draw:

- This was the largest *Powerball* jackpot won here in the Golden State since California joined *Powerball* back on April 8, 2013.

- Last night's draw was advertised as \$685 million, but final sales throughout the country came in higher than estimated, which pushed the final jackpot total to exactly \$699,828,001.
- During this nearly four-month jackpot run, Californians purchased \$195.6 worth of *Powerball* tickets.
- 97 million *Powerball* tickets were sold in California during this record run. Of that total, 3.8 million tickets were winners, meaning players who didn't hit the jackpot are still taking home some decent cash (more than \$30 million combined).
- Throughout this entire record 41 draw sequence, there were four separate nights since June in which a single ticket sold in California matched 5 of the 6 winning numbers (missing only the red *Powerball* number). Those players took home a combined \$8.9 million.
- Retailers throughout the state earned \$11.4 million in sales commissions. Many of these retailers are small, family-owned businesses.

The owner of the \$699.8 million jackpot has a year from the date of the draw to claim their mind-blowing prize. They'll have the choice of taking a lump sum payment of exactly \$495,980,157, or the entire jackpot amount in 30 graduated payments over 29 years. The federal government taxes lottery winnings, but California does not collect state or local taxes on Lottery prizes.

If a person believes they have the winning ticket, they will need to complete a California Lottery claim form. Claim forms are available on our [website](#), at all Lottery District Offices, and at any of our more than 23,000 Lottery retailers throughout the state. Lottery suggests winners sign the back on their ticket in ink, make a copy of the front and back and put it in a safe place until they can claim their prize.

The California Lottery will not know the identity of the winner until he or she claims their prize. The mission of the California Lottery 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 \$7 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](http://www.calottery.com)