



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

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Ever Wonder How It Would Feel to Win the Lottery? Latest CA Winners Say Shock and Disbelief

SACRAMENTO – People often wonder how it would feel to win the Lottery. Would they be happy, cautious, charitable? The California Lottery’s latest Scratchers® winners say they experienced disbelief and utter shock when they realized they’d won!

“When I saw it was \$2 million, I almost had a heart attack!” said the California Lottery’s newest millionaire, Carly Thrasher. “I couldn’t believe it.”

Thrasher likes to play Scratchers every so often and loves the Crossword games, so it’s no wonder she recently picked up an [Instant Prize Crossword](#) Scratchers ticket. The shock hit when she realized it was a \$2 million winner! She bought her ticket at the Fastrip gas station on Oswell Street in Bakersfield, which gets a \$10,000 bonus for selling the winning ticket.

“This is a once-in-a-lifetime chance to not struggle anymore,” Thrasher added. She plans to get her own place to live and go back to school to study accounting and invest the rest of her prize.

In Southern California, Jose Meza Martinez also played [Instant Prize Crossword](#) and was similarly shocked at his good fortune.

“I bought my ticket and went home and scratched it,” Meza Martinez said. “That same day, I went back to the store to check it, and then I scanned it on the (official California Lottery) app. I *still* couldn’t believe it.”

Meza Martinez bought his ticket at Jr’s Liquor & Mart on Wilcox Avenue in Cudahy (Los Angeles County). He plans to buy a home with his prize, and as luck would have it, his rent was set to go up by \$400 the week before he won.

California Lottery players who are also new millionaires:

- Cassius Kelly won \$1 million on a [50X Fortune](#) Scratchers ticket, which was purchased at Liquor & Joy in Gardena.
- Anthony Winston also won \$1 million playing the [\\$10 California Dreamin’](#) ticket he bought at Liquor 4 Less in Long Beach.

Every dollar spent on Lottery games supports California's public schools. People can track the funds raised down to the local level with a new [map on the Lottery's website](#).

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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 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 \$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.

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