

700 North Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95811
calottery.com



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

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Phone: (916) 822-8131

Email: PIO@calottery.com

Twitter: [@calotterypress](https://twitter.com/calotterypress)

California Lottery Urges Players to Gift Responsibly This Holiday Season

SACRAMENTO – With the holiday shopping season upon us, the California Lottery reminds players not to spend more than they can afford when purchasing lottery tickets as gifts for family and friends. Further, being responsible also means players need to remember lottery tickets are NOT toys or appropriate stocking stuffers for kids.

“Even though all our games – particularly our holiday-themed Scratchers® tickets – are fun and designed to bring joy this holiday season, it is illegal for anyone younger than 18 to play any form of lottery in our state,” California Lottery Director Alva V. Johnson said.



The California Lottery is partnering with the National Council on Problem Gambling (NCPG) and McGill University’s International Centre for Youth Gambling Problems and High-Risk Behaviors in getting the word out about gifting responsibly this holiday season. It’s also part of a larger effort to raise awareness about the serious issue of youth gambling.

In addition to reaching players, the California Lottery firmly reminds its more than 23,000 retail partners that selling Lottery products to anyone under 18 is strictly prohibited by law. The Lottery does use underage decoys to help make sure cashiers are not selling to minors.

The California Lottery strives to uphold the highest standards for the sale of games and its [Commitment to Responsible Gaming](#). California's Lottery was the first lottery in the country to receive the highest certification and recertification from the World Lottery Association (WLA) for responsible gaming efforts.

For more information about the National Council on Problem Gambling's gift responsibly campaign, click [here](#).

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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 \$1.88 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. The California Lottery urges its customers to play responsibly. Problem gambling resources are available to anyone at 1-800-GAMBLER

www.calottery.com