



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

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California Man Becomes Instant Multimillionaire... While Sitting in His Car!

California Lottery Announces Newest Millionaires

SACRAMENTO – February is off to a great start as the California Lottery proclaims four new winners who are taking home more than \$15 million collectively across the state. The first winner unveiled today, **Manoug Manougian**, became an instant multimillionaire in his car! He won a whopping \$10 million after he scratched off a \$10 Million Dollar Titanium Black Scratchers® ticket right outside the store where he bought it in **Pasadena (Los Angeles County)**. His wife was with him, and they were both in disbelief.



“When we saw all those zeroes, our hearts started pounding! We still weren’t sure what we had won, so we went to our family and had them check too,” Manougian explained to the California Lottery. The Manougians say they plan to invest the money and take a family trip together.

The store where Manougian bought the winning ticket, Rafi’s 76 on East Foothill Boulevard, gets a \$50,000 bonus just for selling it.

Another winner, **Issam Hourany**, also won big after buying a ticket in **Los Angeles County**. His winning ticket was for a Mega Millions® draw and he matched five of six numbers scoring \$2,694,908! He got his ticket at Jerry’s Liquor in **Sun Valley** and selected his own lucky numbers.

“I’ve only been playing (those specific numbers) about three weeks; they are a combination of mine and my wife’s birthdays. They must be lucky,” he told the Lottery. Hourany was already planning to retire, and now that plan is being fast-tracked.

There are also two new millionaires from Scratchers tickets bought in northern California. **Natali Zepeda-Gomez** picked up an Instant Prize Crossword Scratchers game at Central Market in **San Mateo** and couldn’t believe she won \$2 million!

“We saw it, but we were in shock and disbelief. So we went to my mom’s, and she verified it for us,” Zepeda-Gomez said. She plans to buy a house, help her family, and go back to school.

The final millionaire unveiled today is **Michael Brandon**, who won \$1 million playing Multiplier Mania. Brandon got his ticket at Manteca Mart Liquors in **Manteca (San Joaquin County)**. He scratched his ticket and didn't realize it was a winner. He tried entering it in the California Lottery's 2nd Chance program, and that's when the system told him he actually had already won big!

"I had to have some other people double-check it, and sure enough, it was (a winner)," Brandon exclaimed. He wants to start his own business with his new money, and although he was already planning a trip to Disneyland in March, that trip might now be extended or include an upgraded room.

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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