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

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California Lottery Celebrates National Lottery Week, Highlighting Its Mission to Raise Money for Schools!

Lottery Week Comes As Mega Millions Jackpot Grows Huge

SACRAMENTO – The California Lottery joins lotteries across the U.S. and Canada to promote and celebrate **National Lottery Week**, a week-long celebration designed to help people better understand the Lottery, how it works, and its mission to raise additional funds for public education in California.

“Lottery Week is a great opportunity for us to continue sharing the ‘why’ behind the ‘what’ when it comes to the California Lottery,” said Alva V. Johnson, California Lottery Director. “Our mission is our purpose; we exist solely to raise extra money for public education, and we are proud to join other lotteries in showcasing the work we do on a daily basis.”

Throughout Lottery Week, the California Lottery will be sharing fun facts, winner awareness, mission updates, product spotlights, and more on social media, in e-mail communications, and through a new landing page online at www.calottery.com/lottery-week.

Since 1985, the California Lottery has given schools more than \$39 billion. In fact, 2021 was a record-breaking year with over \$8 billion in sales, which gave \$1.87 billion back to California public education.

Further, the California Lottery prides itself on the security and integrity of its games. All draw games happen under tight security, with an independent auditor and security staff present for each drawing. The California Lottery also has a dedicated Security and Law Enforcement Division responsible for vetting claims before winners are officially declared.

When a player believes they have a winning ticket, they should fill out a winner claim form and follow all of the instructions found on the [Lottery's website](http://www.calottery.com). Some claims may take weeks to be verified.

When there is a winning ticket, the California Lottery will not know who the winner is until the claim and verification process is completed. In California, information about how much a prize is worth, the location where the ticket was sold, and the name of the winner are all public record.

One California Lottery player could win big during Lottery Week! The **Mega Millions® jackpot has climbed to an estimated \$555 million for tonight's drawing.** For more information about Mega Millions, [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 \$1.8 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. As jackpots rise, the California Lottery would like to remind players that gambling should be fun. Borrowing money to play, spending above a person's budget, or using money intended for other purposes can ultimately lead to significant problems for players and their families. If a player recognizes that they have a gambling problem or if someone knows of someone who may have a problem, the Lottery recommends calling the California Problem Gambling Help Line at 1-800-GAMBLER.

www.calottery.com