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## P R E S S   R E L E A S E

For IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
July 29, 2022  
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### ***Mega Millions® Jackpot Increases to \$1.28 Billion for Tonight's Draw!***

#### ***\$99 Million Already Raised for California Public Schools***

**SACRAMENTO** – The jackpot for tonight's Mega Millions draw continues to climb, now at an estimated \$1.28 billion –the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest in Mega Millions history!

The jackpot is fueled by skyrocketing sales. Average sales for Mega Millions in California are about \$1 million a day. So far this week, with this gigantic jackpot drawing, sales have jumped to an average of \$10 million a day.

"We hope one of our Lottery players here hits it big, of course," said Carolyn Becker, California Lottery spokesperson. "But even if someone in another state hits the jackpot, we have a lot of winners here in California already: public schools and their students. When we see sales spike like this, that's more money we're able to raise for education, and there are more programs and services available."

Since the start of this jackpot run, which began in April and has been growing with no jackpot winners since, the California Lottery has already generated an estimated \$99 million for public education, benefiting grades K-12, community colleges, public universities, and other educational entities.

Players should buy their tickets for tonight's Mega Millions draw in person at one of the more than 23,000 locations that sell Lottery games across the state. App-based and online ticket resellers and delivery services are unregulated and unauthorized in California.

Even as prize amounts and sales increase, it is important to note that the odds of winning the jackpot remain the same: 1 in more than 302 million. The California Lottery

wants to remind the public that borrowing money to play or spending more on Lottery tickets than someone can afford can lead to significant problems. If a player recognizes that they have a gambling problem, they can call the California Problem Gambling Help Line at 1-800-GAMBLER.

Tonight's Mega Millions draw happens at 8 p.m. Tickets must be purchased by 7:45 p.m. to be eligible for tonight's draw. If someone hits the jackpot tonight and opts to take the lump sum cash prize, that would be worth an estimated \$747.2 million before federal taxes. **If no one hits tonight's jackpot, it will roll to a record estimated \$1.7 billion for Tuesday's draw – the largest ever Mega Millions jackpot ever!**

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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.*

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