



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

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Small Businesses Win Big With California Lottery's Latest Round of Millionaires

SACRAMENTO – As summer kicks off, small-business owners are celebrating big wins along with eight lucky California Lottery Scratchers® players, all of whom bought their tickets in Southern California.

Stephen Pownceby won \$5,000,000 playing Millionaire Bucks, a game he picked up at JK Market in Riverside. That store gets a \$25,000 bonus for selling the winning ticket.

“This is the first big win. We’ve never had one like this,” said Jay Patel, the market’s owner. Patel said he plans to invest in his business and take a trip to Hawaii with the bonus money.

Rounding out the rest of the newly minted millionaires are the following seven Scratchers fans:

- **Maria Magana** won \$5,000,000 playing West Coast Winnings purchased at Best Donut in Los Angeles.
- **Miriam Valdez-Flores** won \$5,000,000 playing Year of Fortune purchased at 7-Eleven in Long Beach (Los Angeles County).
- **Tony Edwin Pimental Chilin** won \$2,000,000 playing Instant Prize Crossword at MK Chevron in Los Angeles.
- **Bin Ou** won \$2,000,000 playing Instant Prize Crossword purchased at Royal Liquor in Los Angeles.
- **Gurdeep Singh** won \$2,000,000 playing Instant Prize Crossword purchased at KH Liquor in North Hollywood (Los Angeles County).
- **Ahmad Bazgir** won \$1,000,000 playing Winter Bucks purchased at 7-Eleven in San Diego.
- **Yerem Soghatyan** picked up \$1,000,000 playing Gold Rush purchased at Liquor Palace in Van Nuys (Los Angeles County).

The California Lottery has more than [23,000 retail partners](#), which play an important role in our mission to raise money for public schools. Since the Lottery began selling tickets in 1985, stores like those highlighted today have earned more than \$8.5 billion in commissions and bonuses. Additionally, studies show that for every \$5 Lottery transaction, players spend an additional \$10 in the store, providing essential revenue to thousands of small businesses across the state.

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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