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PRESS RELEASE

For IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 2, 2022
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*** JACKPOT ALERT ***

Powerball® Fever Is Here as Jackpot Tops \$1 Billion!

SACRAMENTO – If you've been anywhere near one of the more than 23,000 California Lottery retailers in the last few days, you've probably seen a steady stream of people lining up to buy tickets. Those dream-seekers are all hoping to win tonight's estimated jackpot of \$1.2 billion. **If no one hits the jackpot tonight, it's projected to increase to a whopping \$1.5 billion!**

The lines at stores are also turning into big profits, two dollars at a time, as Lottery retailers cash in on the frenzy as well. They've collectively raked in an astounding \$11.7 million statewide selling Powerball tickets since the jackpot started growing back in August.

"Even though the jackpot keeps rolling, California has winners everywhere and of all kinds!" said Carolyn Becker, California Lottery spokesperson. "Some players are winning hundreds or even thousands of dollars when they hit certain numbers each night of the draw, and we also have our local business partners who feel like big winners, too. And of course, schools are the true winners in all of this. So far, we've raised tens of millions of dollars for public education just from sales related to this growing jackpot. It's exciting any way you look at it."

Speaking of winners, there were plenty to go around as 760,000 winning tickets were sold for the [drawing on Monday night](#). California has had more than 3.6 million winning Powerball tickets worth a total of almost \$29.8 million in the three months since this jackpot began; that's because there are nine ways to win, all with different prize levels.

Here are some more stats and facts for tonight's big draw:

- The lump sum (cash option) amount for a single jackpot-winning ticket tonight is an estimated \$596.7 million before federal taxes are taken. The State of California does not tax Lottery prizes.
- As this jackpot roll continues, public education in California is rolling in the dough. The contribution to education from this entire Powerball sequence is estimated to be approximately \$80 million.

- The current jackpot has been rolling since a player in Pennsylvania won the [\\$206.9 million](#) Powerball jackpot on August 3.
- Since that time, almost 100 million Powerball tickets have been sold in California so far over this entire rolling sequence.
- Powerball holds the world record for largest jackpot set in 2016. The record \$1.586 billion jackpot was shared by winners in California, Florida, and Tennessee.

The deadline to buy Powerball tickets for tonight's draw is 7 p.m. The draw happens at 7:59 p.m. PT.

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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. As the jackpots continue to grow, the California Lottery would also like to remind players to play responsibly and within their budgets. If you feel you have a gambling problem or know someone who does, you can get free confidential help by calling the California Problem Gambling Helpline at 1-800-GAMBLER.

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