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PRESS RELEASE

For IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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***** JACKPOT ALERT *****

Nothing Spooky About Tonight's Powerball® Jackpot – Estimated to be \$1 Billion!

SACRAMENTO – People across California are hoping for both tricks and treats tonight as the big Powerball drawing approaches.

This is only the second time ever that Powerball's advertised jackpot has reached the billion-dollar threshold. Although the jackpot is always an estimate for Powerball, people in some cities are lining up by the dozens to get their hands on tickets.

"The excitement and enthusiasm for tonight's draw is palpable," said Carolyn Becker, California Lottery spokesperson. "We know our players are dreaming about what they might do if they win that prize, but the California Lottery also wants to stress to our players that lottery is a form of entertainment. No one should spend any money playing lottery games that they cannot afford to lose. Please play responsibly and within your budget."

Additionally, the California Lottery wants players to know that the only way to play safely and securely is for people to buy tickets in-person at one of the more than 23,000 official Lottery retail locations across California. Tickets sold online or through a mobile app are not regulated or authorized in California.

The following are some Powerball fast facts for tonight's draw:

- The lump sum (cash option) amount for a single jackpot-winning ticket tonight is an estimated \$497.3 million before federal taxes are taken. The State of California does not tax Lottery prizes.
- California Lottery ticket sales help benefit public education in our state. The contribution to education from this entire Powerball sequence is estimated to be \$62.5 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, more than 78 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.

www.calottery.com