



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

For IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 27, 2023
Email: PIO@calottery.com
Twitter: [@calotterypress](https://twitter.com/calotterypress)

Newest CA Lottery Millionaire Credits Good Timing and the Number Five for His \$5 Million Payday

Second Player Wins \$1 Million, Bringing CA Lottery's Total Millionaires for 2023 to Three Dozen

SACRAMENTO – When Alec Bucur showed up at a Chevron in Irvine, he decided to play news reporter and interview the clerk about the *Millionaire Bucks* Scratchers® game that caught his eye. It has, after all, a top prize of \$5 million.

“I wanted to know how much the last winning ticket sold was worth and what number it was in the stack of Scratchers,” Bucur explained. “I found out someone won five hundred bucks in the stack, and it was ticket number five.”

Bucur says that’s all he needed to know. He was determined to only buy this ticket the next time the Chevron had the fifth ticket in the pack available. He became a regular, and eventually, his unscientific plan worked. He showed up one evening after having dinner with family and it was available, so he bought it on the spot.

Back at home, he scratched the first two rows. Nothing. But then, halfway down row number three, in black bold letters, there it was – all seven digits to win this game’s top prize.

“Number five in the series was worth five million dollars,” Bucur said. “I was just gunning for it, and now I’m a multimillionaire,” Bucur said. “I don’t need a Ferrari. I don’t need a mansion. I’m not a spender. I’m going to do some traveling and let this money grow.”

The Chevron, which is at 5425 Alton Parkway in Irvine, receives a \$25,000 bonus for selling Bucur’s winning ticket.



Elsewhere in California, Jose Sanchez won \$1 million playing *Power 10's Scratchers*. He bought his winning ticket at Shahkot Gas & Market, which is located at 1727 East Dyer Road in Santa Ana.

So far, California Lottery has made 36 new millionaires in 2023.

###

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 approximately \$2 billion for fiscal year 2021-22, 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 more than \$8.8 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. 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