



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

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California Lottery Player Claims \$3.9 Million Prize – Missed \$1.1 Billion Mega Millions® Jackpot by Only One Number!

First Billion-Dollar Jackpot Run of 2023 Helped Raise More Than an Estimated \$109 Million in Funding for California Public Education

SACRAMENTO – One number! That’s how close Timothy Morgan came to winning the \$1.1 billion *Mega Millions* jackpot on January 10th – a draw that captivated the nation.

Morgan got five tickets for the draw which, at the time, was the third billion-dollar jackpot up for grabs in less than six months. He matched winning numbers **7, 13, 14, 15, and 18**, missing only the Mega number **9**. He had Mega number **1**; that’s how close he came to becoming an instant billionaire. Even still, he took home a hefty \$3,970,609 for matching five of the six winning numbers.

“I’m so happy for him,” said Soo Kim, owner of Park’s Liquor in Hacienda Heights (Los Angeles County), where Morgan bought his lucky ticket.

Morgan wasn’t the only winner in California that evening. The nearly 12-week jackpot run, which ended three nights later with a \$1.348 billion win in [Maine](#), raised more than an estimated \$109 million for California’s public schools. For every Mega Millions ticket purchased in our state, 80 cents [goes to public education](#).

“I think it’s great,” said Kim, who’s been selling lottery tickets at her store for the past 15 years. “Every ticket helps schools. I even tell people if they don’t win, at least they donated some money for public education,” she added.

Lottery ticket sales also benefit local economies and small-business owners such as Kim, who said foot traffic increased after Morgan’s win.

“We are now known as a lucky retailer. People who have probably driven past us for the past 10 years stop now and buy their lottery tickets and other items like drinks and snacks,” she explained.

Kim also received a bonus of nearly \$20,000, thanks to the big win, and now has celebratory signs hanging around her shop.

Mega Millions draws twice a week on Tuesday and Friday nights. Tonight's estimated jackpot is [\\$20 million](#).



Park's Liquor, located at 907 7th Avenue, Hacienda Heights sold a winning \$3,970,609 Mega Millions ticket.

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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 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