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

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BREAKING NEWS: Mega Millions® Monster Jackpot Increases to an Estimated \$1.1 Billion for Tonight's Draw

California Lottery Spokesperson Available for Interviews Today at Popular Lottery Location in Sacramento

SACRAMENTO – What a way to start a new month – and a historical one at that. With tonight's *Mega Millions* jackpot now projected to be an astonishing \$1.1 billion, today marks the first time in U.S. lottery history that California players have had two chances at becoming billionaires in less than two weeks.

A small market in downtown Los Angeles sold the country's only [jackpot-winning Powerball® ticket](#) for the draw on July 19th; that ticket is now worth a whopping \$1.08 billion. The impressive sizes of both billion-dollar jackpots have already turned California public schools into big winners, regardless of whether a player in California hits the next jackpot or not. That's because California Lottery exists solely to raise additional funding for education, and higher jackpots fuel stronger-than-usual sales.

Tonight's *Mega Millions* jackpot has been growing since April, having rolled 29 times so far. Sales in California just for this game have totaled more than \$192 million in the more than three months since the rolling sequence began. This has helped California Lottery raise an estimated \$77 million for public education, just in time for the back-to-school season.

With back-to-back gigantic jackpots, the California Lottery media team is available for interviews throughout the day, either in-person or via online streaming.

Media Availability On Site in Sacramento TODAY

Who: Carolyn Becker, California Lottery spokesperson

Where: Spinners Cinnamon Rolls inside the 76 station at 1400 Sutterville Road in Sacramento

When: Tuesday, July 31, 10:30am-12pm / Online streaming available upon request

Tonight's estimated \$1.1 billion jackpot is the 4th largest in *Mega Millions* game history and 6th largest jackpot in the U.S. If nobody wins tonight's top prize, the jackpot will roll for the 30th consecutive time.

Mega Millions tickets are two dollars each; for every ticket sold in California, about eighty cents goes to public education. The draw is slated for 8 pm tonight.

California Lottery also wants to remind the public that playing Lottery should be fun. Borrowing money to play, spending above a person's budget, or using money set aside for other things can lead to significant problems for players and their families. If a player recognizes that they have a gambling problem or if someone knows of someone who may have a problem, the Lottery recommends calling the California Problem Gambling Help Line at 1-800-GAMBLER.

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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.

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