700 North Tenth Street Sacramento, CA 95811 calottery.com



PRESS RELEASE

For IMMEDIATE RELEASE August 7, 2023 Email: <u>PIO@calottery.com</u> Twitter: <u>@calotterypress</u>

MEDIA AVAILABILITY TOMORROW MORNING: Mega Millions® Jackpot Highest It's Ever Been for Tuesday's Draw

SACRAMENTO – With the *Mega* Millions jackpot estimated at <u>\$1.55 billion</u> for Tuesday night's draw, the game is making history as that projected top prize is the highest it's ever been. The California Lottery media team will be available throughout the week for interviews, including in-person Tuesday morning at two of its partner retail locations in Sacramento.

Media Availability

When/Where: Tuesday, August 8

- 6:30 AM 8 AM Spinners Cinnamon Rolls / 76 station at 1400 Sutterville Road in Sacramento
- 10 AM -12 PM Lichine's Liquor & Deli at 7107 South Land Park Drive in Sacramento

Mega Millions Fast Facts

- The cash value for tomorrow's estimated \$1.55 billion jackpot is projected to be \$757.2 million.
- This jackpot sequence started on April 21 at \$20 million and has been rolling ever since.
- The projected jackpot for Tuesday night is the highest it's ever been for *Mega Millions*; however, it's the third-largest jackpot in U.S. lottery history, trailing the \$2.040 billion Powerball jackpot on November 7, 2022, and the \$1.586 billion Powerball jackpot on January 13, 2016.
- The last *Mega Millions* drawing on Friday, August 4, resulted in more than 5.3 million winning tickets across the country, including 767,647 in California. Though no one hit the jackpot, there are <u>nine ways to win</u> at different prize levels.
- The odds of hitting the jackpot are 1 in 302,575,350, while the odds of winning any prize are just 1 in 24.
- *Mega Millions* tickets are sold in 47 jurisdictions: 45 states; Washington, D.C., and the U.S. Virgin Islands.
- Tickets are \$2 each; for every ticket sold in California, approximately 80 cents goes to public education in support of Lottery's sole mission to raise additional funds for public schools across the state.

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 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. As jackpots rise, the California Lottery would like to remind players that gambling should be fun. Borrowing money to play, spending above a person's budget, or using money intended for other purposes can ultimately 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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