



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

For IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 8, 2023

Email: PIO@calottery.com

Twitter: [@calotterypress](https://twitter.com/calotterypress)

Mega Millions® Jackpot INCREASES AGAIN to an Estimated \$1.58 Billion for Tonight's Draw – Highest Ever in Game's History

Media Availability Today at One of Sacramento's Luckiest Lottery Stores

SACRAMENTO – *Mega Millions* has skyrocketed right into the history books. The estimated \$1.58 billion jackpot for tonight's draw is the largest in the game's history.

Tonight's jackpot has been growing since April. *Mega Millions* sales in California alone, just for this game's rolling sequence, have totaled more than \$270 million so far. The California Lottery exists solely to raise additional money for public education, specifically to supplement school budgets. Thanks to this *Mega Millions* jackpot run, the Lottery has raised an extra \$108 million for schools across the state.

"It's an honor to support such a worthy cause. We all know education funding is complicated, and Lottery money was never designed to be a school budget savior," said Carolyn Becker, California Lottery spokesperson. "The dollars we raise are spent in different ways, depending on the county and the district, and we hear from teachers and administrators all the time how helpful our funds really are, enhancing programs and services that public school students might not otherwise have access to."

Because of the history-making nature of tonight's jackpot, the California Lottery media team is available for interviews throughout the day, either in person in Sacramento or via online streaming.

Media Availability On-Site in Sacramento TODAY

Who: Carolyn Becker, California Lottery spokesperson

Where: Lichine's Liquor & Deli at 7107 South Land Park Drive in Sacramento

When: Tuesday, August 8, 10am - 12pm | Online streaming interviews available upon request

Though tonight's jackpot is the highest it's ever been for *Mega Millions*, it's only the third largest in U.S. history, behind *Powerball's*® [\\$2.04 billion jackpot](#) this past November and a \$1.586 billion jackpot back in 2016.

The cash value for tonight's top prize is estimated to be \$783.3 million. Jackpots and the associated cash value for *Mega Millions* are estimated based on projected sales. Differences between the estimates and final amounts are likely to happen once the jackpot is hit. The cash value – sometimes called the lump sum – is the amount of cash in the jackpot pool. If a winner chooses annual payments rather than the lump sum, the cash value is then used to buy bonds that fund the annual payments totaling the final jackpot amount.

Tickets for *Mega Millions* are \$2 each, and in California, approximately 80 cents from every ticket sold goes to public education. Players who want [a chance at tonight's prizes](#) need to buy their tickets before the draw entry period closes at 7:45pm. Tickets sold after that cut-off are still valid for the following draw.

###

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.

www.calottery.com