

PRESS RELEASE

For IMMEDIATE RELEASE December 26, 2023 PIO@calottery.com @calotterypress

A Multimillion-Dollar Christmas Present: One Lucky Ticket in California Wins \$2+ Million on Powerball®

SACRAMENTO – While there was no Christmas jackpot winner in last night's *Powerball* drawing, one lucky ticket sold in Orange County earned someone a nice \$2.08 million holiday gift.

That ticket, which was sold at Donut Storr in Anaheim, <u>matched the first five numbers correctly</u> to win the second-place prize. The winning numbers drawn Monday night were 5, 12, 20, 24, 29, and 4. In total, there were more than 141,000 winning *Powerball* tickets sold in California. Since no one in the country hit the jackpot, it now rolls to an estimated **\$685 million for tomorrow's draw**.

In the meantime, California's public schools are once again benefitting big time with a jackpot this high. Higher jackpots help fuel ticket sales and, in turn, give a boost to California Lottery's beneficiary, which is <u>public education</u>. For every *Powerball* ticket sold in California, approximately 80 cents helps supplement funding for schools across the state.

While the California Lottery is thankful to its players for supporting schools, it also wants to remind people that playing *Powerball*, or any other lottery game, should be fun. Borrowing money to play or spending above someone's budget can lead to significant problems for players and their families. If a player recognizes that they have a gambling problem or knows of someone showing signs of a problem, they can call 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 more than \$2.07 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 \$8.85 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.

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