

700 North Tenth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95811  
calottery.com



## PRESS RELEASE

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[PIO@calottery.com](mailto:PIO@calottery.com)

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

### ***A Busy Shopping Message From CA Lottery as Tonight's Powerball Jackpot Is Now an Estimated \$620 Million***

**SACRAMENTO** – While public schools are locked up tight for winter break, the California Lottery continues on its merry way, raising additional money for our state's public education system.

Because nobody hit the half-a-billion-dollar *Powerball* jackpot Wednesday, that estimate has now ballooned to \$620 million for tonight's draw. Regardless of what happens tonight, public schools continue to profit despite 30 consecutive draws now without a grand-prize winner.

*Powerball* sales in our state alone have raised approximately \$45 million for education during this jackpot run, which started in October after that staggering [\\$1.765 billion](#) win in Kern County. In California, roughly 80 cents of every \$2 *Powerball* ticket sold is set aside to help supplement funding for [public education](#).

"Time and again, we hear from our players who say that while it can be disappointing to come up short on a big win, they take solace knowing a portion of the fun money they've spent benefits our public schools," said California Lottery spokeswoman Carolyn Becker.

With this one of the busiest shopping weekends the year, the California Lottery also wants to remind the public that playing games like *Powerball* should be for fun only. 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 knows of someone who may have a problem, the Lottery recommends calling the California Problem Gambling Help Line at 1-800-GAMBLER.

Should the *Powerball* jackpot roll again tonight, the next draw for an even bigger grand prize will take place Christmas night. *Powerball* drawings happen three nights a week at 7:59pm PT on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays. Winning numbers can always be found within minutes following the draw on the [California Lottery website](#).

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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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