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## PRESS RELEASE

For IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### ***Will It Be ‘Claus’ for Celebration in California? \$638 Million Powerball® Jackpot Could Be the Best Present Ever***

**SACRAMENTO** – It’s happened only three times in *Powerball’s* 31-year history; will it happen again tonight? One lucky player could find themselves wrapping their head around arguably the ultimate Christmas wish come true, becoming only the fourth person ever to hit the jackpot on December 25<sup>th</sup>.

The last time a player won a *Powerball* jackpot on Christmas was exactly a decade ago. On December 25, 2013, a player in Missouri won the grand prize of \$71.5 million. Tonight’s top prize is worth considerably more. Since nobody hit the \$620 million jackpot over the weekend, it rolled for the 31<sup>st</sup> straight draw and is **now worth an estimated \$638 million**.

Although nobody in our state was fortunate enough to take home the grand prize, there were an impressive 204,091 [winning \*Powerball\* tickets sold in California](#) for Saturday’s draw.

Every single *Powerball* ticket – winner or not – sold in California benefits our state’s public schools. Roughly 80 cents from each ticket purchase is set aside to [supplement funding for public education](#). This jackpot sequence, which started in October and is on track to carry on into 2024, has raised an estimated **\$48 million for schools**.

*Powerball* drawings happen three nights a week on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays at 7:59pm PT. If no one wins the jackpot tonight, the top prize will roll to a projected \$685 million for Wednesday.

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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. 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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