

700 North Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95811
calottery.com



PRESS RELEASE

For IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 18, 2023

PIO@calottery.com

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

Powerball® Ready to Deliver Hefty Jackpot This Holiday Season

SACRAMENTO – *Powerball* could deliver the ultimate gift to a California Lottery player this holiday season. In the final week before Christmas, the *Powerball* jackpot has risen to an estimated \$543 million for tonight's drawing.

This is the fourth *Powerball* jackpot to climb above half a billion dollars this year. The *Powerball* jackpot was previously hit on Oct. 11, 2023 when [a ticket in California](#) won a grand prize worth \$1.765 billion! Since then, there have been 28 consecutive drawings with no jackpot winner.

While there was no grand prize winner in this past Saturday's drawing, there were [more than 138,000 winning *Powerball* tickets](#) at other prize levels across California. California's public schools are winning big also thanks to this growing jackpot. California Lottery has been able to raise \$39 million for public education from *Powerball* sales alone since this jackpot sequence started more than two months ago.

If a player wins the jackpot in tonight's *Powerball* drawing, they will have the choice between 30 annual payments worth an estimated total of \$543 million or a lump sum payment estimated at \$272.2 million before federal taxes. The state of California does not tax lottery prize winnings.

Powerball tickets are \$2 each. Approximately 80 cents for every ticket sold here in California goes toward helping to supplement [funding for public education](#).

###

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.

www.calottery.com