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PRESS RELEASE

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California Lottery Warns Powerball® Players: Don't Make This Mistake Ahead of Tonight's Huge Jackpot or the Prize Will Be Forfeited!

SACRAMENTO – *Powerball* is at it yet again with tonight's jackpot draw worth an estimated \$572 million. And with big jackpots come big warnings from the California Lottery.

All Lottery games purchased from ticket brokers, resellers, or online courier services are not valid in California, and so any winning tickets discovered to have been purchased via a computer or mobile app will be invalidated, with no prize money payout.

The California Lottery is not affiliated with any third-party ticket delivery services, nor are these services vetted, approved, or regulated, which means there is no oversight or protection for players. The California Lottery is prohibited by law from paying prize money to anyone known to have purchased their tickets in this manner.

“Simply put – anyone who buys their lottery tickets online or through a mobile app is **not eligible to win**, and that includes tonight's \$500+ million *Powerball* jackpot,” said Carolyn Becker, California Lottery spokesperson.

Meanwhile, there are plenty of winners already, even without a *Powerball* jackpot win since early October. Just in the two months since that jackpot rolled over, and from *Powerball* sales alone, California Lottery has raised \$41.2 million for public education. Every *Powerball* ticket sale in California translates into approximately 80 cents, helping to supplement school funding, which is the [sole mission of the California Lottery](#).

Powerball drawings happen three nights a week on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays. Winning numbers can always be found within minutes following the draw on www.calottery.com.

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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-GAMBLE

www.calottery.com