

PRESS RELEASE

For IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Playing Responsibly Is Key as Powerball® Jackpot Hits an Estimated \$747 Million

SACRAMENTO – As the latest Powerball jackpot approaches a billion dollars, the California Lottery is encouraging everyone to play responsibly.

"It's thrilling, of course, when jackpots get this high, but it also presents us an opportunity to offer a friendly reminder to all of our players that these games are designed to be fun and entertaining. No one should spend more than they can afford on Lottery tickets," said Carolyn Becker, California Lottery spokesperson. "We take responsible gaming very seriously, and we want to ensure our players stay safe."

California Lottery offers advice and resources on its website in the Play Responsibly section.

This jackpot for tonight's draw has climbed to an estimated \$747 million after no one hit it this weekend. The cash value is estimated at \$403.1 million. Powerball tickets are \$2 each and are sold at any of California Lottery's more than 23,000 retail partners.

Here are the latest fast facts about tonight's draw:

- Tonight's will be the 34th draw since the sequence started at \$20 million on November 21, 2022.
- Public education in California is on a winning streak, earning \$54.4 million dollars in contributions thanks to California Lottery players buying more than \$135.9 million worth of Powerball tickets since the jackpot sequence began.
- California holds the Powerball jackpot record, having sold the <u>only winning ticket</u> for a historic \$2.04 billion jackpot in November 2022.

Players have until 7 p.m. PT to buy tickets for tonight's draw, which is slated to happen at 7:59 p.m. PT.

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 \$1.88 billion for fiscal year 2020-21, 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 almost \$8.4 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 the jackpots continue to grow, the California Lottery would also like to remind players to play responsibly and within their budgets. If you feel you have a gambling problem or know someone who does, you can get free confidential help by calling the California Problem Gambling Helpline at 1-800-GAMBLER.

www.calottery.com