



PRESS RELEASE

For IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CA Lottery Warning to Players: Don't Buy Tickets Online or You Won't Win

SACRAMENTO – With the Powerball® jackpot soaring back up to an estimated **\$526 million** for tonight's draw, the California Lottery is warning its players not to buy their tickets online or through a digital app. Anyone who buys their tickets through online lottery ticket resellers is **not eligible to win**.

"Online lottery ticket sales are not regulated in California, so there's simply no oversight," said Carolyn Becker, California Lottery spokesperson. "Because these services are not authorized, we would be prohibited from knowingly paying a prize on any ticket acquired through a third-party digital service because the player would not meet the legal definition of a 'winner.'"

There are [more than 23,000 in-person retail locations](#) where California Lottery players can legally buy their tickets for tonight's draw. Typically, when an estimated jackpot reaches hundreds of millions of dollars, more people turn out to play.

Here are some additional fast facts about tonight's draw:

- The current Powerball jackpot started at \$20 million on November 21, 2022, and it has rolled 28 times so far.
- The lump sum amount – also known as the cash value – should a single ticket hit the jackpot tonight is estimated to be \$284 million. If more than one ticket matches all six numbers, the jackpot is split.
- California Lottery estimates it has raised more than \$37.5 million for public education from this Powerball jackpot sequence (the 28 completed draws so far).
- The last Powerball jackpot won was \$92.9 million on a ticket sold in Kansas. That winner [told the Kansas Lottery](#) they had plans to give some of their prize money to charity as well as to travel and potentially invest in a vacation home.

The deadline to buy Powerball tickets for tonight's draw is 7 p.m. The draw is slated to happen at 7:59 p.m. PT.

Players can use any of these ways to see if they're a Powerball winner:

- Look on the [Lottery website](#) for winning numbers and prize amounts.
- Download the official California Lottery mobile app to see winning numbers and scan their ticket using the app's Check-A-Ticket feature.
- Use the Check-A-Ticket machine at a [Lottery retail location](#).

In California, players have 180 days from the date of the draw to claim a Powerball prize. However, if someone wins the **Powerball jackpot**, they have **up to a year** from the date of the draw to claim it.

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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 \$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