



P R E S S R E L E A S E

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Mega Millions® Players Hope Friday the 13th Turns Out to be Lucky with a \$1.35 Billion Jackpot

California Lottery Available for Media Interviews All Day & This Weekend

SACRAMENTO – The common association between Friday the 13th and bad luck isn't stopping tens of millions of California Lottery players from trying their chances at tonight's Mega Millions jackpot, estimated to be \$1.35 billion – the second largest top prize in the game's history.

Whether someone in California hits the jackpot or not, public schools are already coming out big winners. The California Lottery has raised nearly \$98 million just from sales of Mega Millions tickets in this jackpot sequence, which started back in mid-October at \$20 million and has been climbing steadily with no winners for nearly three months. For every Mega Millions ticket purchased in California, 80 cents [goes to public education](#).

Players in 45 states, as well as the District of Columbia and the U.S. Virgin Islands, are pressing their luck tonight, hoping the notoriously unlucky date defies its own reputation.

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

- This Mega Millions jackpot sequence has rolled 25 times so far to an advertised jackpot of \$1.35 billion for tonight's draw. The cash value – which is what the winner would take if choosing the lump sum – is projected to be \$707.9 million.
- California's sales for this entire Mega Millions sequence total more than \$244.6 million so far; that's up from \$225 million as of the most recent draw Tuesday night, an indication of how many California players are getting in on the action. (Each Mega Millions ticket costs \$2.)
- [A winning ticket sold in Hacienda Heights](#) in Los Angeles County matched 5 numbers this past Tuesday night, missing only the Mega number; that ticket is now worth a whopping \$3.97 million.
- Mega Millions draws happen on Tuesdays and Fridays at 8 p.m. PT, with the entry period closing each night at 7:45 p.m. PT; any tickets purchased after that are eligible for the following draw.

The California Lottery reminds its players that [the only safe and secure way to play](#) is to buy tickets in person at one of Lottery's [more than 23,000 partner retail locations](#).

Though no formal news conferences or media availabilities are scheduled, California Lottery has spokespeople available for interviews by phone, in person, or via video conference throughout today, tonight, and – should there be a big winner in California – also on Saturday. Please email pio@calottery.com for a quick response.

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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