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

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Mega Millions Jackpot Closes in on \$1 Billion

SACRAMENTO – California Lottery players have yet another chance at winning a jackpot prize that could catapult them into the ranks of some of the richest people in the country. The estimated jackpot amount for tonight's Mega Millions® drawing is **\$940 million**, or an estimated \$483.5 million if a winning player chooses the cash value, lump sum option. That would be the fourth largest Mega Millions jackpot ever won.

There have been 23 completed draws in this sequence without a jackpot winner; tonight's draw is number 24. Every ticket in *any* Mega Millions draw carries the same odds of winning the top prize: 1 in about 303 million.

Like money spent on a sporting event or at the movies, the California Lottery reminds players that lottery games are a form of entertainment. No one should spend money above their means on lottery games.

Every ticket sold in California helps to support public education in our state. The contribution to education from this entire Mega Millions sequence, the 23 completed draws plus sales so far for tonight's draw, is estimated to be \$68.4 million.

Mega Millions draws take place Tuesdays and Fridays at 8 p.m. PT. Players have to buy tickets before 7:45 p.m. on the day of the draw in order to be included. Any tickets purchased after 7:45 p.m. would be eligible for the following draw. Players can find all the details about Mega Millions, including odds of winning at any prize level, on the [California Lottery website](https://www.calottery.com). While winning numbers are available within minutes, news of any winners – including whether California sold any winning tickets – can take several hours to post while final results are certified at the national level.

The California Lottery media team is available for interviews on camera, on the phone, or via video conference. Please reach out using the contact information above. For updates on any potential jackpot winners tonight in California, media should follow the Lottery on Twitter at [@calotterypress](https://twitter.com/calotterypress).

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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 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