

700 North Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95811
calottery.com



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

For IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 11, 2023

Phone: (916) 822-8131

Email: PIO@calottery.com

Twitter: [@calotterypress](https://twitter.com/calotterypress)

BREAKING NEWS: Estimated Mega Millions® Jackpot Raised to \$500 Million for Tonight's Draw

\$36 Million Raised for CA Public Schools from This Jackpot Alone

SACRAMENTO – Thanks to continued strong sales, Mega Millions has raised the estimated jackpot for tonight's draw to \$500 million. As a result, California Lottery has already raised more than \$36 million for public education.

Jackpots for both multi-state Lottery games are high as Powerball's estimated jackpot also climbed to \$725 million after no one won the top prize last night. California Lottery's [23,000+ retail partners](#) are also benefitting big. They've earned more than \$12 million collectively in commissions and bonuses, as a result of both games with jackpots that have been rolling for months.

Mega Millions draws happen on Tuesdays and Fridays at 8pm Pacific Time. Sales for tonight's draw close at 7:45pm. The odds of winning the jackpot are 1 in 302.5 million, and the odds of winning any prize are 1 in 24.

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 set aside for other things can 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.

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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 approximately \$2 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 \$8.8 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.

