



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

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Tonight's Mega Millions® Jackpot at \$820 Million – Continues Inching Toward Another Billion-Dollar Payday

California Public Education Already a Big Winner During This Exciting Jackpot Run

SACRAMENTO – With tonight's *Mega Millions* jackpot worth a staggering \$820 million, it's not too early to start pondering another seven-figure prize potentially for another California player. Strong sales throughout the country have pushed the jackpot \$100 million higher in just the few days since Friday's advertised \$720 million jackpot draw. This growing prize comes on the heels of a [single, \\$1.08 billion Powerball® ticket](#) sold in Los Angeles ahead of last week's historic draw.

Tonight's *Mega Millions* jackpot is the fifth largest in the game's history and the 8th largest in lottery history. Here in California, *Mega Millions* sales from this jackpot sequence alone have totaled approximately \$146 million, allowing the California Lottery to raise an estimated more than \$58 million for public schools since this jackpot started rolling more than three months ago.

Top 5 Largest Mega Millions Jackpots

\$1.537 billion	10/23/2018	South Carolina
\$1.348 billion	1/13/2023	Maine
\$1.337 billion	7/29/2022	Illinois
\$1.050 billion	1/22/2021	Michigan
\$820 billion	7/25/2023	???

If nobody wins tonight's top prize, the jackpot will roll a 28th time and is projected to be worth an estimated \$910 million for Friday night's draw.

Mega Millions Fun Facts for California

- The cash value for tonight's draw is an estimated \$422 million. If a player wins, they have the option of choosing that lump sum payment or the jackpot annuity, which means they would receive 30 annual payments.
- The last time a California player hit the *Mega Millions* jackpot was on October 14, 2022. The man who bought his winning ticket in San Jose [split the \\$502 million jackpot](#) with a winner in Florida.

- For each *Mega Millions* ticket sold in California, about eighty cents goes toward helping fund public education.

Mega Millions tickets are \$2 each. Players can buy them safely in person at one of California Lottery's more than [23,000 partner retail locations](#). The draw is slated for 8 pm tonight.

California Lottery also wants to remind the public that playing Lottery 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. 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