



## P R E S S   R E L E A S E

For IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: July 28, 2023

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### ***BREAKING NEWS: Mega Millions® Jackpot Raised to an Estimated \$940 Million for Tonight's Draw***

*\$65 Million Already Raised for Public Education in California From This Massive Jackpot Alone*

**SACRAMENTO** – Strong sales, coupled with the building excitement of possibly another billion-dollar jackpot, have helped boost the *Mega Millions* jackpot even higher to an estimated \$940 million for tonight's draw.

Here in California, *Mega Millions* sales related to just this growing jackpot have totaled approximately \$163 million in the more than three months since it's been rolling. That's helped the California Lottery raise more than \$65 million for public schools since the jackpot was last hit in April in New York.

Tonight's estimated Mega Millions jackpot is the fifth largest in the game's history and the 8<sup>th</sup> largest in lottery history.

#### **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
\$ ???	7/28/2023	???

If nobody wins tonight's top prize, the jackpot will roll for the 29th consecutive time and is projected to smash across the billion-dollar threshold. If that happens, it would be the second billion-dollar jackpot in the U.S. in less than two weeks!

One lucky player [won the recent \\$1.08 billion Powerball® jackpot](#) earlier this month from a ticket sold in Los Angeles. The California Lottery won't know who that winner is until they [come forward to claim](#) the prize and undergo a robust verification process.

The cash value for tonight's draw is an estimated \$472 million. If a player wins the top prize, they have the option of choosing the lump sum payment or the jackpot annuity, which means they would receive 30 annual payments.

*Mega Millions* tickets are \$2 each. For each *Mega Millions* ticket sold in California, about eighty cents goes toward helping fund public education. The draw is slated for 8 pm tonight.

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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 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. 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](http://www.calottery.com)