



## P R E S S   R E L E A S E

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### A ‘Roller Coaster’ of Emotions as Three California Lottery Players Become Latest Instant Millionaires

**SACRAMENTO** – When Roger Jiminez reached the fourth and final line on his *WIN BIG* Scratchers® ticket, he was well aware he was running out of chances. There were only five boxes left to try to uncover the top prize of \$1 million. He scratched two more boxes and came up empty. When he got to the next box, it finally happened. There against the blue background of the square was the number he was looking for: **\$1,000,000**. Jiminez was at long last a new California Lottery-made millionaire.



He said the feeling was practically indescribable once the realization set in.

“Imagine getting on a roller coaster for the first time,” he described. “You ride and you lose your breath. That’s what it felt like.”

Interestingly, Jiminez told the California Lottery he initially thought he’d only won \$1,000. Then he said he looked again and thought he’d won \$100,000. It wasn’t until he looked a **third time** that his eyes finally focused in on those six zeros. “A million dollars! I’m just very thankful,” Jiminez said.

Jiminez bought his winning ticket at Heritage House Liquor in Tustin (Orange County).

Up in the Bay Area, Orsiris Perez Olvera is also a new California Lottery millionaire. He won \$1,044,212 playing *Powerball*® after his lucky ticket matched five numbers from a draw back in November.

He got his winning ticket from the 7-Eleven on Milmount Drive in Milpitas (Santa Clara County).

Rounding out today’s announcement of the Golden State’s latest seven-figure winners is Michael Marks. He tried his luck on a *Sparkling Riches* Scratchers ticket and wound up walking out of Sandune Liquor in Playa Del Rey (Los Angeles County) a millionaire after winning that game’s top prize.

The businesses that sold these winning tickets each get a \$5,000 bonus.

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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.*

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