

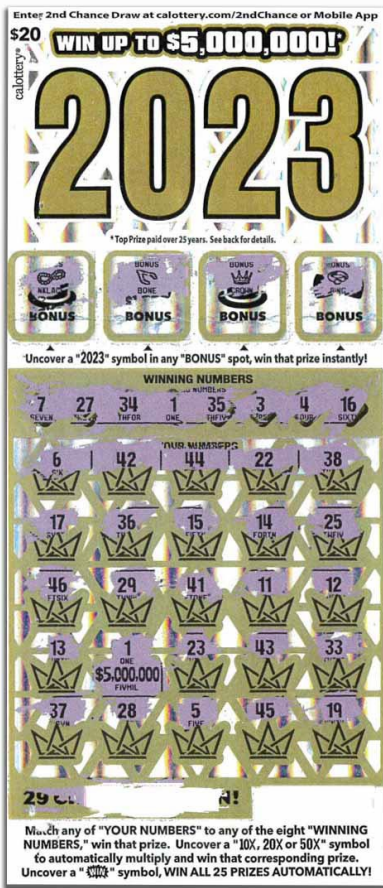


P R E S S R E L E A S E

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Scratchers® Player Wins \$5 Million After Overcoming Homelessness

SACRAMENTO – Back in 2017, life was very different for **Lucia Forseth**. She didn't have a home. Some years later, that changed for the better; she was no longer homeless. Fast forward to now, and Forseth is among California's newest multimillionaires thanks to a lucky Scratchers ticket.



"I only bought one ticket," Forseth told the California Lottery. "I closed my eyes and picked that one, and it won! I first thought I'd won a free ticket, but I checked, and it said I won \$5 million!"

Forseth picked up her 2023 Scratchers ticket at the Walmart Supercenter in Pittsburg (Contra Costa County). Forseth was there for an oil change on her car, and said she scratched the top-prize winning ticket right outside. The fact that she bought a ticket called 2023 has deep meaning for Forseth.

"Six years ago, I was homeless. This year I am getting married, getting my associate degree, and won \$5 million," Forseth explained. "You never think you have a chance to win it. It is just random. Being homeless just six years ago, I never thought it would happen to someone like me."

Forseth says she plans on buying a house and investing the rest of her newfound fortune.

"The California Lottery's sole mission is to raise additional funding for public education, and it's only possible with our players' support," said Carolyn Becker, California Lottery spokesperson. "Hearing a success story like this showcases the positive impact our games have on winners and schools alike."

Forseth respectfully declines to speak with the media. No further information about her will be released.

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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