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PRESS RELEASE

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Two Powerball® Tickets Sold in California Each Win More Than \$1.2 Million; Jackpot Rolls to an Estimated \$1.4 Billion

SACRAMENTO – Nobody hit the massive *Powerball* jackpot Wednesday night, but two tickets sold in Northern California came close. Two tickets matching five out of the six numbers earn whoever bought them [a prize of more than \\$1.2 million](#) each – not bad for second prize. The winning tickets were sold at Cigarettes 4 Discount on Alamo Drive in Vacaville and at Walmart on Elk Grove Boulevard in Elk Grove.

Meanwhile, nobody in any of the participating *Powerball* states hit the jackpot. That top prize now grows to a projected \$1.4 billion for Saturday night's drawing, becoming the third largest *Powerball* prize in history.

"It was a great night for California," said Carolyn Becker, California Lottery spokesperson. "Not only did we make two new millionaires, but the jackpot also continues to grow even bigger! That spells a bigger win for our public schools because as the jackpot increases, the more people play, and that revenue helps boost the bottom line for education in meaningful ways."

In most states, the second-place prize is a [fixed million dollars](#), but in California, the prizes are pari-mutuel. That means prize payout amounts are based on total sales and the number of winners. In Wednesday night's case, sales in California supported a second prize of more than \$2.4 million, which is why each second-place winning ticket earns more than a million dollars. The winners of those prizes have 180 days to come forward.

Saturday night's drawing will be the 34th in this *Powerball* sequence, which has been rolling since July when the last jackpot was hit with a [\\$1.08 billion ticket sold in Los Angeles](#). The estimated cash value for Saturday's jackpot is \$643.7 million.

Powerball tickets are two dollars each, and for every ticket sold in California, about 80 cents goes toward helping supplement budgets for public education. In this two-and-a-half-month sequence, **the California Lottery has earned more than \$83 million for schools** just from *Powerball* sales alone.

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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 more than \$2.07 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 \$8.85 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.

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