



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

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Players From Throughout the Southwest Flocking to One CA Lottery Retailer as Powerball® Jackpot Tops \$1+ Billion

Business Is Booming at Store That Sold \$1.08 Billion Jackpot-Winning Ticket in July

SACRAMENTO – As tonight’s *Powerball* jackpot continues to soar past a billion dollars – now estimated at \$1.2 billion – it’s déjà vu for the owner of Las Palmitas Mini Market in downtown Los Angeles.

Two and a half months ago, one of Maria Menjivar’s customers bought the only ticket in the country to hit a massive [\\$1.08 billion jackpot](#). It’s the last time any *Powerball* player has won it all; the current jackpot has been growing ever since. Selling that exciting *Powerball* ticket helped Menjivar win as well.

“My business has increased over 40 percent,” she told the California Lottery. “Not only am I selling more lottery tickets, people are buying other items in my store when they come in.”

Menjivar says the pandemic decimated her business to such a degree that before the July 19th *Powerball* draw, she was worried she would have to close her store for good. The \$1 million bonus she earned for selling the winning ticket changed everything.

People are now driving hundreds of miles to buy tickets at her tiny store tucked away in LA’s Fashion District. This is a common phenomenon whenever a California Lottery retail partner sells a big winning ticket – especially if it’s a jackpot. That store suddenly becomes **the** lucky place for the superstitious and curious alike.

“I’ve had people from Arizona, Las Vegas... from all over come here to buy their tickets now. They even want to take pictures with me because they are so excited. It’s been a rollercoaster,” Menjivar said. She also said she’s excited to see the *Powerball* jackpot grow so big again.

“Oh yes, every time I will be thinking about it,” she said. “The possibilities now are endless. Maybe I can win it again!”

Tonight’s draw marks the 33rd in the current *Powerball* sequence. Players can buy their tickets at any of the California Lottery’s more than [23,000 Lottery retail partner locations](#) throughout the state, many of which are small businesses like Menjivar’s. Together, they are a significant part of the engine that helps drive the Lottery’s sole mission of raising supplemental funding for California public schools.

Thanks to the current [Powerball sequence](#), the California Lottery has been able to raise more than \$77 million for public education just from sales of this game alone. About 80 cents of every two-dollar Powerball ticket sold in California helps support schools across the state.



CA Lottery player purchases Powerball® ticket at Las Palmitas Mini Mart in Los Angeles on 9-27-23



Las Palmitas Mini Mart owner Maria Menjivar (L) with daughter Lisette; store sold \$1.08 billion Powerball® ticket

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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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