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## PRESS RELEASE

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### ***With Powerball® Jackpot at \$1.55 Billion Tonight, CA Lottery Reminds Players of Two Major Warnings***

**SACRAMENTO** – Tonight’s estimated *Powerball* jackpot of \$1.55 billion marks the third largest in the game’s history and the fourth largest jackpot in the U.S. overall. It’s also the 14<sup>th</sup> time players have had a chance to win a billion-dollar top prize in the past year. With so many ten-figure jackpots being advertised, the California Lottery wants to remind players of two major warnings.

First, sales of California Lottery tickets online or via a mobile application are illegal in California. That means anyone who buys their tickets through any online lottery ticket reseller is **not eligible to win**. Because these services are unregulated, California Lottery is prohibited from knowingly paying a prize on any ticket acquired through a third-party digital service. There are [more than 23,000 locations](#) where California Lottery players can legally buy their tickets.

“We really don’t want any of our players to learn about this issue the hard way,” said Carolyn Becker, California Lottery spokesperson. “The only secure way to play is to buy your tickets in person – not online.”

Secondly, the California Lottery is also issuing a strong reminder to people to play responsibly and not spend outside their means.

“Playing *Powerball* or any game offered by the California Lottery is meant to be fun – a simple and enjoyable way to support a great cause,” said Becker. “Players should not spend above their budget or borrow money to play.”

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.

The mission of the California Lottery is to raise additional supplemental money for public schools. In fact, for every *Powerball* ticket sold in our state, about 80 cents helps fund education. Thanks to this jackpot, which has rolled 34 consecutive times with no winner, California Lottery has raised a whopping \$97.9 million for public education just from sales of this game 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.*

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