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PRESS RELEASE

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BREAKING NEWS: Powerball® Jackpot Increases to \$850 Million, 4th Largest in Game History

Sales Directly Impact the Money Raised for CA Public Schools

SACRAMENTO – The *Powerball* jackpot just got even bigger for tonight's drawing. Game leaders increased the jackpot estimate Wednesday morning from \$835 million to \$850 million, citing strong ticket sales across the country. If someone wins the grand prize tonight, it will be the fourth-largest *Powerball* jackpot.

Tonight's drawing will be the 30th in the jackpot sequence. The last time a ticket hit the *Powerball* jackpot was on July 19. An incredible [\\$1.08 billion](#) was won on a ticket sold in Los Angeles! The California winner has [one year from the date of the draw](#) to claim that jackpot prize.

As with all Lottery games offered in our state, proceeds from California *Powerball* sales [benefit public education](#). When the jackpot climbs, as it is doing now, so does the number of people who play, which translates into higher sales. Not counting any other draw games or *Scratchers*®, California Lottery has raised an estimated **\$57.6 million for public schools** from the sale of *Powerball* tickets alone since that win in mid-July.

If someone wins the jackpot tonight, they have the option of taking the top prize amount in 30 annual payments, or they can opt to take the cash value of the jackpot all at once. [Tonight's jackpot](#) has an estimated cash value of \$397.4 million before federal taxes.

Powerball tickets are \$2 each and can be purchased at any of the [more than 23,000 Lottery partner locations statewide](#). Approximately 80 cents from every *Powerball* ticket sold in California supports public education.

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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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