

PRESS RELEASE

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## Powerball® Jackpot Projected To Top \$1 Billion if No One Hits It Tonight

**SACRAMENTO** – California Lottery players are in for back-to-back billion-dollar *Powerball* jackpots if no tickets match all six numbers tonight. Tonight's top prize is currently estimated at \$960 million, with a cash value of \$441.4 million.

This jackpot has been rolling for more than two months since the last time it was hit on July 19 right here in California. One lucky ticket, sold in Los Angeles, matched all six numbers to win a prize worth \$1.08 billion. In California, a winner has one year from the draw to claim a *Powerball* jackpot prize.

Since then, there have been 30 consecutive *Powerball* drawings without a grand prize winner. Any jackpot of this magnitude fuels sales across the country, as more people become eager to play for a chance at the odds. In California, that translates into a boon for public schools as approximately 80 cents of every *Powerball* ticket sold here supports public education.

"The California Lottery exists to help raise money for our state's public school system; that's why voters created the Lottery nearly 40 years ago, and it's why we continue to get so excited when a jackpot approaches the billion-dollar mark," said Carolyn Becker, California Lottery spokesperson. "We'll see what happens tonight – including whether someone wins the grand prize or whether we reach another ten-figure jackpot. Either way, players can feel really good that schools across California are already winning."

The California Lottery has raised \$64.3 million for public education – kindergarten through the college and university level – just from this *Powerball* sequence. If no on hits the jackpot tonight, it's projected to increase to \$1.04 billion for Monday night's draw.

As the jackpot rises, the California Lottery would also 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.

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. 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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