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PRESS RELEASE

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Powerball® Jackpot Reaches \$500 Million – Again!

SACRAMENTO – It's happening! The estimated *Powerball* jackpot amount has reached the half-billion-dollar mark for the third time this year. That brings the estimated cash value for tonight's drawing to \$242.4 million.

The last time this jackpot was hit was July 19 right here in California, when a lucky [ticket sold in Downtown Los Angeles](#) matched all five white balls and the red Powerball 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 21 consecutive drawings without a top-prize winner. As a jackpot climbs, so does player participation, which fuels Lottery sales. This spells great news for schools in California because the Lottery's sole mission is to raise additional money for public education. The funds raised for schools, so far, just from this ongoing *Powerball* sequence (the 21 completed draws) is already estimated to be \$35 million!

Powerball tickets are \$2 per play; approximately 80 cents from every ticket sold goes toward public schools. The odds of winning the jackpot are 1 in 292.2 million, while the overall odds of winning any prize are about 1 in 25. There's a lot more about *Powerball* on the California Lottery website [here](#).

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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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