



PRESS RELEASE

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September 18, 2023

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CA Lottery Raises \$44+ Million for Public Education Just From Powerball® Sales, Thanks to Tonight's Estimated Jackpot of \$638 Million

SACRAMENTO – California Lottery players can start off the week vying for the 10th largest *Powerball* jackpot. After 25 consecutive drawings with no grand-prize winner, there's now an estimated \$638 million jackpot up for grabs in tonight's draw.

The growing jackpot is fueling strong sales across California as more players want to get in on the game. In turn, California Lottery has been able to raise an estimated **\$44.5 million for public schools**, which is the Lottery's sole mission. That figure does *not* include sales totals from any other draw game or *Scratchers*® – just sales during this latest *Powerball* sequence, which began in late July.

Should one player match all six numbers tonight, they can then choose their prize in 30 annual installments, or they can take the lump sum cash value, which is estimated tonight to be \$304.2 million before federal taxes. The State of California does not tax lottery winnings.

Tonight's jackpot ranks as *Powerball's* third-largest prize just this year – behind a \$754.6 million top prize won in Washington, and the whopping [\\$1.08 billion won here in California](#) after someone bought that very lucky ticket at a small shop in Los Angeles. The California Lottery will not know who the winner is [until they come forward](#) to claim their prize and will not announce their name until the winner has been vetted and verified.

Powerball tickets are \$2 each. Approximately 80 cents from every ticket sold [goes to public schools](#). The draw is slated to happen tonight at 7:59pm Pacific Time.

Top 10 Powerball Jackpots

1. [\\$2.04 billion – Nov. 7, 2022 – CA](#)
2. \$1.586 billion – Jan. 13, 2016 – CA, FL, TN
3. [\\$1.08 billion – July 19, 2023 – CA](#)
4. \$768.4 million – March 27, 2019 – WI
5. \$758.7 million – Aug. 23, 2017 – MA
6. \$754.6 million – Feb. 6, 2023 - WA
7. \$731.1 million – Jan. 20, 2021 – MD
8. \$699.8 million – Oct. 4, 2021 – CA

9. \$687.8 million – Oct. 27, 2018 – IA, NY

10. \$638 million (est.) – Sept. 18, 2023

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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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