



PRESS RELEASE

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California Lottery to Players: Check Your Tickets as a Massive Mega Millions® Ticket Nears Expiration

SACRAMENTO – One of two jackpot-winning California Lottery tickets for an advertised top prize of \$395 million is set to expire this weekend.

On December 8, 2023, [two Mega Millions tickets sold at the same California Lottery retailer](#) – a Chevron gas station in Encino – both matched all six numbers to hit the jackpot. The winning numbers that night were 21, 26, 53, 66, 70, and 13. This past summer, the [California Lottery announced](#) one of the winning prizes had been claimed.

The owner of the second winning ticket, however, has not come forward, and the deadline for doing so is one year from the date of the draw. Someone has until this Saturday, December 7, 2024, to claim their prize for the remaining half of the prize, valued at \$197,500,000.

“We have no way of knowing who has the second jackpot-winning ticket from that incredible night,” said Carolyn Becker, California Lottery spokesperson. “While it’s a shame for potential winners to see any winning ticket expire, it does give a helpful boost to California public schools. All unclaimed prize money winds up helping support public education, so we can still feel good about it at the end of the day.”

Anyone with that winning *Mega Millions* ticket has two options. They can bring the ticket and the corresponding claim form to one of California Lottery’s [nine offices across the state](#). Alternatively, they can fill out the paperwork, which is [available online](#), and mail that along with the winning ticket to California Lottery headquarters; it must be postmarked on or before Saturday, December 7, 2024.

The California Lottery recommends that anyone who mails in their claim package does so via certified mail and saves a copy of every item submitted. The mailing address is:

California Lottery Headquarters
730 North 10th Street
Sacramento, CA 95811



Meanwhile, the current [Mega Millions](#) jackpot continues to grow as there were no top-prize winning tickets sold anywhere in the country for last night's draw. The estimated grand prize for this Friday night is \$579 million. For every \$2 ticket sold in California, approximately 80 cents helps [fund public education](#).

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The mission of the California Lottery is to raise additional funding for public education, helping to supplement school budgets for K-12 as well as colleges and universities. **The California Lottery has raised more than \$46 billion for public schools** through the responsible sale of its games since 1985. Lottery funding for schools is largely discretionary, so administrators and educators can use Lottery money for instructional programs and services they may not otherwise afford. The California Lottery features eight [draw games](#) and dozens of new instant [Scratchers](#) games each year. More than 95% of California Lottery sales revenue goes back to the community in the form of prize payments, [retailer commissions and bonuses](#), and contributions to education. More information about who benefits can be found [here](#). 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.



education
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