



PRESS RELEASE

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California Lottery Players Can Now Get Same-Day Prizes up to \$1,000

SACRAMENTO – California Lottery players who win prizes of \$1,000 or less no longer have to keep checking the mailbox to see if their checks have arrived.

Players who win prizes between \$600 and \$1,000 now have the opportunity to receive a check on the spot at any of California Lottery's [nine offices](#) across the state once their ticket and claim form is verified on site.

Previously, players had to wait for their claim to be processed among the more than 10,000 others at Lottery's headquarters each month. Winners of prizes greater than \$1,000 are still subject to that process and then will receive payment from the State Controller's office, which is the entity responsible for issuing Lottery winnings.

"The Lottery started paying claims for prizes up to \$1,000 at a few offices a while ago in order to make sure things ran smoothly at first," said Carolyn Becker, California Lottery spokesperson. "Now we're excited to have scaled the program statewide, which has proven wildly successful, earning praise from players who win every day with our great selection of fun games."

Leonel Ruiz, pictured below, was among the recent winners thrilled to take advantage of this program at the California Lottery office in San Diego. He told Lottery employees he was particularly excited about this win – not just because he got his check right away, but also because he'd won the same amount previously on the same game. Ruiz asked the Lottery team if he could have his picture taken with the iconic big check.



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“Our team works diligently to develop programs and procedures that help improve our players’ Lottery experiences,” said California Lottery Director Harjinder Shergill Chima. “Good customer service helps grow our sales, which in turn allows us to raise even more supplemental funding for public schools in our state – the Lottery’s sole mission.”

It’s important to note that the opportunity for a same-day check is *not guaranteed*. Some claims, including, but not limited to, 2nd Chance prizes, promotional rewards, and prizes won on advance plays may not qualify for in-person payment and will require additional processing at Lottery headquarters. There is more detailed information about how this new program works and what winners can expect [here](#).

Players who win prizes of up to \$599 should still cash those smaller winning tickets at any of the [more than 23,000 California Lottery retail locations](#).

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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 \$43.8 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](#). California Lottery is also committed to promoting [responsible gaming](#). Anyone who shows signs of a gambling problem, or knows someone who does, can get free, confidential help by calling the CA Problem Gambling Hotline at 1-800-GAMBLER.



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