



## PRESS RELEASE

For IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 22, 2024

[PIO@calottery.com](mailto:PIO@calottery.com)

[@calotterypress](https://twitter.com/calotterypress)

### ***As Mega Millions® Jackpot Approaches \$1 Billion, CA Lottery Reminds Players to Be Responsible***

**SACRAMENTO** – Tonight’s *Mega Millions* jackpot is estimated at \$977 million, and if no one wins it tonight, the top prize will roll to a projected \$1.1 billion up for grabs next week.

“It’s really exciting to see another jackpot approach a billion dollars,” said Carolyn Becker, California Lottery spokesperson. “It’s exciting for public schools because we sell more tickets and make more money for education, and – of course – it’s really exciting for our players who dream of hitting the big one. That said, we don’t want anyone to let that excitement get out of control; people should play within their means and not use mortgage money or any other dedicated funds to buy more games than they can reasonably afford.”

The California Lottery always encourages responsible gaming, especially when jackpots are high. March also happens to be National Problem Gambling Awareness Month, dedicated to helping those who are struggling with gambling disorders. Every year during this time, California Lottery partners with the state’s [Office of Problem Gambling](#) to help raise awareness about gambling addiction and the various [treatment and prevention options](#) available for free.

Help from professionally trained counselors is available via the Problem Gambling Help Line, **1-800-GAMBLER**. Players or their loved ones can also text “**SUPPORT**” to **53342** or visit [800gambler.chat](https://800gambler.chat) for free, confidential help 24 hours a day.

The current [Mega Millions](#) prize pot has been growing since early December, and tonight’s will be the 30<sup>th</sup> draw in the sequence. In the more than three months since there was a jackpot winner, California Lottery has been able to raise an estimated **\$71.9 million extra for public schools**, thanks to *Mega Millions* sales alone. For every ticket sold in California, about 80 cents goes toward [funding education](#).

###

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](#).



calottery

education

calottery.com