



PRESS RELEASE

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Will California Lottery Get a \$600 Million+ Mega Millions® Jackpot Winner Tonight? It's Never Happened Before

SACRAMENTO – Tonight's *Mega Millions* jackpot stands at an estimated \$607 million, a prize high enough to draw even casual California Lottery players. While our state has seen multiple gigantic *Powerball*® jackpot wins over the past several years, California Lottery hasn't sold a single jackpot-winning *Mega Millions* ticket worth this much ever.

In December of 2013, one California Lottery *Mega Millions* ticket did match all six numbers for a draw with an advertised jackpot of \$648 million, but it wasn't the only jackpot-winner in the country. The California player, Steve Tran, split the top prize with another winner from Georgia. Even still, Tran won big, calling his employer to say, "I'm really sorry, boss. I hit the jackpot. I don't think I'm going to come in today, tomorrow, or ever."

Here's where tonight's jackpot ranks in the top 10 for *Mega Millions*:

Mega Millions Top 10 Jackpots

1.	\$1.602 billion	08/08/2023	Florida
2.	\$1.537 billion	10/23/2018	South Carolina
3.	\$1.348 billion	01/13/2023	Maine
4.	\$1.337 billion	07/29/2022	Illinois
5.	\$1.050 billion	01/22/2021	Michigan
6.	\$656 million	03/30/2012	Kansas, Illinois, Maryland
7.	\$648 million	12/17/2013	California, Georgia
8.	\$607 million	03/01/2024	???
9.	\$543 million	07/24/2018	California
10.	\$536 million	07/8/2016	Indiana



If someone in California wins tonight, they'll have the choice to take either the final jackpot total in 30 annual payments or the cash value lump sum payment, currently estimated at nearly \$287 million before federal taxes. The state of California does not tax lottery winnings.

Tonight's will be the 24th drawing in the current jackpot sequence for *Mega Millions* – a sequence that initially began after [two tickets sold right here in California](#) hit it back on December 8, 2023. Because this jackpot has been rolling for nearly three months now, the California Lottery has been able to raise an additional **\$45.2 million for public education** just from the run of this game – a figure that will continue to grow as sales increase throughout the day. Raising additional funding for public schools is the [sole mission of the California Lottery](#).

[Mega Millions](#) is played in California and 44 other states as well as Washington, D.C., and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Tickets are \$2 each, and drawings happen every Tuesday and Friday nights.

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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](#). The 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 California Problem Gambling Hotline at 1-800-GAMBLER.



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