



PRESS RELEASE

For IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Mega Millions® and Powerball® Now Offering Combined Jackpots of \$1.1+ Billion

And Another California Lottery Player Becomes a Millionaire!

SACRAMENTO – Tonight's *Mega Millions* jackpot offers players the chance at an estimated \$650 million, and with the *Powerball*® jackpot rolling Monday night to a now estimated \$485 million – California Lottery players have more than a billion reasons to buy a ticket right now.

California Lottery player **Huong Vu** took a chance on *Powerball* for a drawing this past October. She [wound up winning more than a million dollars](#) after recently claiming her prize. Vu's ticket came from Town & Country Market in San Francisco and missed winning more than a billion dollars by just one number.

If someone becomes the only player to win tonight's *Mega Millions* jackpot, they'll have the option of taking either the final top prize total in 30 annual payments or the cash value lump sum payment, currently estimated at nearly \$308.6 million before federal taxes.

The California Lottery estimates it has raised an additional **\$48.8 million for public education** just from *Mega Millions* sales in the past three months. That's when the game's top prize began at \$20 million and has been growing ever since with no jackpot winner. Generating additional money for public schools is the [sole mission of the California Lottery](#).

[Mega Millions](#) tickets are \$2 each, and approximately 80 cents of every ticket sold in California goes to schools. Players can buy tickets for tonight's draw up until 7:45 p.m. at any of the California Lottery's more than [23,000 retail partner locations](#). The draw happens at 8 p.m.

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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](#). *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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