



PRESS RELEASE

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Back-to-Back Billion-Dollar Announcements for CA Lottery

SACRAMENTO – Today the California Lottery is announcing the winner of last summer’s \$1.08 billion *Powerball*® jackpot from the winning ticket sold in downtown Los Angeles. **Yanira Alvarez** is the lucky lady who had that ticket, which came from Las Palmitas Mini Market.

Her win last July ended a 39-draw jackpot run for *Powerball* and was the first of two back-to-back billion-dollar winning tickets sold in California. The other win happened roughly three months later, in October of 2023, when a \$1.7+ billion *Powerball* ticket was sold at Midway Market in Frazier Park. Earlier this month, the California revealed [a group](#) won that prize. In both cases, the winners respectfully declined to make any public comment.

Both historic *Powerball* sequences produced one other big winner in California: public education. The California Lottery’s sole mission is to raise supplemental funding for public schools, including K-12 and higher education. Last year’s back-to-back giant jackpot sequences resulted in an estimated **\$197.9 million in additional funding for schools**.

“We can’t thank our players enough for their help in supporting California’s public schools,” said California Lottery Director Harjinder K. Shergill Chima. “Our mission is what drives us every day, and while jackpot prizes change lives for the big winners, they’re also making an important difference in the lives of students and teachers in classrooms across the state.”

Every jackpot winner in California has the option of taking the final jackpot total over 30 annual payments or the cash value of the prize up front. In Alvarez’s case, she chose the latter, which totalled \$558.1 prior to federal taxes.

This weekend’s [Powerball jackpot](#) is a projected \$935 million with an estimated corresponding cash value of \$449.7 million.

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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.



education
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