



PRESS RELEASE

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California Lottery Reminds Players to Gift Responsibly This Holiday Season: Scratchers® Aren't Toys

SACRAMENTO – As the holiday shopping season approaches, the California Lottery is urging players to remember that lottery tickets are not suitable gifts for anyone who's not at least 18 years old.

“Our holiday-themed Scratchers are designed to add fun to the season for sure, but they are not appropriate – or legal – for kids,” said Carolyn Becker, California Lottery spokesperson. “Scratchers do not belong in your child's stocking, and giving these games to minors in any way is against the law.”



Research from the National Council on Problem Gambling shows that early exposure to gambling increases the risk of developing gambling-related challenges later in life.

The California Lottery takes this issue seriously and reminds its network of over [23,000 retailers](#) that selling California Lottery games to anyone under 18 is strictly prohibited. To ensure compliance, the California Lottery conducts undercover operations using underage decoys, aiming to prevent illegal sales to minors.



The California Lottery is committed to promoting responsible gaming and maintaining high standards in sales practices. Notably, the California Lottery was the first lottery in the U.S. to achieve and maintain the highest level of certification from the World Lottery Association for its [responsible gaming efforts](#).

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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 \$46 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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