



## PRESS RELEASE

For IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
August 14, 2025  
[PIO@calottery.com](mailto:PIO@calottery.com)  
[@calotterypress](https://twitter.com/calotterypress)

### ***40 Years of Play: \$5 Million Monopoly Scratchers® Winner Revealed***

#### *From Routine Stop To Stunning Win for Wilmington Resident*

**SACRAMENTO** – For **Max Lopez**, stopping by JK Gas & Mini Market in Wilmington was nothing unusual, it was part of his routine. But one ordinary afternoon turned extraordinary when a \$20 [Monopoly Scratchers](#) ticket he purchased turned out to be worth \$5 million.

Lopez said he was casually checking his [California Lottery app](#) when he noticed something unusual. "I saw there was a big winner and thought, 'That's cool,'" he recalled. "Then it hit me, *it was me!*"

Lopez has played for years at the same neighborhood spot.

"I've been playing since day one, when it first started," said Lopez.

The California Lottery is currently celebrating [its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary](#). In his own 40 years of play, Lopez had never won more than small prizes. In fact, no one in his circle of friends or family had ever hit it big at the store on 950 North Avalon Boulevard. Until now.

#### ***Sylmar Winner Joins the Celebration***

Max Lopez is not the only winner. Cleopatra Marcus won a [50X The Cash](#) top prize of \$1 million dollars! The lucky ticket was purchased at 13845 Foothill Boulevard in Sylmar.

#### ***More Than a Win: Supporting California Schools***

It isn't just big wins that change lives— they're part of a bigger picture. Every California Lottery ticket sold contributes to public education funding across the state. Games like [Scratchers®](#), [SuperLotto Plus®](#), and [Fantasy 5®](#) help support schools, teachers, and students in every county throughout California. Proceeds help [fund](#)



calottery

education

calottery.com

[classroom resources](#), [technology upgrades](#), and [career training programs](#) for students from kindergarten through college. To show how California Lottery funds are distributed, the Lottery hosts an interactive map on their website at [calottery.com/who-benefits](http://calottery.com/who-benefits) along with links to the latest financial reports and links to videos highlighting how schools use their supplemental funds to support students in California public schools.

# # #

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](#). 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  
calottery.com