



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 12, 2025
PIO@calottery.com
[@calotterypress](https://twitter.com/calotterypress)

Four Lucky Players – \$24 Million in Prizes

From Fullerton to Waterford, These Scratchers® Winners Won Big

SACRAMENTO – Throughout 2025, the California Lottery has been celebrating a milestone year, marking four incredible decades of raising supplemental funding for public schools, while at the same time providing fun and changing lives.

In addition to being the California Lottery's 40th anniversary, these four lucky Scratchers players are celebrating 2025 as a big year for their wins. From a stellar \$15 million win with the commemorative *40 Years of Play* game to the extra fun winning \$2 million with the fan-favorite play of a crossword Scratchers, these players took home the big prizes.

Carlos Herrera spelled out a cool \$2,000,000 prize from an [Instant Prize Crossword Scratchers](#) purchased at Fullerton Wine & Spirit, 416 S Harbor Blvd. in Fullerton.

Bruno Chavez also clued in to the \$2,000,000 [Instant Prize Crossword Scratchers](#) top prize. His game came from the 7-Eleven at 2908 N Waterman Avenue in San Bernardino.

Wendy Benitez crowned herself a winner of \$5,000,000 playing a [Cash King Scratchers](#) from Moreno Liquor at 23896 Sunnymead Blvd. in Moreno Valley.

Gary Cooksey celebrated the California Lottery's anniversary by winning the top prize of \$15,000,000 from a [40 Years of Play! Scratchers](#) game that came from the ampm at 12725 Yosemite Blvd. in Waterford.

Big winners represent only a portion of the incredible stories that have shaped the California Lottery over the past 40 years. Among those winners are all the students at California's public schools. Lottery dollars support enhanced opportunities for learners at every level of public education in the state.

The Big Picture: Supporting California Schools

Every California Lottery ticket sold contributes to public education — the Lottery's mission since the beginning. Games like [Scratchers](#), [SuperLotto Plus®](#), [Fantasy 5®](#) and more help support schools in every county throughout California. Proceeds help [fund classroom resources](#), [technology upgrades](#), and [career training programs](#) for students from kindergarten through college.



calottery

education

calottery.com

There's an interactive map on the California Lottery website at calottery.com/who-benefits which shows how Lottery funds are distributed to school districts across the state. Copies of the latest audited quarterly reports are also available on the website as well videos highlighting how specific schools are using California Lottery funding for their students.

#

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 \$48 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.



calottery

education

calottery.com