



## PRESS RELEASE

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### ***Million-Dollar Dreams Come True for Five Lucky California Lottery Players***

*Only in California: Mega Millions® Second-Place Prize Tops \$2 Million*

**SACRAMENTO** – For five lucky Californians, 2025 will already be remembered as a million-dollar year. Several Scratchers® players brought home wins ranging from \$1 million to nearly \$6 million, while one fortunate *Mega Millions* player matched all five numbers, missing just the Mega number in a draw this past September.

**Jose Hernandez Guerra** picked up a *Mega Millions* ticket from the ARCO am/pm in Cathedral City and scored a 5-number match. After claiming his big prize, he now brings home over \$2.3 million from the [September 6<sup>th</sup> draw](#). Luckily for Mr. Hernandez Guerra, California is unique among its partner states for both *Mega Millions* and *Powerball*® in that all prize levels are pari-mutuel. That means that just like the jackpots, even the lower prize amounts are split among the number of players who win in the same way. If Hernandez Guerra had lived in any other state, the win would have been limited to a fixed \$1,000,000 second-place prize.

Elsewhere in Southern California, **Oscar Nieto Capistran** claimed a \$1 million prize with a *\$100 Million Mega Cash* Scratchers from the 7-Eleven at 2150 Placentia Avenue in Costa Mesa.

**Floriano Cruz Mayo** also won a \$1 million prize playing *Red Hot Cash* purchased at JK Smoke Shop in Buena Park.

**Renato Escudero** spelled out an instant \$2 million on the *Instant Prize Crossword* Scratchers game from the ARCO at 1260 Park Street in Alameda.

**Oscar Gonzales Huinac** multiplied his New Year excitement, claiming a \$5.8 million win from a *200X* Scratchers picked up from Tomato Market in Inglewood.



All told these five fortunate players together claimed over \$12 million in prizes to kick off 2025, all in support of [California public education](#).

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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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