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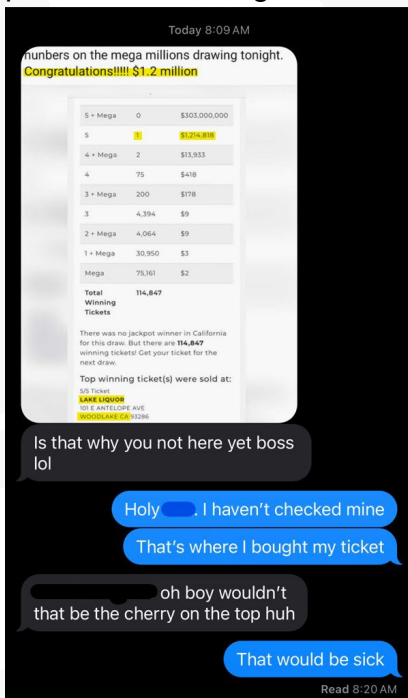
For IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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PIO@calottery.com
[@calotterypress](https://twitter.com/calotterypress)

Playful Text From a Colleague Leads California Lottery Player To Discover He'd Won \$1.2 Million Prize!

Plus, Mega Mystery No More – CA Lottery Unveils Winner of \$2.1 Million Prize

SACRAMENTO – California Lottery player Michael Chavez says he was more interested in the results of the presidential race on November 5, 2024, than the results of the election night *Mega Millions*® draw, even though he'd bought a ticket for the \$303 million jackpot that was up for grabs!

"I actually woke up in the middle of the night to check the election results to see who won for president, not Mega Millions," Chavez told the California Lottery. "I went back to bed without looking at my ticket."



Later that morning, a text from a co-worker piqued his interest. Chavez said he'd forgotten to tell his staff he wouldn't be at the office, and his co-worker joked that he knew the reason for his absence, sending him a screenshot of the *Mega Millions* results from the California Lottery website.

"He kidded me if the reason I wasn't at work was because I had won the million. He even jokingly congratulated me," Chavez said with a laugh.

Chavez had, in fact, bought it at Lake Liquor in the tiny town of Woodlake in Tulare County. When he looked, he discovered incredibly that he was the one who matched five of the six winning numbers from that draw and was holding a precious receipt worth \$1,214,818!

"I could not believe my eyes," he exclaimed. I'm so excited

and extremely grateful. I'll never forget election night or especially that text."



Chavez said there's no telling how long he would have waited to check his ticket had it not been for the playful text that tipped him off. Lake Liquor is also a winner, collecting a more than \$6,000 bonus for selling Chavez his winning ticket.

Yadira Munoz is another *Mega Millions* player who missed hitting the jackpot by only one number. Munoz still won a lot of money, banking \$2,151,945 after matching five numbers from a draw last March and recently coming forward to claim the prize.

The lucky ticket was sold at the Stater Bros. Market on Ramon Road in Cathedral City, and they also get a bonus of more than \$10,000 for selling the winning ticket.

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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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