



PRESS RELEASE

For IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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20 Years Of Play Pays Off For Scratchers® Player

Regular Fun in Riverside County Turns Extraordinary For Couple

SACRAMENTO – The [50X The Cash](#) Scratchers games that **Nicholas Gercis** and his wife had been playing gave them a little taste of what it was like to win.

“We buy Scratchers every week, and we started buying these fifty times ones, and it was doing okay for us,” recounted Gercis.

After a couple prizes of “\$100 and stuff,” Gercis and his wife were enjoying some time out on the patio when they scratched a much bigger winning ticket.

“It was just, like, you know, just what the heck?!” said Gercis, still reflecting on how unbelievable the win was.

Gercis and his wife go to one of a few 7-Eleven stores in their area each week and buy some Scratchers for fun. They’ve been playing California Lottery games for 20 years by their account. This time, the 7-Eleven at 12578 Schleisman Road in Eastvale paid off for the lucky pair, with a *50X The Cash* top prize of \$1 million.

The Gercis family plans to use their winnings to pay off their house, donate some to the church, and invest the remaining money for a sense of security.



50X The Cash California Lottery Scratch-off

Lucky Market – Store Lives Up to Its Name – And Schools Win

Further north, **Pablo Flores** uncovered the top prize of \$5 million with a *100X* Scratchers purchased from the aptly named Lucky Market at 2419 S. Elm Avenue in Fresno.



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These wins are truly incredible. Equally amazing is that for the past 40 years, with every game sold, California public education wins with supplemental funding from the California Lottery.

“Raising extra money for California public education is the only reason the California Lottery exists,” said Carolyn Becker, spokesperson for the California Lottery. “In 1984, voters created the Lottery to help out with supplemental funding for Schools, and for 40 years players have provided more than \$46 billion in extra money used across all levels from kindergarten through university.”

California Lottery funds are directed by individual school districts towards instructional and program support. Programs as diverse as [career technical education programs](#), [arts programs](#), [athletics programs](#), and more all find support from their use of California lottery funds.

Interested parties can visit calottery.com/who-benefits to see where their district applies their funding using an interactive map on the page, as well as links to current quarterly reports.

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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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