



PRESS RELEASE

For IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 4, 2025

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What's in a Name? Two Lucky \$2 Scratchers® Players Found Out

Big Scratchers Winners Up & Down the State Celebrate

SACRAMENTO – It's not every day you win \$1.2 million on a \$2 Scratchers game from the California Lottery. In fact, it only happened twice this past year. Just this past March, **Roseann Saporita** uncovered the last remaining top prize for the \$2 *Set for Life* game purchased from MD Liquor & Food on Mission Blvd in Santa Rosa, right next door to Santa Rosa Pizzeria. That game, true to its name, entitles the winner to \$4,000 a month for the next 25 years when they take the annuity option like Saporita.

Sometimes, The Choice is One Big Payday

Hugo Brenes scratched the first of the two top prizes on the same \$2 *Set For Life* game earlier this year, this one purchased from the Mobil Station at the corner of Bellflower Blvd and South Street in Lakewood. For his prize, Brenes decided the cash option was the best choice and received a payment of \$696,000, minus federal taxes.

Just last month, a *200X* Scratchers game picked up from Jessica's Grocery Store in Watsonville crossed off one more top prize with a win for **Sabina Gharahgozloo**. That prize, taken over 25 years, was worth a whopping \$10,000,000. Gharahgozloo opted for the lump sum instead and took home a gross payment of \$5.8 million, less federal taxes. With this win, the number of prizes remaining for the current [200X Scratchers stands at only two](#).

Celebrating 40 Years of Providing Extra Money for Schools

Christopher Morales knows a bit about celebrating the California Lottery's 40th anniversary this year. It was his *40 Years Of Play!* Scratchers worth \$15 million purchased from the CVS Pharmacy in Downey, on the corner of Paramount and Firestone Boulevard,



which was [the second top prize claimed](#) from the \$40 commemorative game. He decided to take the lump sum payment of \$8.5 million, less federal taxes. [Three more top prizes for that game remain.](#)

The State of California does not tax lottery winnings.

More than \$20 Million in Prizes Claimed, All For One Purpose

From its inception 40 years ago this year, California Lottery funds have been designated for instructional use, enabling schools to enhance a wide range of programs. These funds are instrumental in [improving athletics programs](#), [fostering the arts](#), [supporting career and technical education](#), and [even providing vital training for firefighters](#).

All told, players have helped raise more than \$46 billion for public schools over the last 40 years. An interactive map and the latest financial reports are available on the California Lottery website at calottery.com/who-benefits. Interested parties can use the map and reports to find specific funding by school and school district.

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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.



education
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