



## PRESS RELEASE

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### ***Public Education's Lucky Day – California Lottery Announces Sole Winner of Largest Mega Millions® Jackpot in State History***

*Lottery Reveals Winner's Name at Cottonwood Retailer Where the  
Winning \$1.2+ Billion Ticket Was Sold*

**COTTONWOOD** – Today, March 17, 2025, the California Lottery announced the name of the only winner of the \$1.2+ billion jackpot from a ticket sold at the Sunshine Food and Gas Circle K in Cottonwood, just off Interstate 5 in Shasta County. Rosemary Casarotti bought the ticket for the December 27, 2024, *Mega Millions* draw and was the only person in the entire country to match all six numbers.

Casarotti declined to participate in the press conference to announce her name. Beyond what was disclosed by statute as part of the public record, the *Mega Millions* winner told Lottery officials respectfully that she wishes to remain as private as possible.

"We offer Rosemary our heartfelt congratulations for her historic win and our gratitude for her part in supporting the California Lottery's mission to provide extra money for public education in our state," said California Lottery Director Harjinder Shergill Chima. "Because of this historic jackpot win, the California Lottery was able to raise an estimated \$89.5 million for public schools. On this lucky day, we are so excited to celebrate that!"

Casarotti elected to receive her prize as a lump sum, valued at more than \$571 million less federal taxes.

"I had the pleasure of speaking with Rosemary by phone following her win, and I can tell you with certainty how grateful she is and how happy she is to have won this money and to have supported public schools," said California Lottery spokesperson Carolyn Becker.

The Circle K is taking home a big win as well, receiving the maximum retail bonus of \$1,000,000 for selling the



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jackpot-winning ticket. As Becker pointed out during the new conference, 95% of every dollar spent on California Lottery games returns to the community in the form of prize payments, school funding, and retailer compensation. For this jackpot sequence, more than 23,000 California Lottery retail partners collectively earned an estimated \$14.1 million in incentives and bonuses.

“It’s an amazing feeling to know that our store played a part in making Lottery history,” said Ishar Gill at the news conference. His family owns and operates the Circle K store where the winning entry was sold. “Our customers are the heart of our business, and we’re grateful to be a part of such an amazing community.”

A self-supported state agency, the California Lottery has earned more than \$46 billion for public schools across the state. From kindergarten to the CSU and UC systems and every level in between, Lottery funding – while a very modest portion of the overall state budget for education – the California Lottery supports materials and programs that might not otherwise be available for students in the state any other way.

For nearly a quarter century now, the California Lottery has provided in excess of \$1 billion annually, supporting a diverse set of programs. From [performing arts](#) and [dance programs](#) to [sports](#) and [technical training programs](#), the California Lottery provides critical extra funding.

“The California Lottery provides extra money for materials and programs that make student’s dreams and futures a reality in so many ways,” said Becker. “The mission of the California Lottery is truly the driving force behind the work we all do as an organization.”

On the same day that Rosemary Casarotti won the jackpot, 842,841 other winning tickets were sold, including two wins of more than \$787,000 for matching five numbers, missing only the Mega Ball chosen by Casarotti. Over this draw sequence, retailers sold over 4.6 million winning tickets, with an associated prize value of \$27 million in addition to the \$1.22 billion win.

Additional video, including b-roll as well as audio from Director Shergill Chima and Deputy Director Becker is available for download and broadcast via the following download links:

[Harjinder K Shergill Chima – Director, California Lottery](#)

[Carolyn Becker - Deputy Director Public Affairs & Communications, California Lottery](#)

[Ishar Gill – Director of Operations, Sunshine Food & Gas Circle K, Cottonwood](#)

[Carolyn Becker – Conference Q&A](#)

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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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