



PRESS RELEASE

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New Mega Millions® Coming to California with Bigger Prizes, Better Odds, \$50 Million Starting Jackpot and More

First Drawing Just Two Weeks Away

SACRAMENTO – California Lottery players will soon get to experience the new version of *Mega Millions®*, which promises bigger jackpots and bigger wins more often.

Mega Millions is the lottery game that has produced a record seven jackpot wins exceeding \$1 billion – all won in different states! The final drawing with the current game’s structure happens Friday, April 4. The new *Mega Millions* game will feature bigger prizes with an automatic multiplier at every non-jackpot prize tier, as well as better odds to win the jackpot, better odds overall, larger starting jackpots, and faster-growing jackpots. The first drawing under the new prize structure will be held Tuesday, April 8, at 8 p.m. Pacific.

“This is not only thrilling news for our players, it’s also really exciting for public schools in California,” said Carolyn Becker, California Lottery spokesperson. “For every ticket of the new *Mega Millions* game sold in our state, an extra two dollars will go right to schools. We are confident these enhancements will also enhance our ability to raise even more supplemental funding for public education, which is why we do what we do here at the California Lottery every single day.”

Mega Millions new enhancements benefitting players include:

- **Improved overall odds** – Overall odds to win any prize will improve to 1:23 from 1:24 due to the removal of one gold Mega Ball from the game.
- **Larger starting jackpots** – Following a jackpot win, the starting jackpot will reset to \$50 million instead of the current variable amount, which has typically been \$20 million.
- **Faster-growing jackpots and bigger jackpots more frequently** – Jackpots are expected to grow faster and get to higher dollar amounts more frequently in the new game. Game experts estimate that the average jackpot



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win in the new game will be more than \$800 million vs. approximately \$450 million in the current game structure.

- **2X-10X prize increase with built-in random multiplier** – Every non-jackpot win will multiply its base prize by 2X, 3X, 4X, 5X, or 10X automatically. Non-jackpot prizes in the new game will range from typically \$10 to \$10 million vs. the \$2 to approximately \$1 million in the current game.
- **Win more than the cost to play** – With a minimum prize of \$10 on a winning ticket in the new game, every winning ticket will typically pay out at least double the \$5 cost for each play. In the current game, the smallest typical prize on a winning ticket and cost to play are the same: \$2.
- **Higher sales help schools** – The enhancements to *Mega Millions* are expected to generate additional revenue for the California Lottery's primary beneficiary: public schools kindergarten through the college and university level.

With higher-value prizes embedded throughout every tier of the game, tickets for the new *Mega Millions* game will increase to \$5 per play. This is only the game's second price adjustment since the first ticket was sold more than 20 years ago and the first change since the current game configuration was adopted in 2017.

Unless someone wins the jackpot in the upcoming April 4 drawing, the jackpot from the current game will roll into the new game and continue to grow with ticket sales for the new game. Players who have a winning ticket that was issued for a drawing prior to the game change and who claim their prize by the deadline will be paid based on the prize matrix in effect during the time of the drawing for their ticket, regardless of when the prize is claimed.

Since the last change to *Mega Millions* in 2017, more than 1,200 players have become millionaires, an average of three millionaires per week.

Mega Millions is played in 45 states, Washington, D.C., and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Drawings happen at 8 p.m. Pacific Time on Tuesdays and Fridays in Atlanta, Georgia. Lottery profits support a wide variety of good causes and are allocated differently in each jurisdiction.

In California, [Lottery funds are used to provide supplemental funding for California public education](#). To see California Lottery funds in action, visit the ever-expanding playlist of stories from schools where they've made a difference with [materials](#), [program support](#), [job training](#), and more [on the official California Lottery YouTube channel](#). To find out how California Lottery funds are allocated to a specific local school district visit [calottery.com/who-benefits](#) for an interactive map.

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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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