



## PRESS RELEASE

For IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
March 26, 2025  
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### ***Lucky Mega Millions® Player Nearly Tossed \$1 Million***

*Travelling Through California, He Played the Lottery and Almost Said Forget About It*

**SACRAMENTO** – As he and his family travelled through California, Joaquin Vaughn Redo stopped at Pavilions on Newport Coast Drive in Newport Beach for some things and casually picked up a *Mega Millions* ticket, too.

“We play *Mega Millions* and *Powerball*® when we see the pot’s growing or something,” said Vaughn Redo. “When the pot’s big enough, the whole family gets excited and puts in whatever bites.”

This time, travelling got the better of their interest, and the whole family forgot about the game until they came across the ticket two weeks later.

“I was actually kind of going to throw them away, because I said ‘I’ve never won the lottery,’” Vaughn Redo explained.

He decided to check anyway and then found himself in “a kind of disbelief” that he was looking at the right numbers. He had others read the numbers back to him and confirmed he’d matched 5 numbers in the August 16, 2024 drawing, missing only the Mega number. His nearly tossed ticket was worth \$1,016,356!

Vaughan Redo tells the California Lottery he plans to put a down payment on a house with his travelling windfall.

### ***More Million-Dollar Prizes This Month For Scratchers® Players***

He’s not the only recent recipient of a California Lottery windfall. In fact, lately Scratchers players have been cashing in a storm of big prizes. **Maria Samoy Moines** picked up a *\$100 Million Mega Cash* Scratchers game at Hi Bev Liquor in National City and scratched her way to



\$1 million. **Jose Baltazar Campos** drew a \$1 million prize from a *LOTERIA™ Grande* Scratchers game bought at B&K Market on Eucalyptus Avenue in Bellflower. **M. Vansyoc** uncovered \$1 million too, playing *Winter Magic Multiplier* purchased at the Mountain View Safeway on the corner of Miramonte and Cuesta. **Jnel Erskine** scratched a lucky \$1 million prize playing *Triple Red 777* picked up from the 7-Eleven in Huntington Beach on the corner W. McFadden Avenue and Goldenwest Street right next to Greer Park. Lastly, **Royer Villatoro Lopez** was also playing *Triple Red 777* when he revealed a \$1 million prize on his game purchased from Jade Video in Rowland Heights.

All told, that's a little over \$6 million in prizes for players of the California Lottery. Those moments of play contribute to the mission of the California Lottery, providing extra funds for public education across the state. While just under 2% of the entire California education budget, California Lottery funds provide [program support](#), assist programs providing [job training](#), and help schools purchase [materials](#). To find out how California Lottery funds are allocated to a specific local school district, anyone can visit [calottery.com/who-benefits-for-an-interactive-map](http://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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