



## PRESS RELEASE

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### ***Mega Millions® Higher Still: 5 Things Players Should Know***

**SACRAMENTO** – With the [Mega Millions](#) jackpot at an estimated **\$754 million**, and excitement building across the state, the California Lottery reminds players that each ticket benefits and supports public education, and that smart play is always the best play.

#### ***5 Smart Tips for Every Player:***

##### **1. Play for Fun! Not as a Financial Strategy**

The Lottery games are meant to be fun and for entertainment. It should never be a financial plan for anyone. This is a reminder to set a budget and never spend money that is meant for essentials. If you or someone you know needs resources or help, you can call [1-800-GAMBLER](tel:1-800-GAMBLER) for free support.

##### **2. You Don't Have to Win the Jackpot to Win Big**

Even though the *Mega Millions* jackpot is exciting, many players win big without matching all six numbers. This is your quick reminder that even without the Mega number, [with the new Mega Millions](#), there are many exciting possibilities. This Friday, October 31, a single ticket matching five numbers, missing only the Mega Ball, could be worth \$1.8 million or more.

##### **3. Double Check Your Tickets**

Take the time to check your tickets through the [California Lottery App](#) to scan your ticket and confirm your results. Some players have unknowingly failed to claim winning tickets worth millions.

##### **4. Explore New Games Responsibly**



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The California Lottery offers additional games besides *Mega Millions*. Other California Lottery games to explore include [Scratchers®](#), [Powerball®](#), [SuperLotto Plus®](#), [Fantasy 5](#), and [Daily Derby®](#). Playing different games can make the experience fresh and fun and top prizes can offer prizes in the millions.

## 5. Every Ticket Impacts Schools Across California

With the growing *Mega Millions* jackpot it is an exciting time to play. Since its creation by California voters in 1985, the sole purpose of the Lottery is to raise extra money for California's public schools. Every time a ticket is purchased, funds are distributed to schools across the state, from kindergarten to higher education. The California Lottery maintains an interactive map showing distributions by county and publishes audited quarterly reports at [calottery.com/who-benefits](http://calottery.com/who-benefits).

As of now, after 35 drawings without a jackpot winner, the new ***Mega Millions*** has **contributed more than \$66 million to California public education in this draw sequence alone**. These funds help schools support [career technical education](#), [critical materials](#), [arts](#), [athletics](#) and much more. Over the last forty years, the California Lottery has raised over \$48 billion for public schools.

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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 \$48 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](#). As jackpots rise, the California Lottery would like to remind players that gambling should be fun. Borrowing money to play, spending above a person's budget, or using money intended for other purposes can ultimately lead to significant problems for players and their families. If a player recognizes that they have a gambling problem or if someone knows of someone who may have a problem, the Lottery recommends calling the California Problem Gambling Help Line at 1-800-GAMBLER.



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