



PRESS RELEASE

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So Many Ways To Win The California Lottery

Californians Win With The Lottery In More Ways Than One

SACRAMENTO – The California Lottery returns 95 cents of every dollar in revenue returns to the community in the form of prize payments, retailer compensation, and supplemental funds for public education in California. From students to shop owners, schools and neighborhoods across the state benefit from the Lottery's contributions, helping strengthen local communities and support vital public programs. When Californians play the California Lottery, Californians win with every play.

Winners Across The State – California Public Education

On March 24, 2026, **Mathew Obergfoll's** *Mega Millions* ticket from the Chill Out Smoke Shop, 4437 Sepulveda Blvd., in Torrance matched five numbers with the Mega Ball just out of reach. No matter, the ticket still made them nearly \$3.7 million richer. Meanwhile, in fiscal year 2024-25, Torrance Unified received over \$6 million.

Elizabeth Hernandez may have missed the *Powerball* jackpot on Christmas Eve, but her five-number match picked up at the 7-Eleven, 4092 Chino Hills Parkway in Chino Hills, still delivered a \$2.6 million holiday surprise. By the end of the 2024-25 fiscal year, Chino Valley Unified School District received more than \$6.8 million in supplemental funding from the California Lottery.

Scratchers® Winners Also Spell Out Big Wins

Scratchers fans were not twiddling their thumbs either. Several top prize winners walked away with considerably heavier pockets.

Two **Crossword Xtreme** Scratchers players managed to spell their way to \$7 million wins – talk about a high-stakes vocabulary test:

- **Ramon Yopez** discovered their golden words with a **Crossword Xtreme** game from the **7-Eleven**, 3698 Ming Avenue in Bakersfield. Bakersfield City School District received over \$6 million in Lottery funds during the 2024-25 School year.
- **Juan Lopez** penciled in a top prize victory playing their **Crossword Xtreme** from the **Chevron**, 3272 Heritage



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Road, in Chula Vista. Chula Vista Elementary School District received more than \$6 million during the latest fiscal year ending in June of 2025.

Three winners laid claim to their new title of **\$1,000,000 Money Man** with their \$1 million Scratchers wins:

- **Harwinder Singh** picked up their \$1 million Scratchers Win at the **El Dorado Food Mart**, 2320 N. Eldorado St., in Stockton. Stockton Unified received nearly \$8 million in fiscal year 2024-25.
- **Hilario Canilao** uncovered their \$1 million Scratchers win with a game purchased from **Seafood City Supermarket**, 131 W. Carson St., in Carson.
- **Sergio Flores** made their claim to the **\$1,000,000 Money Man** top prize with a ticket worth \$1 million from **Johnnies Market**, 2017 N. Eastern Ave., Los Angeles.
- Los Angeles Unified School District, which includes schools in Carson, received more than \$96 million in the 2024-25 fiscal year.

Schools Direct The Use of Their Lottery Funds

Once the California Lottery raises the money with game sales, the State Controller's Office distributes those funds quarterly, based on attendance. Schools use California Lottery funds to meet the needs they identify. This results in a diverse set of programs and instructional support directly addressing needs at each individual school.

California Lottery funds are used by public schools across California and at every educational level to provide [classroom technology](#), [materials](#), [professional development opportunities](#), and [more](#). To see how the money is allocated in a specific school district, calottery.com/who-benefits has an interactive map and [links to the most recent California Lottery quarterly financial reports](#), so those interested can see where, when they play, schools win.

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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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