



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Drawing Tonight – Mega Millions®

Top Prize Estimated at \$145 Million – But It's Not Always About Jackpot Prizes

SACRAMENTO – It's a sign of the times that jackpot prizes in the hundreds of millions of dollars seems a little mundane. One could be looking at their local news feed and miss the current jackpot completely. Only \$145 million? That's only enough \$1 bills to wrap half-way around the world – you know, about 5 million giraffes stacked nose-to-tail – in other words, not that much when you think about it?

This Friday, with no winner for either the jackpot or the second-place prize, both have grown. Tonight, a single winner has a chance at more than \$2.1 million just for matching five numbers – no Mega Ball needed.

The Top Five Friday Five-Number Matches since 2015

Friday, June 17, 2022	\$7,727,088
Friday, December 5, 2025	\$5,104,961
Friday, August 8, 2025	\$4,607,223
Friday, July 29, 2022	\$4,234,962
Friday, February 13, 2015	\$3,471,009

We might not be in the Friday top five yet, but \$2.1 million is a respectable win. Still too high? Matching four numbers with the Mega Ball is still a prize worth winning.



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The Top Five Friday Four-Number Plus the Mega Ball Matches This Year

Friday, January 2, 2026	\$119,714
Friday, February 6, 2026	\$67,542
Friday, April 3, 2026	\$67,276
Friday, January 16, 2026	\$50,570
Friday, July 10, 2026	\$48,294

Tonight, a single ticket matching four numbers and the Mega Ball would join the 79 other winners this year who made the same match and could be worth more than \$80,000. *Mega Millions* draws on Tuesdays and Fridays at 8 p.m. Draw entry closes at 7:45 p.m. on the day of the draw.

How Lottery Play Supports California Students

No matter what prize is won tonight, every time a Lottery game is purchased, California public schools at every level benefit. Many schools across the state use these funds to strengthen their career technical education programs, at both [the high school](#) and the [community college level](#). Lottery funds provide critical program support, as well as funding that [eases the material burden for students so they can stay in school](#).

To find out more about the funds distributed by the California Lottery to public education across the state, visit www.calottery.com/who-benefits.

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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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