



PRESS RELEASE

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\$5 Million in Wins to Kick Off 2026

From Santa Clarita to San Martin: Meet California's Newest Millionaires

SACRAMENTO – The California Lottery is thrilled to announce four incredible wins that have turned ordinary days into life-changing moments for players from Southern California to the Bay Area. Collectively these lucky winners claimed \$5 million in prizes, proving once again that “A Little Play Can Make Your Day!”

Hermilo Ruiz spelled his way to a \$2,000,000 top prize playing [Instant Prize Crossword Scratchers](#)®. The winning ticket was purchased at Valencia Liquor & Wine, located at 22925 Lyons Avenue, Santa Clarita. The retailer will receive a \$10,000 bonus for selling the winning ticket.

Further south, in Hawthorne, **John Tyree** scored a cool \$1,000,000 playing [California Jackpot Scratchers](#), the nostalgic re-release of the California Lottery's first game that debuted over 40 years ago. Tyree's lucky ticket came from the CVS Pharmacy at 11831 Hawthorne Boulevard, Hawthorne.

Northern California joined the celebration when **Feng Chuan Ko** claimed a \$1,000,000 prize on a [Power 10's Scratchers](#) game. The winning game was purchased at BDS Snacks, located at 3 Serramonte Center, Daly City.

Football fans rejoice! **Rajinder Singh** became a millionaire thanks to the [San Francisco 49ers Scratchers](#) game. Singh's \$1,000,000 winning ticket came from San Martin Market, located at 13320 Depot Street, San Martin.



California Jackpot Scratchers

When You Play, Schools Win. Every Time.

Whether it's as simple as [middle school sports uniforms](#), or as essential as supporting [workforce training programs education](#), schools choose how to apply the extra funds from the California Lottery to instructional support in public



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education. Currently celebrating its 40th anniversary, the California Lottery has delivered more than **\$48 billion to public schools since 1985**.

To find out more about the funds distributed by the California Lottery to public education across the state, visit www.calottery.com/who-benefits. The page features an interactive map showing school funding by district and links to current financial reports.

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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](#). 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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