



## PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 10, 2026

[PIO@calottery.com](mailto:PIO@calottery.com)

[@calotterypress](https://twitter.com/calotterypress)

# ***Mega Millions® Climbs Higher Still While Scratchers® Winners Celebrate Big Wins***

## *Five-number Match Pool Could Be 2nd Highest 2nd Place In A Decade*

**SACRAMENTO** – Tonight's *Mega Millions* prize is the highest jackpot in 2026 so far, coming in at an estimated \$604 million. A player matching 5 numbers plus the gold Mega Ball could take more than \$266 million dollars with the cash option, less federal taxes (California does not tax Lottery Winnings).

This Friday, however, the big news is that matching five numbers but missing the Mega Ball, could *pay a lucky single ticket holder more than \$6 million*, making it the second-highest five-number *Mega Millions* match in California in a decade. California Lottery wins are paid the same way a jackpot win is paid, on a pari-mutuel basis. This means that prizes for all tiers are determined by the number of winners, the automatic multipliers on each game, and the sales contributions to the prize pool.

Players can purchase *Mega Millions* tickets at [authorized California Lottery retailers](#) throughout the state. Entries must be purchased before 7:45 p.m. on the night of the draw to be eligible for that evening's draw. *Mega Millions* draws at 8:00 p.m. every Tuesday and Friday.

## ***Not Everyone Is Waiting To Play On Friday***

These Scratchers players spelled their way to \$7,000,000 prizes playing the very popular extended play game, [Crossword Xtreme](#):

- **Laura Martinez** uncovered a \$7 million top prize with a game picked up from the **Liquor Emporium** in Lompoc, 1200 E. Ocean.
- **Mireya Herrera** completed the mission to win \$7 million with a *Crossword Xtreme* Scratchers game from **Mission Grocery & Liquor**, 2130 Mission St., San Francisco.



## *Every Day, Play Responsibly*

[The California Lottery is committed to player safety and responsible play.](#) Players are reminded to [play responsibly](#) and that help is available for anyone experiencing a gambling problem.

- [California Problem Gambling Helpline](#)  
1-800-GAMBLER (1-800-426-2537)
- Text "SUPPORT" to 53342 for more information about problem gambling behavior. Standard text messaging rates apply.
- [Gambler's Anonymous, International Service Office](#)  
1-855-222-5542 (1-855-2-Call-GA)

# # #

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.