



## PRESS RELEASE

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### ***Boosting the Bottom Line: Lottery Sales – Good for Communities Across CA***

**SACRAMENTO** – With two giant jackpots up for grabs this month, California Lottery's soaring sales have boosted the bottom line for players, public schools, and more than 23,000 local business partners.

The *Mega Millions* jackpot reached more than \$1.1 billion for Tuesday night's draw this week, and this weekend's *Powerball* jackpot is projected to be [\\$935 million](#). One ticket in another state hit the *Mega Millions* jackpot, so a new sequence will get underway this Friday night with an advertised [starting jackpot](#) of \$20 million.

As for the still-going, nearly three-months-long *Powerball* jackpot sequence, California Lottery sales for this game alone have totaled more than \$156 million. That translates into more than 78 million tickets sold since January 2<sup>nd</sup>. Of those, more than 3 million have won something at one of the secondary prize levels, carrying a total prize value of \$22.8 million so far.

Winning players aren't the only beneficiaries, however. California Lottery has raised an estimated **\$63 million for public schools** thanks to this 37-draw sequence, which will continue with another drawing this Saturday night.

California Lottery's [more than 23,000 retail partners](#) have earned an estimated \$9.1 million collectively since January just for selling *Powerball* tickets. Retail partners – many of which are small, locally-owned businesses – earn extra money through sales commissions and incentive bonuses associated with cashing winning tickets at the lower prize tiers, or selling a ticket that wins \$1 million or more.

"If it is not for the Lottery and my location, I'd be closed by now," said Mayse Dagher, who owns 5-Star Liquor in Westminster. "As a Lottery retailer, I am very happy and excited. This profit – that is keeping me in business."



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Since the California Lottery began in 1985, retail partners have earned approximately \$9.8 billion in commissions and bonuses. Jackpot frenzies naturally drive more traffic into stores, and [studies show](#) that for every \$5 Lottery transaction, players spend an additional \$10 in the store.

“Each of our more than 23,000 retail partners plays a crucial role in our mission to raise additional funding for California’s public schools,” said Carolyn Becker, California Lottery spokesperson. “Thanks to these stores big and small across the state, we’ve been able to generate more than \$43 billion for education since our first ticket was sold nearly 40 years ago.”

For every dollar spent on a California Lottery game of any kind, 95 cents goes back to the community through contributions to public schools, prize payments, and retail compensation. Read more on California Lottery’s website [here](#).

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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 \$43.8 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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