

Share Your Story



When you share your winning experience, you receive an oversized souvenir prize check. The Lottery may invite you to participate in a public celebration, and media may attend. Winner stories may appear on palottery.com, our social media channels, and sometimes in press releases.

Check us out on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn. Use the hashtag #PALottery to share your messages with us.

Winning Tip:

Inspire other players today!
To share your story, call 1-800-692-7481.

Annuity vs. Cash

For multi-state Lottery games, such as Powerball® and Mega Millions®, jackpot winners have 60 days from the date a claim is filed to decide whether to choose the annuity or cash payout option. The Pennsylvania Lottery cannot advise winners on financial matters. Consult an attorney or financial expert to decide which option is best.

The cash option is a one-time, lump-sum payment that includes your share of all the money available in the top prize or jackpot prize pool, after taxes and deductions are withheld.

The annuity option provides an initial payment followed by a series of yearly payments over time.

Please Play Responsibly

As part of the Pennsylvania Lottery's social responsibility mission, messages encouraging responsible play appear on game tickets, advertising, and the nightly televised drawings. By law, players must be 18 or older to play Lottery games, and Lottery tickets should never be given to children.

The Lottery funds and actively promotes the Council on Compulsive Gambling of Pennsylvania's toll-free helpline: 1-800-GAMBLER (1-800-426-2537). The helpline assists those affected by gambling-related harms and offers 24/7/365, live assistance to callers. Calls are **free** and entirely **confidential**. Chat and text options are also available. Additional resources can be found at pacouncil.com.

The Lottery also reminds online players that they must be located within the state of Pennsylvania to play games online and win prizes. Online players who may feel they need to take a break from playing may self-exclude. Individuals who wish to self-exclude must complete the process on their own for legal purposes. Players can self-exclude for six months, one year, or five years. Player Support cannot complete this process for players, but can walk players through the following steps:

- Log in to **palottery.com**
- Select: My VIP
Responsible Gambling
Self Exclusion

Contact Us

Toll Free: (800) 692-7481

PA Lottery Headquarters
1200 Fulling Mill Road, Suite 1
Middletown, PA. 17057

Players must be 18 or older. Please play responsibly.
Problem Gambling Helpline: 1-800-GAMBLER.

Follow Us      

04/24

YOU WON!

Now What?

*A Guide for
Pennsylvania
Lottery Winners*



Benefits Older Pennsylvanians.
Every Day.

palottery.com

First Step - Sign Your Ticket

Always sign the back of your ticket and include your name, address and phone number. Keep it in a safe place until you claim your prize.

Winning Tip:

Do not share a photo of your winning ticket or post it on social media! Claim your prize first and then share your story.

Claim Your Prize

If a prize is \$600 or more, you must complete a claim form. Available in both English and Spanish, claim forms can be found on palottery.com, at a PA Lottery retailer or at any of our seven Lottery Area Offices.

Prizes up to \$2,500 may be claimed at a PA Lottery retailer. If a retailer is unable to pay a prize, try claiming it at a different retailer or by mail.

Prizes of \$2,500 or more can be claimed by mail or in person at any Lottery Area Office.

If claiming by mail, include a completed claim form (if necessary) along with the signed ticket and mail to:

Claims Department, Pennsylvania Lottery, PO BOX 8671, Harrisburg, PA 17105-8671. Before mailing your ticket, make a copy of it (front and back) for your records.

Powerball® and Mega Millions® jackpot prizes, an annuity top or second-level prize for Cash4Life® or a Scratch-Off annuity prize must be claimed in person at Lottery Headquarters in Middletown.

Winning Tip:

For information about how to file your claim, call 1-800-692-7481.

Can Winners Remain Anonymous?

In Pennsylvania, certain information about winners is public record. This assures the public that Lottery winners are real people, and that the Lottery operates with integrity and transparency.

Players who voluntarily share their winning story give the Lottery permission to share their photo and name.

When Will My Check Arrive?

Your check will arrive between four and six weeks, after you have claimed your prize. The Pennsylvania Treasury Department will send your prize check via the United States Postal Service (USPS). To check on the status of a claim, please call 1-800-692-7481.

When you play or buy Lottery games online through palottery.com, most prizes are automatically paid to your online account and you can request a withdrawal using a variety of methods such as ACH. For questions about your online account, please email support@palottery.com.

Are There Taxes?

Your winnings are subject to the Commonwealth's 3.07 percent state personal income tax and federal taxes, 24 percent (taxes subject to change). The Pennsylvania Lottery automatically withholds taxes for winnings more than \$5,000.

Winners will receive a W-2G tax form in the mail for all prizes won that are over \$600, which will show if any taxes are withheld. Winners should use the form when filing taxes.

If you win online, download and complete a W-2G form available in your account. Keep copies of all forms for your tax records.

Winners with questions about their individual tax liability should consult a qualified tax professional prior to filing their tax return.

Lost your W-2G form?

Visit www.palottery.state.pa.us/w2g

Avoiding Scams

Report any suspicious calls, texts or emails from potential Lottery scammers to the PA Lottery Security Division: 717-702-8026.

Winning Tip:

Don't fall for it! An example of a common scam is when the individual tells you to "pre-pay" taxes or fees in order to claim your prize.

Prizes & Expiration Dates

Claim prizes promptly so that they don't expire!

- Scratch-Off prizes expire one year from the game's end-sale date listed at palottery.com
- Draw game prizes (including Keno and Xpress Sports) expire one year from the drawing date
- Fast Play game prizes expire one year from the purchase date

Winning Tip:

Use the Ticket Checker feature on the PA Lottery's Official App to learn if you are a winner! Claim your prize ASAP!

Playing as a Group

It's fun to play and win together! Individual prize checks can be issued, but only for prizes of \$5,000 or more where individual shares of the prize are \$500 or more. If you want an individual check, specify that on the claim form. Each member must complete additional paperwork.



Winning Tip:

Use our Pool Play calculator on palottery.com to find out how much each player from your group could win.