



WINNING SINCE '82: WASHINGTON'S LOTTERY CELEBRATES 40TH ANNIVERSARY WITH \$17.7 BILLION IN SALES, \$10.5 BILLION IN PRIZES AWARDED AND \$2.4 BILLION CONTRIBUTED TO EDUCATION

Limited-edition 40th anniversary "Scratch from the Past" ticket launches July 18

Olympia, Wash. (July 6, 2022) – Washington's Lottery today announced that it's celebrating its 40th anniversary with a blast from the past, as it reflects on the last 40 years of service to the state of Washington. With more than \$17.7 billion in sales, \$10.5 billion in prizes awarded, and \$2.4 billion contributed towards educational causes over four decades, Washington's Lottery is going retro and bringing back some '80s fun with the launch of a new, limited-edition 40th anniversary *Scratch* ticket.

"We're extremely excited to celebrate this momentous occasion today, as we reflect on all that Washington's Lottery has done over the last 40 years and all we have to look forward to for the years to come," said Marcus Glasper, director of Washington's Lottery. "It's surreal that it's already been 40 years. That's 40 years of making someone's day when they found out they've won, 40 years of working alongside our fantastic retailers, 40 years of giving back to the state to benefit good causes, 40 years of developing new games for players, and so much more."

As part of its celebration, Washington's Lottery is debuting a new, limited-edition '80s-themed *Scratch* ticket at local lottery retailers starting July 18. The newest addition to the *Scratch* line-up costs \$5. Shimmering in all its glory with a neon, retro-electric design, the 40th anniversary game has a top prize of \$50,000 and offers more than \$16.7 million in total prizes.

“We enjoy finding new ways to bring excitement to our players as they celebrate different occasions with us, so for the year when the first CD player was introduced and Thriller was the #1 song, it’s especially “thrilling” to have created this cool, new ticket that’s sure to remind players of the time when leg warmers, big hair, mullets and anything neon ruled the scene,” said Glasper.

Since its creation, Washington’s Lottery has generated more than \$4.5 billion to support several important state programs, including \$2 billion to the State General Fund that distributes revenue to a variety of government programs relating to schools, human services and natural resources; \$1.5 billion to the Washington Opportunity Pathways Account (WOPA), which helps support education in Washington state; \$879.5 million to education construction for the maintenance, repair and renovation of K-12 schools and higher education institutions; and \$285 million for the Stadium and Exhibition Center Account (Lumen Field).

“In its lifetime, Washington’s Lottery has provided a tremendous impact to communities across Washington, and truthfully none of these contributions would be possible without Lottery sales, which are all thanks to our players and retailer partners,” Glasper shared. “Since November 1982 when we sold our first *Scratch* ticket, the Lottery has reached \$17.7 billion in sales and paid out \$10.5 billion in prizes, as well as \$1 billion to local retailers for selling winning tickets.”

The Washington State Lottery Commission, as it was named back then, was officially created on July 16, 1982, when Governor John Spellman signed Substitute House Bill 1251. On November 15 of the same year, the Lottery sold its first *Scratch* ticket, selling more than 9.6 million tickets and paying out \$4.3 million in prizes in its first week alone. In 2004, it was rebranded to Washington’s Lottery as we know it today.

“Overall, it’s incredible to see all that Washington’s Lottery has done in its existence. I can’t say it enough – thank you to everyone who has been there along the way throughout the years, from our Lottery staff, to our retailers, to our beneficiaries and players, and everyone else who has made this journey possible.” said Glasper. “Here’s to the next 40!”

Making a Difference in Washington State

Since 1982, Washington's Lottery has generated more than \$4.5 billion to support several important state programs, including providing much-needed funds for the Washington Opportunity Pathways Account (WOPA). In FY21, WOPA received \$185.7 million from the Lottery, enough to pay college tuition for more than 18,000 Washington residents. It also provided approximately 25% of the annual budget for the state's Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program, which provides critical services to more than 15,000 children at 440 locations across Washington.

Washington's Lottery Beneficiary Fact

Washington's Lottery is very proud to be a financial supporter of the state's Early Childhood Education & Assistance Program (ECEAP). The \$40 million annual investment the lottery makes in ECEAP has lasting effects. Children who participate in ECEAP are more likely to be kindergarten-ready than non-participants, and those who participate five or more hours per

day are especially prepared in reading and math.ⁱ Children in state-funded pre-K programs like ECEAP see long-lasting positive effects, including increased grade progression, high school graduation and college enrollment.ⁱⁱ

About Washington's Lottery: The state's Lottery offers players several types of games, including *Mega Millions*, *Powerball*, *Lotto*, *Hit 5*, *Match 4*, *Pick 3*, *Daily Keno* and *Scratch*. For more information, visit www.walottery.com or find us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) at @walottery.

Keep it fun. Know your limit. Washington's Lottery is an advocate for responsible gaming and collaborates with the Evergreen Council for Problem Gambling to provide resources for those in need. More information is available at www.walottery.com/Responsibility.

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ⁱ Early Learning Feedback Report. <https://erdc.wa.gov/data-dashboards/early-learning-feedback-report-0>

ⁱⁱ Boston Public Schools Department of Early Childhood. (n.d.). Boston universal pre-K. Retrieved June 9, 2021, from <https://www.bpsearlylearning.org/boston-upk>