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## \*\*\*JACKPOT ALERT\*\*\* \$54 MILLION 'POT OF GOLD' UP FOR GRABS IN SATURDAY'S LOTTO TEXAS® DRAWING

Game's largest jackpot prize in more than 12 years; third-largest jackpot prize in North America and fourth largest in the world

**AUSTIN** – Lotto Texas® is presenting Texas Lottery® players with a chance to try their luck at winning a 'pot of gold' this St. Patrick's Day weekend, as the game's jackpot prize for the Saturday, March 18 drawing stands at an **estimated annuitized \$54 million** – the largest Lotto Texas jackpot in more than 12 years. The current jackpot ranks as the third largest jackpot in North America and fourth largest in the world. In North America, Lotto Texas sits only behind the estimated annuitized Powerball® jackpot worth \$78 million for the Saturday, March 18 drawing, as well as the estimated annuitized \$254 million for the Friday, March 17 Mega Millions® drawing. Saturday's Lotto Texas drawing offers a cash value worth an estimated \$33.2 million. If there is no jackpot winner for Saturday's Lotto Texas drawing, the jackpot prize for the Monday, March 20 drawing will roll to an estimated annuitized \$54.5 million.

"A Texas Lottery player is due to win a big jackpot and we're hoping that at least one of our players can be lucky enough this St. Patrick's Day weekend to win this large Lotto Texas jackpot," said Gary Grief, executive director of the Texas Lottery. "If it appears that you have the jackpot-winning ticket, we encourage you to sign the ticket, put it in a safe place, seek financial and legal advice and call the Texas Lottery to schedule an appointment to claim the prize. As this jackpot continues to rise, the more excited our players get, so we want to remind everyone to play responsibly. It only takes one ticket to win."

Saturday's drawing will be the 78<sup>th</sup> in the current Lotto Texas jackpot run since starting as an estimated annuitized \$5 million for the Sept. 19 drawing, extending the record for the longest jackpot run in game history. This is the largest Lotto Texas jackpot up for grabs since the May 29, 2010, drawing, when the advertised jackpot reached an estimated \$97 million. The winning ticket for that Lotto Texas drawing was sold at 7-Eleven Convenience Store #21972, located at 8902 Garland Road, in Dallas, and was claimed by The Bilmar Trust. The largest Lotto Texas jackpot in game history was an advertised \$145 million prize for the June 19, 2004, drawing, which was sold in El Paso and claimed by VOM Enterprises, Ltd.

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Lotto Texas has boasted nine different winning jackpot drawings in the \$50 million range throughout the game's 30-year history. The last time was for the Jan. 26, 2005, drawing, when an advertised \$57 million prize was claimed by a Garland resident, who purchased the winning ticket at Tom Thumb #2561, in Garland. The last time the game had a jackpot winner of more than \$40 million was for the Sept. 30, 2020, drawing, when an estimated \$47 million prize was <u>claimed by a Seguin resident</u> who purchased the winning ticket at Pic N Pac 10 in Seguin.

In 2022, there were six Lotto Texas jackpot winners. The game's most recent jackpot winner was a <u>Katy</u> resident that claimed a jackpot prize of \$19 million for the drawing held on Sept. 17, 2022.

Lotto Texas is played by picking six numbers from one to 54 and offers multimillion-dollar jackpots. Drawings are held every Monday, Wednesday and Saturday at 10:12 p.m. CT. For \$1 more per Play, a player can select the Extra! add-on feature for a chance to win up to \$10,000 more on non-jackpot prizes. Ticket sales for the next Lotto Texas drawing will close at 10:02 p.m. CT on Saturday.

## About the Texas Lottery

Beginning with the first ticket sold in 1992, the Texas Lottery has generated \$36.6 billion in revenue for the state and distributed \$79.9 billion in prizes to lottery players. Since 1997, the Texas Lottery has contributed \$30.6 billion to the Foundation School Fund, which supports public education in Texas. As authorized by the Texas Legislature, certain Texas Lottery revenues benefit state programs including the Fund for Veterans' Assistance. Since the first veterans' themed scratch ticket game was launched in 2009, the Texas Lottery has contributed more than \$207 million for programs supporting Texas veterans.

The Texas Lottery provides several entertaining games for lottery players including Powerball<sup>®</sup>, Mega Millions<sup>®</sup>, Lotto Texas<sup>®</sup>, All or Nothing<sup>™</sup>, Texas Two Step<sup>®</sup>, Pick 3<sup>™</sup>, Daily 4<sup>™</sup>, Cash Five<sup>®</sup> and scratch ticket games. For more information visit us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, YouTube or at texaslottery.com. PLAY RESPONSIBLY.

<u>Editors/News Directors, note:</u> A high-res image of the Lotto Texas logo can be downloaded <u>here</u> and an image of the Lotto Texas prize chart can be downloaded <u>here</u>. (Right-click on the image for saving options.)