

Texas Lottery Commission Press Release - December 3, 2003

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Lotto Sales Keeping Pace As Texas Players Take A Chance At First *Mega Millions*™ Jackpot



State Representative **Talmadge Heflin** chooses his Mega Millions numbers for Friday's drawing, as TLC Executive Director **Reagan E. Greer** touts the \$44 million jackpot!

(Austin, December 3) - As players are buying their first tickets for *Mega Millions*™ – the newest game from the Texas Lottery® – they're also sticking by *Lotto Texas*™, the first big jackpot game in the Lone Star State.

"Sales are going great for the first drawing of *Mega Millions* with its \$44 million jackpot on Friday," said Reagan E. Greer, Executive Director of the Texas Lottery Commission. "And sales for *Lotto* are good too – as people see that \$15 million jackpot for tonight's drawing. We're glad to see that Texas is big enough for both games."

As of 4:30 this afternoon, today's draw sales for *Lotto Texas* totaled more than \$978,798. Today's sales for Friday's *Mega Millions* jackpot totaled just over \$627,984. Of that, \$121,014 in sales was for the Megaplier™, an add-on feature available only to Texas players that offers them the opportunity to double, triple or quadruple their non-grand/jackpot prizes.

That feature attracted the interest of one of the first ticket-buyers this morning, State Representative Talmadge Heflin, Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, who joined Greer at a news conference this morning to kick off sales of the new game.

"I am going to buy \$5 worth of tickets and try the Megaplier on some of them, pick my own numbers on one, and do a Quick Pick, too," said Heflin. I know lottery customers have wanted to be able to play in a multi-state game, and now they can. I hope our Lottery players will be excited about playing the new game as well as the games we already have in place."

To play *Mega Millions*, players choose 5 numbers from 1 to 52, and one Mega Ball number from a second field of numbers

from 1 to 52. Each play costs a dollar. Players must match the five numbers plus the Mega Ball to win the jackpot, which starts at \$10 million and increases until it is won. To play the Megaplier feature, players pay an additional dollar. The Megaplier option does not apply to the jackpot but all other prizes that can be won.

"We've been saying, 'When you buy, megaply!' and it's great to see Representative Heflin do that," said Greer.

"The Megaplier number can be a two, three or four," explained Greer. "That means that when you win one of the non-grand/jackpot prizes, your prize is going to be doubled, at a minimum, if the number 2 is the Megaplier that night.

"For example, the prize for matching five balls but not the Mega Ball is \$175,000. But for those players who bought the Megaplier and matched those five numbers, their non-jackpot prize is multiplied by the Megaplier, the number 2 in this example, so that player's prize is \$350,000. We like to think of it as Texas-sizing your winnings."

Executive Director Greer urged lottery players to "Play Responsibly" and be careful where they buy their *Mega Millions* tickets.

"There are some web sites that offer *Mega Millions* tickets on-line," said Greer. "It's important for players to be aware that the only place to purchase a *Mega Millions* ticket that can be claimed in Texas is at a licensed Texas Lottery retailer location. Internet websites proclaiming to sell Texas *Mega Millions* tickets are not licensed Texas Lottery locations."

There are more than 16,000 licensed Texas Lottery retailers around the state.

For more information about the Texas Lottery, please visit the official Texas Lottery Commission Web site at www.txlottery.org. For additional information on *Mega Millions*, visit www.megamillions.com.