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Mega Millions steps out of Powerball's shadow with \$266 million jackpot



(Madison) —For the first time since Wisconsin joined the Mega Millions multi-state jackpot game in February, Mega Millions is the star of the show, pushing Powerball off to the side.

Tonight's Mega Millions drawing is for an estimated \$266 million (\$165.2 million cash). Powerball's Wednesday jackpot is an estimated \$60 million.

"Here in Wisconsin Mega Millions has been in Powerball's shadow," said Mike Edmonds, Lottery director. "This is our first real chance to see what the game is capable of."

In its first three months in Wisconsin Mega Millions didn't offer much of an alternative to Powerball, mostly due to bad luck. The jackpot was hit just before Wisconsin joined the game on February 1, so Mega Millions started here at \$12 million while Powerball was at \$115 million. In early March when Powerball climbed to \$200 million, Mega Millions was hit twice in three drawings. But, when Powerball was won at \$258 million on April 21, Mega Millions had its best opportunity to shine. It has now grown to \$266 million, giving Lottery players their second shot at a jackpot of more than \$250 million in just two weeks.

"This is why we decided to offer both games," said Edmonds. "Our players have more chances to play for big jackpots and more big jackpots generate more sales and more property tax relief for Wisconsin residents."

Tonight's \$266 million jackpot is the largest Mega Millions jackpot since Wisconsin joined the game in February and the game's 8th largest. The top Mega Millions jackpot, \$390 million, was won by ticket holders in Georgia and New Jersey in March 2007.

Mega Millions drawings are held every Tuesday and Friday night. The game plays very much like Powerball, although there are variations in the two games' structures, prizes and terminology. For a complete comparison between Mega Millions and Powerball go to <http://www.wilottery.com/lottogames/compare.asp> on the Wisconsin Lottery's web site.