



## WASHINGTON'S LOTTERY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

February 12, 2026

Lottery HQ – Olympia, WA/Microsoft Teams

### **Commission Member Attendees:**

Judith Giniger, Commissioner, Chair  
Schuyler Hoss, Commissioner

Eileen Sullivan, Commissioner  
Rudy Mendoza, Commissioner

### **Lottery Staff Attendees:**

Brian Bennett, Director  
Cassi Villegas, Deputy Director  
Kristi Weeks, Director of Legal Services  
Todd Steben, Director of Finance  
Randy Warick, Director of Sales & Marketing  
Gaylene Gray, Instant Product Manager  
Leah White-Noreen, Director of HR & SS  
Alex Satterlund, Internal Auditor  
Hilary Elkins, Budget Manager  
Qwaidon Frederick, Customer Service Specialist  
Paulette Miller, Sec. Licensing Admin. Assist.  
Tiffany Pringle, Leg. Service Coordinator  
Anquone Conyer, Support Services Manager  
Debbie Porter, Licensing Coord. & Security Sp.  
Amit Suri, SQL Database Administrator  
Corey Emery, Infra. & Support Supervisor  
Cody LaCourse, Procurement/Supply Sp.  
Tim O'Bryan, DSR  
Jonathan Aevermann, Director of IS  
Chelsey Sok, Human Resource Consultant  
Lenee Otto, Finance Manager  
Linda Su'a, Graphic Designer Senior  
Mikki Naas, Fiscal Analyst  
Cody Makiva, Chief Info. Security Officer  
Gift Ngajio, Fiscal Analyst  
Conner Warick, Fiscal Analyst

Patti Swihart, Communications Consultant  
Alex Dupille, Policy Coord. & Project Manager  
Jennie Brashear, Accounts Payable Supervisor  
Dan Gisel, Regional Sales Manager  
Nikki Holien, Management Analyst  
Meredith Wooton, RSM  
Janet O'Keefe, Customer Service Specialist  
Stephanie Dieball, Fiscal Analyst  
Beverly Reinhold, Draw Mgr./Sec. Specialist  
Shannon Miller, Customer Service Specialist  
Jenny Whiteside, Corporate Accounts Manager  
Brian Minks, Corporate Accounts Manager  
Sridevi Mopidevi, IT SQAE  
Sophia Lay, Customer Service Specialist  
Stuart Wood, RSM  
Ernesto Ramos, Customer Service Specialist  
David Seeley, Warehouse Operator  
Eric Stanczak, DSR  
Renee Smith, Fiscal Analyst  
Sue Fitzgerald, Fiscal Analyst  
Scott Gatterman, Assistant RSM  
Amy Brever, IT Customer Support-Journey  
Sue Ann Davis, Customer Service Specialist  
Kim Ficek, Customer Service Specialist  
Rita Hawkins, Executive Assistant

### **Other Attendees**

Eric Allen, Assistant Attorney General  
Dan Miller, Curator  
Xiamara Garza-Urbietta, Curator  
Linda Edwards, WIGA  
Ernie Perez, Brightstar  
Kristie Christensen, VML  
Alisa Bartholomew, VML

Scooter Churchill, VML  
Emily Libby, VML  
Kayla Stockman, VML  
Ebenezer Tan, VML  
Ron Miguel, Scientific Games  
Becky Bogard, Brightstar  
Remote Attendee - no identification provided

## **Call to Order:**

9:00 a.m. –Chair Giniger called the February 12, 2026, Lottery Commission meeting to order.

Chair Giniger asked for a commissioner roll call. Commissioners Rudy Mendoza, Eileen Sullivan, Schuyler Hoss, and Judy Giniger confirmed their attendance.

## **Approval of Meeting Minutes:**

Next Chair Giniger entertained a motion to adopt the minutes of December 11, 2025, Commission Meeting as presented.

Commissioner Sullivan **so moved**, and Commissioner Hoss **seconded**. Chair Giniger asked for any questions; hearing none, called for a vote to approve the minutes of December 11, 2025, Commission Meeting. **Ayes** were unanimous. **Motion carried.**

## **Director's Update:**

Chair Giniger introduced the next presenter, Director Brian Bennett. Director Bennett began by telling the commission he was confirmed by the Senate earlier this week. He thanked Kristi Weeks for her guidance throughout the confirmation process and thanked the team for the support during his first few months as Lottery Director.

Next, Director Bennett shared that work has begun on Strategic Business Planning for the 2026-2028 biennium. Director Bennett said this will be his first time completing this plan and he is looking forward to the opportunity to learn and work with staff throughout the planning process.

Lastly, Director Bennett commented on two recent Seahawk events held at Tacoma Mall. Director Bennett was impressed by the excitement of fans and staff at the events, thanking those who participated.

## **Deputy Director's Update:**

After the Director's update, Deputy Director Cassi Villegas took over and introduced the new Director of Information Services and Chief Information Officer, Jonathan Aevermann. Mr. Aevermann is an Air Force veteran who has more than 20 years of leadership experience in cyber operations, intelligence, and enterprise IT. Most recently, Mr. Aevermann served in senior leadership roles with the Washington Air National Guard. Deputy Villegas said Mr. Aevermann has made an impression during his first few weeks and Deputy Villegas is excited about the expertise and perspective Mr. Aevermann brings to the team. Mr. Aevermann introduced himself to the commissioners and shared he was impressed with the people and culture at the Lottery. Mr. Aevermann said he is happy to be here and to be part of the team.

Next, Deputy Villegas provided an update on the One Washington project. This project is picking up again, following new leadership and an adjusted approach by the Office of Financial Management. Deputy Villegas said that the go-live window is now projected for October 2027-October 2028 with a goal of launching all state agencies at the same time. Deputy Villegas mentioned that the Lottery has received funding to support this effort and that the team remains dedicated to preparing for implementation. Deputy Villegas said although the timeline has changed, the Lottery is ready and

prepared to move forward when go-live happens. Deputy Villegas also thanked project manager, Nikki Holien, for her work on this project.

Deputy Villegas continued with virtual cards for prize payments, sharing we are close to launching the program for players. Deputy Villegas said that since the last commission meeting, the Lottery will now be partnering with a new bank, G-Bank, who is also currently working with the Oregon Lottery, and whose experience in the gaming industry better aligns with our needs. The team is finalizing the agreement and hopes to relaunch by July. The plan is to also be able to share this innovative solution at the North American Association of State and Provincial Lotteries (NASPL) Professional Development Seminar Washington's Lottery is set to host. In addition, Deputy Villegas said that Brightstar Lottery is close to completing implementation of tap-to-pay across our vending machines statewide. This is well-timed, it allows players to seamlessly use virtual cards once the program launches. Deputy Villegas said although these initiatives had some challenges, the team is excited about this progress and enhanced player experience.

Next, Deputy Villegas gave an update on the preparations for the NASPL Professional Development Seminar Washington's Lottery will be hosting in Seattle July 27-31. There are expected to be 500-600 lottery professionals from across the national to attend and the team is very excited for this opportunity. Deputy Villegas said the internal planning team has been working hard with NASPL to coordinate programming, venue, and logics for multiple tracks, including marketing, finance, security, legal, and responsible gambling. The team has also been working in partnership with NASPL to secure keynote speakers. This year's theme is *PossibleNW*, which will highlight imagination, innovation and the spirit of the Pacific Northwest. Washington's Lottery looks forward to showcasing our state and Deputy Villegas thanked the team members for contributing to help make this event a success.

Lastly, Deputy Villegas talked about the 2025 Employee Engagement Survey results, sharing we received 101 responses, which represents an 81% response rate. Although this is slightly lower than previous years, it is still great participation. Deputy Villegas spoke about the top scores, including work-life balance and respect from immediate supervisors, as well as some of the lower scores, for example, opportunities for advancement, which has been a challenge as a smaller agency. Deputy Villegas announced we will be launching an employee development program, which will increase training and opportunities for staff, to help raise that score. Deputy Villegas went on to say that the results overall are good and reflect a team that cares about the work they do and are dedicated to serving the mission of the Lottery. Chair Giniger thanked Deputy Villegas for this update and introduced the next agenda item, Legal and Legislative Services update with Kristi Weeks.

## **Legal & Legislative Services Update**

Ms. Weeks began her update with the regular statistics, and since October, the legal team has processed 21 new formal or informal public records requests. These requests include data inquiries and requests related to an upcoming Request for Proposal (RFP), a document that announces a new procurement and invites contractors or vendors to submit their bids. Ms. Weeks reported there are no new lawsuits or administrative hearing requests.

Ms. Weeks continued with the 2026 agency request legislation update. Ms. Weeks said the Lottery bill was introduced as Senate Bill 6040 and referred to the Senate Business, Trade, and Economic Development Committee. Unfortunately, due to concerns raised after its introduction, the bill is not

moving forward this session. The team will evaluate next steps and determine whether to pursue the request again next year.

Next, Ms. Weeks provided an update on the legislative session, which has been relatively quiet for the Lottery. Ms. Weeks mentioned one gambling-related bill, SB 6137 and its companion HB 2205, she has been tracking, which would expand sports wagering on in-state college teams and adjust where mobile wagering may occur on tribal lands. While it represents a small change in statutory language, it carries broader implications. Ms. Weeks also talked about how the state budget has been the primary focus of the session. The Governor's budget was released in December, and the House and Senate versions are expected to arrive soon. At this time, there is nothing under consideration that would impact the Lottery.

Ms. Weeks also discussed the NASPL Professional Development Seminar. As the host agency, the Lottery is supporting coordination across multiple areas, including a dedicated legal track. Ms. Weeks is helping lead planning efforts for the legal track and looks forward to the opportunity to connect with peers from across the country.

Lastly, Ms. Weeks shared that she has been invited back to present at a continuing legal education course hosted by the Washington State Bar Association. This upcoming session will focus on marketing considerations for regulated products, including lottery, cannabis, and tobacco.

## **Prediction Markets and Courier Service Regulation**

Ms. Weeks continued by presenting prediction markets and lottery courier service regulation, as requested by Commissioners at the previous meeting. Ms. Weeks began by discussing courier services, what they are, how they work, restrictions in Washington and other states that do provide this service. Ms. Weeks shared that Oregon has recently implemented rules to be clearer, which regulate courier activities within that state. This presentation prompted discussion about geolocation, retailer accountability and cross-border concerns. Ms. Weeks will continue to track and provide any updates as appropriate.

Ms. Weeks continued with prediction markets, which are platforms where individuals trade on the outcomes of real-world events, including political races, sporting events and even deaths. Prediction markets are regulated at the federal level, by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, rather than through the state and they are self-certified. As a result, they operate outside the traditional state oversight and player protection system, which has prompted legal challenges across the country. At the time of this commission meeting, 39 states have spoken out on some level, including Washington; however, no lawsuits have been filed directly from the Washington Attorney General's Office or Washington Tribes. Ms. Weeks said this will ultimately be a case for the US Supreme Court soon. In conclusion, prediction markets and courier services are both areas the team will continue to monitor and update the commission.

Commissioner Hoss thanked Ms. Weeks and understood this is a complicated topic with potentially vast impact. Chair Giniger thanked Ms. Weeks for the presentation and overview.

Chair Giniger announced a change in the agenda, due to Commissioners' schedules. Chair Giniger said we will take a five-minute break, and we will move the CR-102 vote after the sales and marketing update. After the short break, Chair Giniger introduced Randy Warick for the next update.

## **Sales and Marketing Update**

Director of Sales and Marketing, Randy Warick, began by noting Kathi Patnode is not here today, so he will be providing both the sales and marketing updates.

Mr. Warick started with an update on sales through January 24, 2026, highlighting seven games that are expected to exceed the sales goal. Powerball is leading the way at 224.03%, which he mentioned is due to the recent billion-dollar jackpot. Other in-state games, Lotto, Hit5, Match 4, Pick 3, Daily Keno, and Cash Pop, are also outperforming expectations. Mr. Warick concluded that although *Scratch* is slightly below goal, at 98.22%, two new games will be launching soon and the team is confident it will cross the 100% mark.

Next, Mr. Warick talked about the recent success of the Blizzard of Buck\$ drawing promotion tied to Hit 5. The initial goal for this promotion was \$700,000; however, the promotion generated more than \$1.28 million in sales, almost doubling expectations. Although this promotion required players to validate through the website, which was a little bit of a risk, 81% of winning prizes were claimed, average ticket spending increased, and feedback from players was enthusiastic.

Mr. Warick continued with regional office sale highlights. Thanks to some friendly competition, the regional offices have generated nearly \$471,000 in combined sales, with the Spokane office leading the way at \$223,000. Mr. Warick commented how great it is to see the regions rallying around lottery products and sharing the excitement with players.

Mr. Warick shared more exciting news, the St. Patrick's Day Raffle promotion began at the end of January. To date, over 55,000 tickets have been sold. Daily sales for the last few days have recently climbed to more than 3,000 per day. Mr. Warick said while sales of the Raffle is slower than hoped, the team is actively working with retailers and our marketing partners to build momentum and continue driving sales and awareness. Mr. Warick mentioned that Oregon is seeing a similar trend in their Raffle promotion as well. Chair Giniger asked when the drawing will take place. Mr. Warick responded, St. Patrick's Day, March 17<sup>th</sup>.

Lastly, Mr. Warick gave a brief update on the other recently launched *Scratch* game, Frenzy Family. Players are responding well to this style of play and prizes are already being claimed across multiple tiers. While these are early results, they are encouraging.

Mr. Warick shifted to the marketing update, walking the commission through recent media coverage highlights earned by our PR partner, Curator. Since the October meeting, the team secured more than 1,900 stories, generating more than 1.14 billion impressions. Much of the coverage centered around recent winners, unclaimed winnings, the growing *Mega Millions* and *Powerball* jackpots, and the St. Patrick's Day Raffle.

Moving to an update on the Seahawks promotion, Mr. Warick shared the continued success of the partnership with the Seahawks and the final push done for the Seahawks *Scratch* ticket's second-chance drawings. The team even secured permission to bring the "They Have Come to Meet Our Legends" alien characters inside Lumen Field for fun social videos, and when they were on-site selling tickets outside the venue, fans really enjoyed this interaction. Nearly 35,000 entries were submitted for the third drawing and interest remained strong even after the top prizes were claimed, with many players still motivated by the season ticket opportunity. Mr. Warick noted that following the Seahawks' last Super Bowl win, demand surged so quickly that the team essentially had to relaunch the product mid-season to keep up.

With that in mind, the team is already discussing ways to be better prepared this year. Mr. Warick thanked Jessica Roswell and Patti Swihart as well as the entire agency and partners for their participation and hard work on this promotion. Mr. Warick also thanked the Curator team, for the coverage of both Seahawks ticket giveaway events at Tacoma Mall. Local media, including all four major Seattle television stations, were able to attend. Director Bennett and Ms. Weeks both did several interviews where they got to talk about the Lottery's long-time partnership with the Seahawks, excitement of fans, and how lottery ticket sales help benefit communities in Washington.

Mr. Warick continued by covering other promotions, including the Seattle Kraken x Lotto ticket promotion. Not only were there broadcasts, social and in-person activations, but the campaign also featured a partnership with a local Seattle influencer, who posted about the promotion, how to correctly mail in the trailing voucher needed for the second-chance drawing, but also brought attention about this opportunity to their more than 60,000 followers. During this period, the Lottery saw an increase of more than 150 followers, likely due to the additional exposure received. Mr. Warick noted that winners provided positive feedback about this promotion. Mr. Warick also discussed a holiday upcoming promotion, *Scratchpreciate You*, where players are encouraged to show their appreciation through gifting *Scratch* tickets. Mr. Warick concluded with a sneak peak of the upcoming partnership with the Washington Student Achievement Council, showing animation for the upcoming campaign. Commissioner Hoss thanked Mr. Warick and the sales and marketing team for their terrific energy and creativity. Chair Giniger asked, on *Scratch* tickets, how do players know how many prizes remain? Mr. Warick responded that there are multiple ways, the Lottery website or the app are the best ways for players to find remaining prizes, but also, the customer service teams at any Lottery location would be able to assist as well.

## **CR-102 Scratch Ticket Prices**

Ms. Weeks took over and reviewed the status of the rule making related to *Scratch* ticket prices. At the last meeting, the Commissioners voted to open rulemaking by filing a CR 101 to explore whether the current \$30 maximum price should be adjusted. After reviewing research and information from vendors and other states, Ms. Weeks said the team at Washington believes \$50 may be a more appropriate maximum price to consider. Ms. Weeks said the approval to file the CR-102 does not commit the Lottery to implementation of a \$50 priced ticket, instead it moves the proposal into public comment. Ms. Weeks asked for permission to file the CR-102 with the understanding this is a process and not completed. Commissioner Sullivan asked how long the process takes and when the commission would be able to make a final decision. Ms. Weeks said there are strict rules regarding timing. If the CR-102 is filed next week, the public hearing and final vote could be as early as the April commission meeting.

Chair Giniger thanked Ms. Weeks and entertained a motion to file the CR 102 for *Scratch* ticket prices. Commissioner Hoss **so moved**, and Commissioner Sullivan **seconded**. Chair Giniger stated she will reserve her vote until the CR-103 is ready and after the public comment period. Chair Giniger called for a vote to adopt the CR 102- *Scratch* ticket prices. **Ayes** from three Commissioners, Hoss, Sullivan, and Mendoza. Chair Giniger abstained. **Motion carried.**

## **Scratch Ticket Update**

Next, Gaylene Gray, the Instant Product Manager, presented the new *Scratch* ticket artwork for the commissioners' review and briefly talked about each one. Commissioner Hoss asked if the Sasquatch

ticket is a licensed product. Ms. Gray said it is not and it is available for free. Chair Giniger thanked Ms. Gray for her presentation and introduced Mr. Steben with a financial update.

## **Financial Update**

Mr. Stebens took over for a financial update and walked the commission through the overall financial performance through January 2026. Mr. Stebens emphasized that financials are doing better than expected, due to some contributing factors like Powerball, Lotto, and Hit5 jackpots. Mr. Stebens reminded the commissioners about a few timing issues around vendor expenses, stating we are tracking on point to maximize our marketing and messaging appropriately with expenditures. This illustrates the Lottery's commitment to be in line with the Governor's orders, cost management, and structure changes to maximize our beneficiary contributions. Mr. Stebens also discussed the year-over-year operating budget, saying sales are doing well and we're happy to see the efforts to be efficient and conservative with planning have paid off. Mr. Stebens asked if there were any questions. Commissioner Hoss thanked Mr. Stebens for his presentation and mentioned the great work done anticipating potential issues. Commissioner Hoss asked for clarification over the Washington Opportunity Pathways Account, if that is also a timing issue. Mr. Steben's replied yes and the commissioners will see this on the next report. Commissioner Hoss brought up the complicated formula used to manage funding to the general fund and asked how much has been provided so far. Mr. Steben said approximately \$35-\$40 million has been provided. Commissioner Hoss also said it was good to see that the Lottery is managing challenges and if it is overly optimistic to say we are going to have another big jackpot. Mr. Steben said the team is continuing to map and research Mega Millions jackpots, mentioning it is a new game format and limited data is available. Commissioner Hoss thanked the team for this update and was reassured to see the portfolio is balanced between *Scratch* and Draw and that this report shows the Lottery is in a good position even in a difficult environment.

## **Commission Business/Agenda Items:**

Chair Giniger asked the commissioners if they had any topics to discuss at the next meeting or any questions. Commissioner Hoss asked about a possible update from the Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC). Deputy Villegas said we have scheduled them for the June meeting.

## **Public Comment:**

Chair Giniger asked if anyone online or in the room was interested in speaking today. Hearing no one, Chair Giniger closed the public comment period.

## **Adjournment:**

Commissioner Giniger adjourned the meeting at 11:21am.

The February 12, 2026, Lottery Commission Meeting Minutes were approved this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

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Judy Giniger, Commission Chair

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Rita Hawkins, Executive Assistant