

Lotteries

Today, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures, lotteries bring in, on average, about one per cent of state revenue per year.

Like all money, it matters, but whatever difference it makes is offset by two problems.

The first is that lotteries have made it harder than ever to pass much-needed tax increases, because, thanks to years of noisy campaigning followed by decades of heavy promotion, the public wrongly believes that schools and other vital services are lavishly supported by gambling funds. The second is that the money raised by lotteries comes largely from the people who can least afford to part with it. Every state lottery is regressive, meaning that it takes a disproportionate toll on low-income citizens.

Kathryn Schulz, *The New Yorker*, Oct. 17, 2022