

Proposed 2026 Amendment to Bylaws Section 8.12

WHEREAS the National Lawyers Guild (NLG) has members who are lawyers, legal workers, and Jailhouse Lawyers (JHL), and

WHEREAS the National Convention is the highest decision making body of the NLG, and

WHEREAS all members have the right to vote on resolutions, amendments, and elections put forth at the National Convention, and

WHEREAS due to their incarceration, JHLs must vote via paper ballot on such resolutions, amendments, and elections, and

WHEREAS the current election timelines laid out in the NLG Bylaws make it impossible for JHLs to be sent ballots that include all candidates for office with the NLG and emergency resolutions proposed at the convention, and to return them before the stated deadline and

WHEREAS the current system effectively disenfranchises JHLs in these cases, now

BE IT RESOLVED that section 8.12 of the NLG Bylaws, governing the timelines used for voting for the National Convention be amended as follows:

Current language:

Section 8.12 Vote Timing- The RC will inform NO staff what matters need to be voted on. NO staff will make voting for officers, amendments, and resolutions available online 10 days after the 2nd plenary. NO staff will mail ballots to jailhouse lawyers and other requesting members within 10 days of the 2nd plenary. Voting is open for 31 days. Ballots cast by mail must be returned to the NO by Mail postmarked not later than the 31st day after the date the ballots were mailed to the membership or when electronically posted to email or on the NLG website. The ballot shall prominently specify the date by which it must be postmarked, returned or replied to the NO to be counted. The NO shall announce the number of votes for and against each proposal and candidate within 45 days on the website and on listserves.

Proposed Amendment:

Section 8.12 Vote Timing- The RC will inform NO staff what matters need to be voted on. NO staff will make voting for officers, amendments, and resolutions available online 10 days after the 2nd plenary. NO staff will mail ballots to jailhouse lawyers and other requesting members within ~~10~~ **14** days of the 2nd plenary. Voting is open for ~~31-45~~ days. Ballots cast by mail must be returned to the NO by Mail postmarked not later than the ~~31st-45th~~ day after the date the ballots were mailed to the membership or when electronically posted to email or on the NLG website. The ballot shall prominently specify the date by which it must be postmarked, returned or replied to the NO to be counted. The NO shall announce the number of votes for and against each proposal and candidate within ~~45-60~~ days on the website and on listserves.

Implementation:

NO Staff are responsible for creation, printing, and mailing of paper ballots as well as adherence to timelines delineated in this section

Compliance with Section 8.7:

This amendment was drafted in consultation with Staff of the National Office responsible for creation, printing, and mailing ballots to JHLs

Proponents have made every effort to consult jailhouse lawyer membership to the greatest extent possible.

SUBMITTED BY:

Naomi Zikmund-Fisher, Treasurer, Detroit & Michigan Chapter, Mid-East Regional Representative to the NEC

Contact: treasurer@MichiganNLG.org