

Statement in Support of “Resolution to Reverse Anti-Democratic Constitutional Amendments”

By: Susan Howard

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I write in support of the resolution to reverse the constitutional revisions and bylaw amendments passed in NLG governance plenaries in 2022.

There were many procedural issues with the proposals that were brought to the NEC before and after the plenaries, including.

The documentation submitted found basic deficiencies in the election process permeated the voting on all matters put before the membership. Especially conspicuous was that on the ballot mailed to Jailhouse Lawyer members, the accompanying narrative was clearly biased in support of the Constitutional Revisions proposed by the National Executive Committee.

The mailing drafted by the Resolutions Committee of the National Executive Committee violated the national NLG Bylaws, which require that all ballots include the full text of all proposed amendments and resolutions. The ballot mailed to Jailhouse Lawyer members contained no more than a one-line description of the proposed constitutional amendments, and only one line in the ballot addressed all the proposed revisions to Article 8 of the Constitution.

The mailing to Jailhouse Lawyers also omitted statements in support and in opposition to the measures, with the full knowledge that Jailhouse Lawyers do not have access to the internet. For an organization that holds itself out as an anti-racist and abolitionist, the exploitation of Jailhouse lawyer members was shocking.

[The vote tally](#) showed the majority of voting members were Jailhouse Lawyer members.

2022 Total voters: 564

JHL and mail-in ballots: 319

Online ballots: 245

It is clear from the outcome that the vote was engineered in favor of the proposals submitted by the NEC, who created and mailed out the ballots to JHL members and conducted the vote.

After the revisions and amendments passed, the NEC fell into turmoil, with a small faction making decisions for the entire board, including firing the Director of Mass Defense.

For these reasons, I fully support reversing the 2022 Governance measures.