



Kelly Kirschner (Guatemala)

US Congress Florida 16th District

Election Date: Nov 3, 2026

Campaign website: <https://kellykirschner.com/>

Kelly Kirschner is a third-generation Floridian, longtime public servant, and Returned Peace Corps Volunteer, whose career has been grounded in a commitment to service and community.

After earning his bachelor's and master's degrees from Georgetown University on a full scholarship,

where he also served as head manager of the men's basketball team, Kelly joined the Peace Corps in 1999. He spent four years as a Volunteer in northern Guatemala, working alongside Mayan farming families to connect them with new markets and expand household income. His Peace Corps experience shaped his lifelong commitment to community-driven development and the belief that lasting change begins by working alongside people to identify and address the challenges they face.

Service has long been a value shared by the Kirschner family. Kelly's brother served multiple tours as a U.S. Army officer in the Middle East and Afghanistan, reinforcing the family's longstanding commitment to public service.

Kelly was elected to the Sarasota City Commission after defeating a well-funded incumbent, and later served as Mayor. Beyond elected office, Kelly has dedicated significant time to strengthening educational and community institutions. He led UnidosNow, helping more than 1,000 first-generation students pursue debt-free admission to leading universities, and served as Vice President at Eckerd College, where he led executive leadership development and lifelong learning programs.

From his years serving with the Peace Corps in Guatemala to his work in business, education, and local government, Kelly's career has been defined by a commitment to service, community, and creating opportunities for others.