

## Richard Thripp's Website

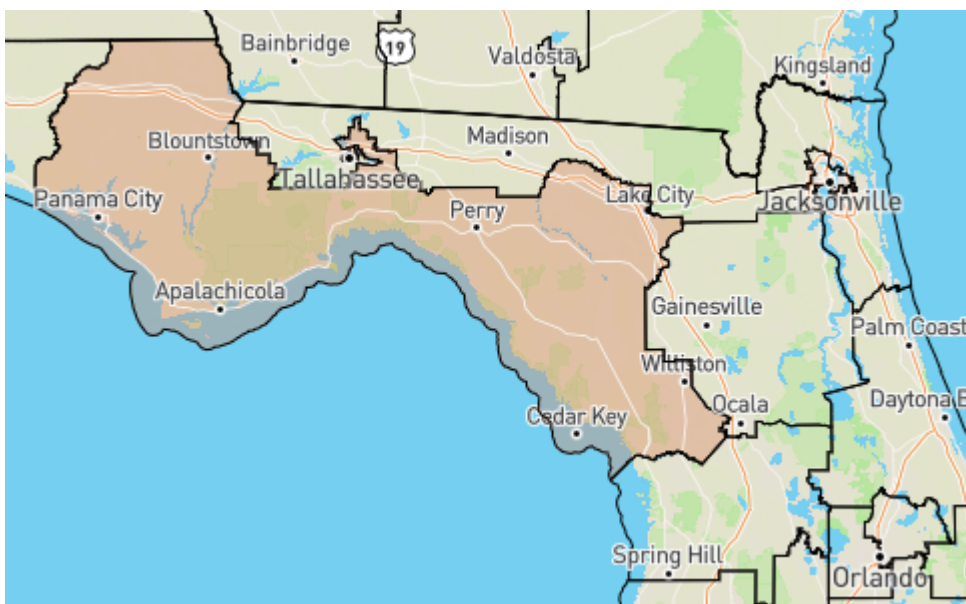
CONGRESSIONAL CAMPAIGN, ENDORSEMENTS OF OTHERS

# ENDORSEMENT OF KIM O'CONNOR FOR CONGRESS, WRITE-IN CANDIDATE FOR FLORIDA'S 2ND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2020-08-30 | RICHARD THRIPP | LEAVE A COMMENT



Kristy and I are happy to announce that we are endorsing Kim O'Connor for Congress in Florida's 2nd congressional district. Please write in **Kim O'Connor** on your November 3rd, 2020 ballots if you live in this district. Sign up to vote by mail if you haven't yet, and make sure to mail your completed ballot several weeks in advance.



Florida's 2nd congressional district is the state's largest district by land area, stretching across two time zones and including all of Bay, Calhoun, Dixie, Franklin, Gilchrist, Gulf, Jackson, Lafayette, Levy, Liberty, Suwannee, Taylor, Wakulla and Washington counties, and portions of Columbia, Holmes, Jefferson, Leon and Marion counties. The district's most populous city is Panama City, on the western end (Central Time) abutted against Rep. Matt Gaetz's district. Like several other districts including the 6th, due to a gerrymandering court challenge, the boundaries changed in 2016 to what is depicted above, which is extremely Republican (R+18 on the Cook Partisan Voting Index).

**About Kim:** Kim O'Connor was born in Allapattah in 1948. She graduated from Lake Placid High School in 1964, from University of South Florida in 1969 with a B.A. in Philosophy, and from University of Florida in 1977 with a J.D., and was [admitted to the Florida Bar in 1978 and is an attorney in good standing.](#)

Kim O'Connor is running for Congress as a no-party-affiliated write-in candidate, and has previously been a member of the Democratic party and the Green party. She was elected to the Leon County Soil and Water Conservation District in 2004, and to the Hillsborough County Soil and Water Conservation District in 2016. In 2006, Kim [ran](#) for mayor of Tallahassee to [protest](#) Mayor John Marks and the city commission's support for Tallahassee investing in the construction of a coal power plant in neighboring Taylor County, which ended up being scrapped.

Kim O'Connor's website at [Kim2Congress.com](#) is under construction. In the mean time, she has shared this information about her platform:

Impeach Donald Trump (again)  
Supports Black Lives Matter

Establish a \$15 per hour federal minimum wage  
Clean water, protect our natural springs and fight climate change  
Medicare for All  
No nuclear weapons  
Supports the Equal Rights Amendment

Kim O'Connor has also written the following statement about her life and her background of public service:

*After college [1969] I went home to Lake Placid [near Sebring] to help care for my mom who was dying of brain cancer and help with caring for my brother who was 13 when she got sick and 16 when she died. Afterwards I went to law school to fight the insurance companies. My dissertation was "Corporate Social Responsibility of Insurance Companies" (spoiler alert – they have none). I stayed home till my brother graduated from high school. He went to the University of Florida. I joined him the next year and attended law school.*

*After law school [1977] I ran campaigns. "Yes on 2" for the League of Women Voters (state ERA – lost), office manager for Barry Richard for Attorney General (lost – as I mentioned to you he received every newspaper endorsement in the state and Jim Smith's money won). Larry Hawkins for State Representative – won. I was then supposed to be his Tallahassee aide – but Democrat establishment folks in Dade County put in one of their own. He was a very long shot candidate and his narrow victory took them by surprise – but they jumped in on day one and I was out.*

*I was very disappointed but decided to go to Tallahassee anyway and work for the Department of Insurance to realize my motivational goal of fighting the insurance companies. My first job was on the Unemployment Appeals commission. I interviewed from that for Department of Insurance. I was then recruited by the Florida Bar to start and run the Volunteer Lawyers Project – first pro bono effort of the bar – mandated by the Florida Supreme Court. A lot of fun. I then had my own practice as I told you and Kristy, until one day it hit 13 degrees Fahrenheit in Tallahassee and I said this is too cold. I closed my practice and headed South. I ended up in Key West where my first job was as a maid – but I soon became the assistant city attorney and loved it.*

*My Dad got sick. I couldn't get him to move to Key West so I went back to Lake Placid. After he died I got a job teaching law in Zhenjiang, China. It was great!!! I love the Chinese people. I got sick – contracted SARS we believe – my brother*



*told me not to die in China and come back to Tallahassee where I stayed until he died. That leaves me as the last of my family.*

*I never had a lot of money but have had an interesting and varied life.*

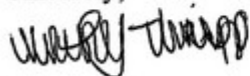


Kim knows the panhandle / Big Bend area of Florida well and is renting an apartment in Tallahassee (previously she lived in Tampa) in order to be centrally located in the district. Kim was a donor and supporter of my campaign ([Richard Thripp for Congress](#)) and visited us on August 20th, 2020, two days after our disappointing Democratic primary loss to [Clint Curtis](#). Kim encouraged Kristy to run, but with Kristy not knowing the area and working on her degree at Seminole State College, as well as me accepting a job as Campaign Manager for [Jennifer Coen](#) and [Judy Craig for West Volusia Hospital Authority](#), it is far more sensible to back Kim's candidacy. Kristy is formally withdrawing her write-in candidacy.

August 30, 2020

I hereby withdraw my write-in candidacy for United States Representative, Florida's 2nd district.

Sincerely,



Kristy Thripp

Please write in **Kim O'Connor** for the November 3rd, 2020 election for United States Representative in Florida's 2nd congressional district. The incumbent, Rep. Neal Dunn, is an NRA-backed Trump shill who wants to repeal the Affordable Care Act, defund the Department of Education, and other **ridiculous proposals**.

**Background on Kristy's write-in candidacy:** We had learned from former congressman **Alan Grayson** that it is very bad for a Republican to be completely unopposed. Mr. Grayson told me that under U.S. House communications standards, being unopposed allows them to send mail using taxpayer funds ("franking") to advertise themselves and up to two other Republican candidates up to the day of the election, which may be worth up to \$200,000. Even the presence of a write-in candidate prevents this for 90 days before the election. *(Although his logic was sound, note that Mr. Grayson filed as a write-in for the 6th district, which didn't make sense due to the presence of Clint Curtis and I as Democratic candidates and Gerry Nolan as a write-in candidate.)*

We saw that Rep. Neal Dunn was unopposed in Florida's panhandle, so Kristy decided to run as a write-in candidate (at no cost) just before the April 24, 2020 noon deadline. However, Kim O'Connor also filed at about the same time. Had we known Kim would be filing, we would have instead filed against **Rep. Mario Díaz-Balart** in the 25th district, who did end up being completely unopposed. At this time, we are pleased to endorse the write-in candidacy of **Kim O'Connor** for Congress in Florida's 2nd district.

**Call to Action:** Readers, please help disseminate this article to Democrats and others who might vote for Kim O'Connor in the 19 counties included in Florida's 2nd congressional district, including the officers and members of each county's Democratic Executive Committee. [Click here for a PDF version to download and share.](#)