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SCOTT MAXWELL OPINION

Another ugly headline? Time for Osceola clerk Ramirez to go | Commentary

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By SCOTT MAXWELL
ORLANDO SENTINEL | AUG 12, 2020



Embattled Osceola County Clerk of Courts Armando Ramirez ponders a question during a press conference at his office

in 2013 after he fired several top advisers. A recent report that Ramirez himself commissioned found the office still had problems. (Joe Burbank)

I don't often make endorsements. But I do sometimes share who I think *doesn't* deserve your vote. Today is one of those days.

Good people of Osceola County, you need a new clerk of court.

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Armando Ramirez's tenure in office started stinking shortly after he took office in 2013 and has only gotten stinkier since.

Don't take it from me. Just take a peek at a sampling of the headlines generated by the 85-year-old Democrat during his first two terms in office.

“Osceola clerk promotes son’s girlfriend as new chief deputy” ... “New clerk in Osceola: I’ll pay my \$7,000 debt” ... “Osceola clerk finance chief quits, rips Ramirez” ... “Fired attorney warned clerk against breaking law”

And if you consider all that old news, here’s a new headline from last week:
“[Outside review found pattern of misconduct at Osceola clerk’s office.](#)”

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Keep in mind: That review was requested *by* the clerk’s office. Ramirez basically said: *Hey, come tell me what you think.* And the investigator he hired said: *Yo, I think things are messed up.* (It took her 35 pages to detail all the ways.)

The report said the abundance of employee complaints “suggested a pervasive pattern of inappropriate activity.”

Enough already.