

**TOMPKINS COUNTY CIVIL SERVICE
EXAMINATION
Inclusion Through Diversity**

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

**Tompkins County Department of Human Resources Office
125 E. Court Street
Ithaca, NY 14850
(607) 274-5526**

Tompkins County is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action employer. Minorities and women are encouraged to apply

TITLE: Accountant

EXAM NO: 88274010

SALARY: \$72,000

LOCATION: Town of Lansing

TYPE OF EMPLOYMENT: Full Time

EXAM DATE: 03/01/25

ISSUE DATE: 12/24/24

THE FINAL DATE TO FILE APPLICATIONS: 01/23/25

DATE THAT THIS ANNOUNCEMENT SHOULD BE REMOVED FROM POSTING: 03/02/25

RESIDENCY: Candidates must have been legal residents of Tompkins County or one of the six adjoining counties (Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland, Schuyler, Seneca, Tioga) for at least one month immediately preceding the date of application and maintain residency. For Examinations: The eligible list resulting from the examination will be established in accordance with the final earned numerical ratings of passing candidates regardless of residence. A municipality or district may exercise its right under section 23-4-a. of Civil Service Law to request a certification of eligible candidates who have been residents of that municipality or district for at least one month prior to appointment. After the names of residents have been exhausted, Tompkins County must then certify the names of non-residents on the list.

Location of Position:

There is currently one vacancy in the title of Accountant located at the Town of Lansing. The eligible list resulting from this examination may be used to fill any appropriate full-time, part-time, and/or temporary vacancies that may occur in the title of Accountant during the life of the eligible list.

THE USE OF A QUIET HAND HELD CALCULATOR IS RECOMMENDED FOR THIS EXAMINATION.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

1. Graduation from a regionally accredited or New York State registered college with a Bachelor's or higher degree in Accounting, Economics, Finance, or Business Administration, that included a minimum of (12 -15) semester credit hours (5 classes), in accounting, PLUS one (1) year paid full-time or its part-time equivalent professional experience in auditing or accounting; OR,

2. Graduation from a regionally accredited or New York State registered college with an Associate's degree in Accounting, or related field (12 -15) semester credit hours (5 classes) PLUS three (3) years paid full-time or its part-time equivalent professional experience in auditing or accounting; OR,
3. Any combination of training and experience equal to or greater than that described in (a) and (b) above.

Tompkins County is Committed to Equity and Inclusion. We encourage those with similar values to apply.

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS:

An incumbent in this class is responsible for the maintenance and oversight of governmental accounting systems, records and processes. This is a mid to upper-level accounting position requiring familiarity with general accounting principles and the ability to apply rules and regulations to both routine and complex accounting and financial transactions. The incumbent independently performs work assignments concerned with governmental accounting, budgeting, and reporting. This position requires complex and analytical responsibilities. The work is performed under the general supervision of the Department head or their designee with leeway allowed for the exercise of independent judgment. The incumbent will perform all related duties as assigned.

TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES:

- Performs a variety of journal entries on a weekly, monthly, quarterly, and yearly basis;
- Identifies and works to rectify problems related to financial accounting matters;
- Performs a variety of account analysis on a routine basis
- Performs a variety of reconciliations on various accounts on a regular basis;
- Investigates historical transactions from accounts and determine any corrections needed
- Assists other departments with finance related issues;
- Project accounting transactions, reconciliations, research, and reporting
- Monitoring various accounts and interactions with various software programs
- Ability to resolve complex accounting conundrums
- Assists task completion related to closings and audits
- Does related reports and tasks as assigned or needed;
- Assisting Department leadership as needed
- Develops, maintains, updates accounting policies and procedures as needed

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS:

- Working knowledge of general accounting principles as they relate to governmental accounting;
- Working independently using professional judgement to reach recommendations and conclusions
- Ability to apply GASB updates and pronouncements to accounting practices;

- Ability to adapt accounting methods to particular problems;
- Speed and accuracy in performing fairly difficult mathematical computations;
- Good judgment in allocating charges and classifying receipts and expenditures;
- Ability to cross train and assist with other departmental tasks
- Tact in dealing with other departmental personnel and the public;
- Ability to work with multiple departments simultaneously on projects
- Ability to train and educate various staff levels from departmental leadership to departmental support staff
- Ability to work with others and keep data confidential;
- Ability to understand and carry out complex oral and written instructions;
- Ability to prepare accurate correspondence and reports;
- Proficiency in Microsoft Word and Excel, including sorting, tables and reporting functions;
- Ability to learn and utilize new reporting and account-keeping software;

- Physical and mental condition shall be commensurate with the demands of the position, either with or without reasonable accommodations.

PHYSICAL, MENTAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL DEMANDS:

The physical and mental demands described here are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of this job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions. While performing the duties of this job, the employee is frequently required to sit for extended period in an office setting, use hands to keyboard, handle, or feel objects, manipulate tools, or controls, and reach with hands and arms. The employee is required to see, walk, talk and hear. The employee must occasionally lift and/or move up to 45 pounds. Due to extensive computer usage, the job requires considerable visual effort. Vision abilities required by this job include close vision and the ability to adjust focus to a mid-range. The employee's physical and mental condition shall be commensurate with demands of the position, either with or without reasonable accommodation. Psychological demands are moderate for this position. Considerable interpersonal skills are necessary in order to create connections, obtain buy-in, cooperation with community agencies, municipalities and throughout the organization. The employee is required to have a valid NYS license in order to drive to various offsite meetings. Internal contacts may include work with elected officials, department heads or deputies and will require professional collaboration on overlapping projects. External contacts are with professional associates, liaisons, community groups and involve the development of professional networks. The work environment has minimal exposure to disagreeable conditions. The incumbent will perform all related duties as required.

Originally Created: 12/2023

A116

COMPLETE SCOPE OF THE EXAMINATION AND EXPANDED SUBTEST DESCRIPTIONS:

Preparing written material

These questions test for the ability to present information clearly and accurately, and to organize paragraphs logically and comprehensibly. For some questions, you will be given information in two or three sentences followed by four restatements of the information. You must then choose the best version. For other questions, you will be given paragraphs with their sentences out of order. You must then choose, from four suggestions, the best order for the sentences.

General accounting

These questions test for knowledge of the general accounting principles and practices used in the preparation of financial statements, in the recording and reporting of financial transactions, and in financial decision-making. Candidates will be required to demonstrate a current knowledge of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). Knowledge of computerized information systems as it applies to accounting may be required.

General auditing

These questions test for knowledge of the principles and procedures involved in substantiating and examining transactions and financial statements. It will require a knowledge of auditing techniques and Generally Accepted Auditing Standards (GAAS). Knowledge of the use of computerized accounting or auditing systems as it pertains to auditing may be required. Questions relating to internal controls applicable to manual and computerized accounting systems may be included.

Governmental accounting

These questions test for knowledge of the accounting practices employed to provide financial information used in determining and forecasting the condition of governmental units, and used for monitoring governmental performance, in terms of legal, contractual

and fiduciary requirements. These questions will test for knowledge of and familiarity with common governmental funds, appropriation and encumbrance accounting, accounting for revenue and expenditures, and other aspects of accounting relating to the governmental sector.

Understanding and interpreting tabular material

These questions test your ability to understand, analyze, and use the internal logic of data presented in tabular form. You may be asked to perform tasks such as completing tables, drawing conclusions from them, analyzing data trends or interrelationships, and revising or combining data sets. The concepts of rate, ratio, and proportion are tested. Mathematical operations are simple, and computational speed is not a major factor in the test. **You should bring with you a hand-held battery- or solar-powered calculator for use on this test.** You will **not** be permitted to use the **calculator** function of your **cell phone**.

Test Guide:

The New York State Department of Civil Service has not prepared a test guide for this examination. However, candidates may find information in the publication 'General Guide to Written Tests' helpful in preparing for this test. This publication is available on line at:<https://www.cs.ny.gov/testing/testguides.cfm>.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS

Falsification of any part of the "Application for Employment" will result in disqualification.

Accepted candidates will be notified when and where to appear for the examination. If you do not receive your notice to appear at least three days before the date of the written examination, call Tompkins County Department of Human Resources at 274-5526. If an application is disapproved, due notice will be sent. This department does not make formal acknowledgment of the receipt of an application or take responsibility for non-delivery or postal delay.

Applicants must answer every question on the application form and make sure that the application is complete in all respects. Incomplete applications will be disapproved.

ACTIVE MILITARY PERSONNEL, VETERANS OR DISABLED VETERANS desiring to claim additional credit will request the Veterans Credits application form, at any time between the date of application for examination(s) and the date of the establishment of the resulting eligible list. You must meet the requirements set by NYS for these credits and they may be used only once. **YOU MAY NOT CLAIM ADDITIONAL CREDITS AFTER THE ELIGIBLE LIST HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED. IT IS THE CANDIDATE'S RESPONSIBILITY TO REQUEST THE VETERANS CREDIT APPLICATION FORMS AND TO SUBMIT THESE FORMS AND ANY SUPPORTING PAPERWORK BEFORE THE ELIGIBLE LIST IS ESTABLISHED.**

Tompkins County's written examinations are prepared and rated by the New York State Department of Civil Service in accordance with Section 23-2 of Civil Service Law. The provisions of the New York State Civil Service Rules and Regulations, which deal with the rating and review of the examinations apply.

The duration of the eligible lists may be fixed for a minimum of one and a maximum of four years and may be extended beyond four years if there has been a restriction against the filling of vacancies in that title.

The candidates must complete a separate "Application for Employment" for each open-competitive and/or promotional examination that the candidate is eligible to take.

All experience required meeting the acceptable training and experience is full-time experience. (Part-time experience will be credited on a prorated basis).

Appointment from an eligible list must be made from the top three candidates willing to accept the appointment.

Tompkins County is an Equal Opportunity Employer. As part of its efforts to provide employment opportunities to the physically handicapped, Tompkins County Civil Service has adopted a rule permitting the employment of qualified physically handicapped persons without competitive examination (pursuant to Section 55 of Civil Service Law). If you meet the minimum qualifications for this position and wish to know more about this rule, please contact the Tompkins County Department of Human Resources Office.

Unless otherwise notified, candidates are permitted to use quiet, hand-held, and solar or battery powered calculators. Devices with Typewriter Keyboards, Spell Checkers, Personal Digital Assistants, Address Books, Language Translators, Dictionaries or any similar devices are prohibited. You may not bring books or other reference materials.

CROSS-FILING - APPLYING FOR CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATIONS IN MULTIPLE JURISDICTIONS WHEN EXAMINATIONS ARE SCHEDULED ON THE SAME DATE: When applying for examinations across multiple jurisdictions - all of which are scheduled on the same day - you must submit a Tompkins County Cross-Filing Form. This form must be submitted no later than 4:30 PM on the final filing date of the examination. On this form, list each examination that you are taking and then tell us where you would like to sit. The purpose is to ensure that all of the test materials for the various examinations that you are taking will be available in one location. If you do not provide the cross-filing form to us by the final filing date, we cannot ensure that we can accommodate your desire to cross-file. If any of the examinations are State level examinations, you must sit at the State test center. You will still need to complete the Tompkins County cross-filing form. If sitting at the State site, the State will notify you of when and where to report for your examination(s) and you should bring all admittance letters to the State site. If you are not taking a State examination, bring all admittance letters to your chosen testing site. If you have any question please call Tompkins County Department of Human Resources Department (607) 274-5526. The Cross File form is located at <http://www.tompkins-co.org/personnel/CivilSrvForms/index.html>

FOR RELIGIOUS ACCOMMODATION AND HANDICAPPED PERSONS: If special arrangements for testing are required, please indicate this on your application.

ALL CANDIDATES FOR EMPLOYMENT FOR POSITIONS IN SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND BOCES GOVERNED BY TOMPKINS COUNTY CIVIL SERVICE MAY HAVE THE FOLLOWING SPECIAL REQUIREMENT. PER CHAPTER 180 OF THE LAWS OF 2000, AND BY REGULATIONS OF THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION, TO BE EMPLOYED IN A POSITION DESIGNATED BY A SCHOOL DISTRICT OR BOCES AS INVOLVING DIRECT CONTACT WITH STUDENTS, A CLEARANCE FOR EMPLOYMENT FROM THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT IS REQUIRED.

In conformance with Section 85-a of the Civil Service Law, children of firefighters and police officers killed in the line of duties shall be entitled to receive an additional ten points in a competitive examination for original appointment in the same municipality in which his or her parent has served. If you are qualified to participate in this examination and are a child of firefighter or police officer killed in the line of duties in this municipality, please inform this office of this matter when you submit your application for examination. A candidate claiming such credit has a minimum of two months from the application deadline to provide the necessary documentation to verify additional credit eligibility. However, no credit may be added after the eligible list has been established.â

BACKGROUND INVESTIGATION: Applicants may be required to undergo a State and national criminal history background investigation, which will include a fingerprint check, to determine suitability for appointment. Failure to meet the standards for the background investigation may result in disqualification.

TOMPKINS COUNTY PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT, 125 EAST COURT STREET, ITHACA, NY 14850