

**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**

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**TITLE:** Probation Officer

**EXAM NO:** 60028570

**SALARY:** \$34.48/hr - Hire Rate, \$36.30/hr - Work Rate (2025 Rate)

**EXAM DATE:** 06/28/25

**ISSUE DATE:** 04/22/25

**THE FINAL DATE TO FILE APPLICATIONS:** 05/22/25

**DATE THAT THIS ANNOUNCEMENT SHOULD BE REMOVED FROM POSTING:** 06/29/25

**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.

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

**LOCATION OF POSITIONS/VACANCIES:**

There are currently multiple vacancies in the title of Probation Officer located at the Tompkins County Probation Department. 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 during the life of the eligible list.

**MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:**

**OPEN COMPETITIVE MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:**

(A) Satisfactory completion of a Probation Officer 1 traineeship; OR

(B) Graduation from a regionally accredited college or university or one accredited by the New York State Board of Regents to grant degrees with a graduate degree in social work, social sciences, education, administration, law, criminal justice, or a related field; OR

(C) Graduation from a regionally accredited college or university or one accredited by the New York State Board of Regents to grant degrees, with a Bachelor's degree or higher with at least thirty (30) credit hours in the social or behavioral sciences and two (2) years of experience in counseling, law enforcement, juvenile or criminal justice, education, or casework in a probation, law enforcement, juvenile or criminal justice, corrections, community corrections, parole, social services, mental health, social work or other public or private human services agency.

**Note:** Course work at the graduate degree level in social work, social sciences, education, administration, law, criminal justice, or a related field may be substituted for work experience for a maximum of one (1) year of experience.

**PROMOTIONAL QUALIFICATIONS:** This position is not filled by promotion.

**Special Requirement:**

Where required, possession of a current driver's license or the ability to otherwise meet the transportation requirements of the position.

**Note: Counseling Experience** involves interviewing individuals and/or families, discussing and evaluating their problems (e.g. drug and alcohol abuse, family conflicts, disabilities) and developing and carrying out plans to resolve problems. Those who perform counseling duties work directly with individuals and/or families on an ongoing basis in order to assist them and monitor and evaluate their progress.

**Law Enforcement Experience** involves providing for public safety by maintaining order, responding to emergencies, protecting people and property, enforcing motor vehicle and criminal laws and promoting good community relations as a member of a regional state park police or a police force, police department or other organization of a county, city, town, village, housing authority, transit authority or police district.

**Education Experience** involves teaching a curriculum to students or supervising/administering such a curriculum and those teaching it or experience as a guidance counselor, school or educational counselor or instructional coordinator/curriculum coordinator in a criminal justice or juvenile justice setting.

**Casework Experience** involves activities directed toward enhancing a client's ability to cope with and solve problems and the referral of clients to supporting resources and services. Functions include client assessment, problem identification, development, monitoring and revision of a service plan, motivational support, counseling, crisis intervention, referral to social and support services and coordination of services.

**Note:** Individuals whose duties and responsibilities include the use of a firearm must also complete training pursuant to Criminal Procedure Law Section 2.30(3).

**Note:** The class specifications including the minimum qualifications for positions in Probation Departments are established by rule and regulations of the Division of Criminal Justice Services. These class specifications are found in Title 9 NYCRR Part 347, Appendix H-10, Standard specifications for Professional Probation Positions.

**Note:** This position is allocated to the competitive class pursuant to Executive Law Section 257(1).

**ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT:**

The candidate must possess a valid New York State driver's license at the time of appointment and maintain such license for the duration of employment.

**Tompkins County is committed to Equity and Inclusion. We encourage others with similar values to apply.**

**DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS:**

This is the entry-level professional position in a probation department responsible for the control, supervision and care of adults and juveniles subject to probation supervision or intake services which requires them to meet certain standards of conduct. The incumbent uses sound professional judgment and applies investigative techniques to evaluate the conduct of those subject to court ordered investigation, analyze data and make recommendations regarding court dispositions. He/she also counsels and coaches probationers and others receiving probation services to change patterns of thinking and behavior to help promote and sustain a law-abiding relationship with society and reduce the likelihood of becoming re-involved in criminal or delinquent behavior. Depending upon individual needs and/or court orders, a Probation Officer 1 may arrange for medical, mental health or substance

treatment services. Supervision is not a characteristic of this position. The work is performed under the general supervision of a higher-ranking probation professional. A Probation Officer 1 is a Peace Officer pursuant to Criminal Procedure Law Section 2.10 and may be authorized to carry a firearm in the performance of his/her duties. The incumbent will perform all related duties as required.

### **TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES:**

- Gathers, verifies, reviews and analyzes social, medical, mental health, substance abuse, sex offender, legal and other documentation and interviews defendants/respondents, victims, law enforcement personnel and other case-related individuals to conduct pre-plea/pre-sentence/pre-dispositional investigations;
- Prepares reports and/or testifies in court regarding persons awaiting disposition of the courts in regard to the seriousness of the crime committed, the individual's circumstances and risk to self and society and the legally permissible dispositional options and makes a recommendation for or against detention, residential placement, or incarceration including, when appropriate, a recommendation regarding the length and conditions of probation which may include community service or other services;
- Conducts risk and need assessments and evaluates results for pre-trial, investigation, and supervision purposes;
- Prepares case/supervision plans and interprets conditions of probation to probationers;
- Meets with probationers, family members, school officials, service providers and others having contact with probationers to help ensure probationers are meeting terms and conditions of probation including school attendance and participation in treatment programs;
- Performs risk reduction by providing direction and support to help probationers change factors that promote and maintain criminal or delinquent behavior including coaching probationers to select new patterns of thinking, feeling and behaving and to develop new attitudes and skills which help sustain a constructive and law-abiding relationship with the broader community and reduce the likelihood of becoming re-involved in criminal or delinquent behavior;
- Prepares progress reports on probationers and periodically reviews case histories to determine the degree of adjustment;
- Prepares violation reports and testifies at violation hearings;
- Prepares a final report once a case is closed;
- Meets with or otherwise communicates with his or her supervisor and peers to provide information related to the work performed;
- Develops and maintains relationships with other social and law enforcement agencies and cooperates with them in matters of mutual interest to assist probationers with life adjustments;
- Develops specific work goals and plans to prioritize, organize, and accomplish the work performed;
- Attends training and keeps abreast of professional developments and current technology to assist in the monitoring of probationers;
- May collect financial obligations from and issue receipts to offenders;
- May perform urine drug/alcohol screenings and collect DNA samples from probationers;
- May arrange for medical, mental health, substance abuse treatment or other services according to individual probationer's needs or court orders;
- May execute arrest warrants, conduct warrantless searches and/or make warrantless arrests;
- May use a firearm in performing duties and exercising authority pursuant to departmental policy.

### **KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS:**

Good knowledge of interviewing and investigative techniques and practices related to probation work; Good knowledge of laws and rules pertaining to probation work and the functions and procedures of family and criminal courts; Good knowledge of methods of differential supervision of probationers including the application of cognitive behavioral interventions and motivational techniques; Good knowledge of effective case planning and management; Good knowledge of special offender populations such as domestic violence offenders, sex offenders, DWI offenders, youthful offenders, juvenile offenders, Persons in Need of Supervision and juvenile delinquents; Good knowledge of juvenile and adult risk and needs assessment instruments; Good knowledge of tools used to monitor compliance with conditions of probation, such as drug and alcohol screening DNA collection, and electronic monitoring devices; 14 Good knowledge of the powers of a Peace Officer; Good knowledge of the geography of the jurisdiction employed in; Good knowledge of factors related to crime and delinquency; Working knowledge of the rules of evidence, arrest laws and custody procedures; Working knowledge of the provisions of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) regulations and policies relating to confidentiality of case record information; Working knowledge of social sciences, including sociology, psychology and demography; Working knowledge of community resources; Working knowledge of employment, training and treatment options available to probationers; Working knowledge of firearm safety; Skill in the use of firearms where authorized; Ability to administer accurate and thorough assessments; Ability to understand and follow oral and written instructions; Ability to analyze and organize data and prepare records and reports; Ability to conduct effective case planning; Ability to refer a probationer to the right types of services within the probation department and

the broader community; Ability to promote and monitor change and take appropriate action to sustain growth or help the probationer initiate appropriate behavioral patterns; Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with others; Ability to counsel probationers regarding social, emotional and vocational problems; Ability to understand and interpret complex written technical information including statutes, regulations and operational procedures; Ability to communicate effectively both orally and in writing; Ability to administer drug and alcohol testing and collect DNA samples as needed; Ability to understand and empathize with the needs and concerns of others; Ability to maintain composure and make rational judgments under stressful conditions; 15 Ability to use a firearm safely and effectively if so authorized.

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P24

### **Complete Scope of the Examination and Expanded Subtest Descriptions:**

#### **Advising and interacting with others**

These questions test for the ability to interact with other people in order to gather and present information and to provide assistance and advice in a courteous and professional manner.

#### **Preparing written material**

These questions test for the ability to write the kinds of reports and correspondence required in criminal justice settings such as probation and parole. Some questions test for the ability to present information clearly and accurately. Others test for the ability to organize paragraphs logically and comprehensibly.

#### **Evaluating conclusions in light of known facts**

These questions will consist of a set of facts and a conclusion. You must decide if the conclusion is proved by the facts, disproved by the facts or if the facts are not sufficient to prove or disprove the conclusion. The questions will not be specific to a particular field.

#### **Applying written information**

These questions evaluate a candidate's ability to read, interpret and apply rules, regulations, directives, written narratives and other related material. You will be required to read a set of information and to appropriately apply the information to situations in various settings. All information needed to answer the questions is contained in the rules, regulations, etc. which are cited.

### **Test Guide:**

A Guide for the Written Test for Probation is available at the New York State website:

<https://www.cs.ny.gov/testing/testguides.cfm>. Candidates not having access to a computer, or the internet may request copy of the test guide from the municipal civil service office conducting this examination using the contact information found elsewhere on this announcement.

## 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.

**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