TOMPKINS COUNTY CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

Inclusion Through Diversity





OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Tompkins County Personnel 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: Valuation Support Specialist

EXAM NO: 68249

SALARY: $21.73 per hour - 2014 Hire Rate

LOCATION: Tompkins County Department of Assessment

EXAM DATE: 06/07/14

ISSUE DATE: 04/18/14

THE FINAL DATE TO FILE APPLICATIONS: 05/05/14

DATE THAT THIS ANNOUNCEMENT SHOULD BE REMOVED FROM POSTING: 06/08/14

RESIDENCY: Candidates must have been legal residents of Tompkins County or one of the six contiguous counties for at least one month immediately preceding the date of application and maintain residency throughout the life of the eligible list. The eligible list 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 ALLOWED FOR THIS EXAMINATION.

LOCATION OF POSITION:

There is currently one vacancy in the title of Valuation Support Specialist located at the Tompkins County Assessment Department. The eligible list resulting from this examination may be used to fill any full-time, part-time and/or temporary vacancies that may occur during the life of the eligible list.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: EITHER

(a) Graduation from a regionally accredited or New York State registered four-year college or university with a Bachelors Degree (which must have included at least twelve college credit hours of real property appraisal coursework) in engineering, architecture, economics, business administration or a related field AND one year of full-time paid (or the equivalent part-time and/or volunteer) experience in estimating and appraising real property, buildings or building construction work, including the preparation of original written detailed reports; OR

(b) Graduation from a regionally accredited or New York State registered two-year college with an Associates Degree (which must have included at least twelve college credit hours of real property appraisal coursework) in engineering science, engineering technology, architecture, economics, business administration or a related field AND three years of full-time paid (or the

equivalent part-time and/or volunteer) experience in estimating and appraising real property, buildings or building construction work, including the preparation of original written detailed reports; OR

(c) Graduation from high school or possession of a high school equivalency diploma AND five years of full-time paid (or the equivalent part-time and/or volunteer) experience in estimating and appraising real property, buildings or building construction work, including the preparation of original written detailed reports; OR

(d) Any equivalent combination of training and experience as described in (a), (b), or (c) above.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:

The incumbent will be required to satisfy all the requirements set forth in the ORPTS Rules and Regulations Section 188-5.

The incumbent must possess a valid New York State driver's license at the time of appointment and maintain such license throughout the life of employment OR otherwise demonstrate the ability to meet the transportation requirements of the job.

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS:

This work involves responsibility for performing a variety of tasks in assisting the administration of the county valuation program. The incumbent will be involved in support of the Valuation Staff. The work is performed under the general supervision of the Assistant Director of Assessment with leeway allowed for the exercise of independent judgment in carrying out the details of the work assignment. The incumbent will perform all related duties as required.

Complete Scope of the examination and Expanded subtest descriptions:

Data Collection:

These questions test for a knowledge of the variables that are collected for residential, commercial, vacant and farm properties. Hypothetical situations may be used to test for candidate knowledge, skill, and ability in this area. The majority of these questions are based on the terms, concepts, and principles ofdata collection that are contained in the Department of Taxation and Finances' data collection manuals which can be found at www.tax.ny.gov/research/property/assess/manuals/voI6/index.htm

Office Record Keeping:

These questions test your ability to perform common office record keeping tasks. The test consists of two or more "sets" of questions, each set concerning a different problem. Typical record keeping problems might involve the organization or collation of data from several sources; scheduling; maintaining a record system using running balances; or completion of a table summarizing data using totals, subtotals, averages and percents. 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.

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.

Principles and Techniques of Real Property Appraisal:

These questions test for a knowledge of principles and practices used in the appraisal of agricultural, commercial, and residential real property including knowledge of the three approaches to value; sales comparison, income, and cost estimation. Special

emphasis will be placed upon the ability to analyze market data and develop land schedules, market models, and income models for use in mass appraisal.

Real Property Terminology, Documents and Forms:

These questions test for a knowledge of terminology, documents, and forms pertaining to real property. While some questions ask for only straight definitions, others are situational questions which require the use of real property terms to determine the answer to the questions.

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 "How to take a written test" helpful in preparing for this test. This publication is available on line at: www.cs.ny.gov/testing/localtestguides.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 Personnel 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 Personnel 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 Personnel 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