

**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:** Sanitation Specialist

**EXAM NO:** 64447

**SALARY:** Base Rate \$31,645.00 + 1% per year up to a maximum 10 yrs for additional Education and Experience on a year for year basis.

**EXAM DATE:** 07/17/21

**ISSUE DATE:** 05/20/21

**THE FINAL DATE TO FILE APPLICATIONS:** 06/04/21

**DATE THAT THIS ANNOUNCEMENT SHOULD BE REMOVED FROM POSTING:** 07/18/21

**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 ALLOWED FOR THIS EXAMINATION.**

**LOCATION OF POSITIONS/VACANCIES:**

There is currently one vacancy in the title of Sanitation Specialist located at Tompkins-Seneca-Tioga BOCES. The eligible list resulting from this open competitive examination may be used to fill any full-time, part-time or temporary vacancy that may occur during the life of the eligible list.

**MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:**

1. Graduation from a regionally accredited New York State registered two-year college with an Associates Degree in Mechanical Technology or related field; **OR**
2. Graduation from high school or possession of a high school equivalency diploma **AND** two (2) years of experience in solid waste collection or in the operation and maintenance of industrial/commercial motor vehicle equipment.

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

**SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:**

Possession of a valid CDL (Commercial Driver's License) with an Air Brakes endorsement at the time of appointment and maintenance of such license throughout the life of employment.

### **DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS:**

This work involves responsibility for the direction and supervision of the collection of solid waste. In addition to overseeing the daily activities of the work crews engaged in the collection of solid waste, the incumbent participates in programs to increase public awareness of solid waste problems and solutions. The Sanitation Specialist also maintains statistical records and assists in the preparation of the program budget. The work is performed under the general supervision of the Facilities Director. Performs related duties as required.

### **TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES:**

- Operates and drives a truck daily in connection with the collection of garbage, refuse, recycling, ashes and snow, and in the transportation of materials such as sand, stone, gravel, dirt and various supplies;
- Plans and supervises the work involved in the collection of solid waste;
- Develops and refines collection routes and schedules;
- Assigns workers and equipment to collection routes for the most efficient and economical operations;
- Oversees the maintenance of motorized equipment;
- Recommends the need for replacement or major repair of sanitation equipment;
- Maintains personnel, equipment and other records related to solid waste activities;
- Conducts investigations and studies, and provides recommendations on solid waste proposals;
- Supervises and directs the collection and disposal of garbage, refuse, trash and recyclable materials;
- Initiates and participates in programs to increase public awareness of solid waste problems and solutions; Prepares the sanitation budget.

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

- Good knowledge of the methods, practices, tools, equipment, terminology and safety precautions associated with solid waste refuse collection and disposal;
- Good knowledge of modern methods used to collect and dispose of recyclable materials, including knowledge of materials that are recyclable and available markets for recyclable goods;
- Good knowledge of federal, state, local laws and regulations related to solid waste management;
- Ability to lay out, direct and supervise the work of crews engaged in solid waste refuse collection;
- Ability to establish and maintain effective work relationships with others;
- Ability to maintain records and reports related to solid waste management;
- Ability to understand and follow oral and written direction;
- Ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing;
- Ability to understand and interpret rules and regulations;
- Ability to prepare statistical and budget reports;
- Willingness to work in adverse weather conditions;
- Dependability, resourcefulness, tact, and good judgment;
- Physical condition commensurate with demands of the position.

Originally created 6/7/95

S112.doc

### **Complete Scope of the examination and Expanded subtest descriptions:**

#### **1. Educating and interacting with the public**

These questions test for knowledge of techniques used to interact effectively with individuals and/or community groups, to educate or inform them about topics of concern, to publicize or clarify agency programs or policies, to negotiate conflicts or resolve complaints, and to represent one's agency or program in a manner in keeping with good public relations practices. Questions may also cover interacting with others in cooperative efforts of public outreach or service.

## **2. Scheduling of work and equipment**

These questions test for knowledge of work scheduling principles and for the ability to arrange work and equipment assignments in a manner that will achieve work goals while staying within scheduling criteria. This may include such areas as setting up vacation or work schedules, taking into consideration such factors as seniority, work skills, duty hours, and shift coverage.

## **3. Practices, procedures, and equipment used in rubbish and garbage collection**

These questions test for knowledge of the proper practices, procedures, and typical equipment used in refuse and garbage collection, including collection route management and safety practices.

## **4. Understanding and interpreting Federal, State, and Local laws, codes, rules, and regulations**

These questions test for the ability to understand, interpret, and apply various federal, New York State, and local laws, codes, rules, and regulations. All the information needed to answer the questions will be provided in the written material.

### **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.

**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