

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

**PROMOTIONAL**

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:** Principal Account Clerk Typist (Promotional)

**EXAM NO:** 76590

**SALARY:** 2021 Hire Rate for County Departments - \$23.40 per hour

**EXAM DATE:** 02/05/22

**ISSUE DATE:** 12/07/21

**THE FINAL DATE TO FILE APPLICATIONS:** 12/22/21

**DATE THAT THIS ANNOUNCEMENT SHOULD BE REMOVED FROM POSTING:** 02/06/22

**RESIDENCY WAIVED**

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

**Location of Position:**

There is currently one vacancy in the title of Principal Account Clerk Typist. The eligible list resulting from this examination may be used to fill any full-time, part-time or temporary vacancies that may occur during the life of the eligible list. This intergovernmental promotion examination is announced with preference in appointment to eligible promotion candidates who are employees of the department or civil division to which appointment is to be made in accordance with Section 52-4 of Civil Service Law. An open-competitive examination is being held as a backup to this intergovernmental promotion examination.

**QUALIFYING EXPERIENCE FOR TAKING THE PROMOTIONAL EXAMINATION:**

Admission to this intergovernmental promotion examination will be limited to current employees of Tompkins County Departments, various Towns, Villages, School Districts and Special Districts under Tompkins County's jurisdiction. Applicants must currently hold, and have continuously held **EITHER:**

1. Four years of full-time (or the equivalent part-time) permanent and/or contingent permanent competitive class status in any entry level account clerical position; **OR**
2. Two years of full-time (or the equivalent part-time) permanent and/or contingent permanent competitive class status in any Senior Account Clerk /Typist position.

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

**DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS:**

The work involves responsibility for planning, assigning and supervising major account keeping activities and/or independently performing difficult and responsible account keeping functions. The work is performed under general supervision in accordance with outlined policies and procedures allowing for the exercise of independent judgement in planning and carrying out the details of the work. This class differs from that of Senior Account Clerk/Typist by the more difficult and complex nature of the assignments and the independence allowed in carrying out the work and/or by the supervisory responsibilities of subordinate staff. The incumbent will perform all related duties as required.

### **TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES:**

Plans, assigns and reviews the maintaining and checking of a wide variety of financial records and reports and instructs employees in the specialized details of the work; Oversees and assists in the classification of a complex variety of receipts and expenditures and the distribution of costs according to prescribed codes; Directs the audit of varied accounts, claims and records and the preparation of reports thereon; Directs the compilation, preparation and analysis of a variety of complex financial and statistical records and reports; Assists in the preparation of annual operating budgets and ensures the maintenance of necessary financial controls; Oversees the receiving and accounting for large amounts of money in payment for a variety of bills, taxes, and related obligations; Revises, systematizes and installs account keeping methods and procedures; Reconciles ledgers of revenue received with bank statements; Conducts correspondence in connection with financial matters; May supervise the preparation of purchase orders and the securing of bids from vendors; Operates a calculator and other related office machines; Performs data entry; types forms, form letters, transcripts, invoices, vouchers, records, payrolls, reports, letters, memoranda, etc. on a typewriter, word processor, or personal computer at an acceptable rate of speed; May be responsible for processing timecards, payroll for an entire organization (including complex payroll transactions), and all related reports as necessary.

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

Thorough knowledge of modern methods used in keeping and checking financial records and accounts; Thorough knowledge of office terminology, procedures and equipment and business English; Ability to plan, assign and supervise the work of account keeping and clerical assistants; Ability to make complex arithmetic computations involving fractions, decimals and percentage accurately; Ability to analyze and organize complex data and prepare records and reports; Ability to understand and interpret complex oral instructions and/or written directions; Ability to develop effective working relationships and deal diplomatically with the public, subordinates, and other work contacts; Ability to perform close, detail work involving considerable visual effort and concentration; Ability to operate an alphanumeric typewriter, word processor or personal computer keyboard at an acceptable rate of speed; Integrity and good judgement in solving complex account keeping problems is required; Physical condition commensurate with the demands of the position.

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

#### **Understanding and interpreting written material**

These questions test for the ability to understand and interpret written material. You will be presented with brief reading passages and will be asked questions about the passages. You should base your answers to the questions **only** on what is presented in the passages and **not** on what you may happen to know about the topic.

#### **Fundamentals of account keeping and bookkeeping**

These questions test for a knowledge of basic principles and practices of account keeping and bookkeeping. The questions test for recognizing account keeping and bookkeeping terms, concepts and relationships; recording financial transactions; and solving elementary problems in account keeping and bookkeeping.

#### **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**.

**Supervision**

These questions test for knowledge of the principles and practices employed in planning, organizing, and controlling the activities of a work unit toward predetermined objectives. The concepts covered, usually in a situational question format, include such topics as assigning and reviewing work; evaluating performance; maintaining work standards; motivating and developing subordinates; implementing procedural change; increasing efficiency; and dealing with problems of absenteeism, morale, and discipline.

**Test guide:**

A Guide for the Written Test for **Higher Level Account Clerical** 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.

**SENIORITY:**

One point will be added to each passing score for every five years of permanent classified service according to the following schedule:

- Less than one year. . . . . 0 points
- 1 year up to 6 years. . . . . 1 point
- 6 years up to 11 years. . . . . 2 points
- 11 years up to 16 years. . . . . 3 points
- etc. . .

## 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