

**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:** Finance Clerk

**EXAM NO:** 67515

**SALARY:** \$21.00 base hourly rate

**LOCATION:** Lansing Central School District

**EXAM DATE:** 02/11/23

**ISSUE DATE:** 12/09/22

**THE FINAL DATE TO FILE APPLICATIONS:** 12/24/22

**DATE THAT THIS ANNOUNCEMENT SHOULD BE REMOVED FROM POSTING:** 02/12/23

**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 two vacancies in the title of Finance Clerk title located at Lansing Central School District. The eligible list resulting from this open competitive examination, may be used to fill any full-time, part-time, or temporary vacancies that may occur during the life of the list.

**MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:**

- (a) Graduation from a regionally accredited or New York State registered two year college with an associate's degree in accounting, bookkeeping, business administration or a related field; **OR**
- (b) Graduation from high school or possession of a high school equivalency diploma **AND** two years of full-time paid (or the equivalent part-time and/or volunteer) clerical experience maintaining financial accounts or records; **OR**
- (c) Any combination of training and experience equal to or greater than that specified 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:**

This position carries out complex clerical work involving performance of standard account-keeping practices. The work includes clerical support for various activities in the Business Office including potentially those related to student data coordination, the purchasing function through A/P, Payroll, HR, and Capital Project Management. The nature of the clerical support for these functions will require the employee to be able to use a variety of financial and organizational software applications. The employee works under the direction of the School Business Administrator, and may provide clerical/secretarial support to other administrators and/or supervisors as assigned. This employee may be assigned supervision of some District staff and oversight of certain activities for which building level clerical staff is typically responsible. Mathematical skills are requisite as the position will include support for the Business Administrator in the form of checking spreadsheets and calculations related to the District's budget, labor negotiations, and audit activities. The incumbent will perform all related duties as required.

### **TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES:**

- Performs routine typing and financial reports for areas of operation under the direction of the Business Administrator;
- Assists in the completion of various local, state, and federal reports;
- Prepares bills for facilities, tuition, and other receivables;
- Assists with preparation of budget reports, construction documentation for State Aid filing, negotiations activities as well as spreadsheet development and maintenance for all;
- Handles daily incoming and outgoing mail;
- Central registrar for District
- Assists employees with Business Office software applications relating to HR, payroll and facilities activities
- Responsible for vendor maintenance and financial software
- Assists with purchasing and receiving functions for the District
- Assists with records retention, in particular as it pertains to those records managed by the Business Office
- Assists Business Administrator with correspondence, scheduling, office management, and planning, set up and closure for meetings;
- Performs other routine tasks and duties as assigned.

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

- Good knowledge of modern methods used in keeping and checking financial records and accounts;
- Good knowledge of office terminology, procedures, equipment and business English;
- Ability to deal tactfully with District staff, vendors, and general public;
- Ability to understand and carry out oral instructions;
- Ability to plan and supervise the work of others;
- Ability to communicate effectively both verbally and written;
- Ability to make computations, use spreadsheets, and adapt to a variety of software applications;
- Ability to maintain confidentiality;
- Ability to work closely with, check and proof all reports developed by the Business Administrator;
- Must be able to handle pressure and deadlines;
- Clerical aptitude, mental alertness, good judgment, neatness, accuracy, tact, courtesy and integrity are required;
- Employee's physical and mental condition shall be commensurate with the demands of the position, either with or without reasonable accommodation.

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

#### **Name and number checking**

These questions test for the ability to distinguish between sets of words, letters, and/or numbers that are almost exactly alike. Material is usually presented in two or three columns, and you will have to determine how the entry in the first column compares with the entry in the second column and possibly the third. You will be instructed to mark your answers according to a designated code provided in the directions.

#### **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.

### **Arithmetic computation with calculator**

These questions test for the ability to use a calculator to do basic computations. Questions will involve addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. You may also be asked to calculate averages, to use percents, and to round an answer to the nearest whole number. **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**.

### **Working with office records**

These questions test your ability to work with office records. 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 numerical data from several sources; 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**.

### **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.

## 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