



HAMILTON COUNTY PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT

102 COUNTY VIEW DRIVE
P.O. BOX 174, ROUTE 8, COURTHOUSE
LAKE PLEASANT, NEW YORK 12108
PHONE: (518) 548-6375 | FAX: (518) 548-3108

**Announces a Civil Service examination for the following:
No. 88073010 Open-Competitive
*** SECRETARY *****

Hamilton County departments and the towns, villages and school districts located within Hamilton County

LAST FILING DATE:
JANUARY 23, 2025

EXAMINATION DATE:
MARCH 1, 2025

APPLICATIONS: Examination applications must be obtained and filed with the Hamilton County Personnel Department. The Department recommends that you do not wait until the last day to file your application. When received in our office after 4:30 p.m., on the last filing date, the application will be rejected and returned to the applicant. The correct examination number and title must appear on the application form. EVERY question on the application should be answered and complete in all aspects. This Department does not acknowledge receipt of applications or take responsibility for non-delivery or postal delay. Failure to notify this office of a change of address may result in disqualification for examination or certification for appointment following examination. Any application you may have previously filed will not gain you admittance to this exam and will not be used to obtain additional information. You must file a separate Application for Examinations during the official period as set forth in this announcement.

DISQUALIFICATION OF EXAMINATION APPLICATIONS: When an application for an examination is disapproved by the Director of Personnel, the candidate will be given ten (10) calendar days to appeal this determination. Your appeal must clearly demonstrate that you meet or exceed the minimum qualifications as set forth on the examination announcement. Additional information must be pertinent, detailed and accurate. Your appeal must be in writing, addressed to the Personnel Office, P.O. Box 174, Lake Pleasant, NY 12108, and received in this department no later than 4:30 p.m. of the tenth calendar day. If the tenth calendar day falls on a Saturday or Sunday, the candidate will have until 5:00 p.m. that following Monday to submit their appeal.

LOCATION OF POSITIONS/VACANCY: All positions/vacancies as they occur in Hamilton County departments and the towns, villages and school districts located within Hamilton County.

ELIGIBLE LIST: The eligible list will remain in existence for a period of one (1) year, unless extended by the Personnel Officer to a maximum of four (4) years. When a list has existed for more than one year, it may terminate upon the establishment of a new list. This list will be used to fill all appropriate full-time or part-time competitive vacancy occurring in an agency under the jurisdiction of the Hamilton County Personnel Officer, anytime during the life of the eligible list.

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS: May be made if you require a religious accommodation, are a disabled person, or deprived of participation on the scheduled date due to active military service. Specific information must be requested when filing your application.

APPLYING FOR CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATIONS IN MULTIPLE JURISDICTIONS WHEN EXAMINATIONS ARE SCHEDULED ON THE SAME DATE: If you have applied for any other civil service examinations to be given on the same test date for employment with New York State or any other local government jurisdiction excluding New York City, you must make arrangements to take all the examinations at one test site.

If you have applied for both State and Local government examinations, you must make arrangements to take all your examinations at the State examination center by calling (518) 474-6470 in the Albany area or toll free at 1-877-697-5627 (press 2, then press 1), no later than two weeks before the test date.

If you have applied for another local government examination with another local civil service agency, call or write to each civil service agency to make arrangements. You must make your request for these arrangements no later than two (2) weeks before the date of the examinations. You must notify all local government civil service agencies with who you have filed an application of the test site at which you wish to take your examination. For this examination call (518) 548-6375 or write to the Hamilton County Personnel Office, P.O. Box 174, 102 County View Drive, Lake Pleasant, NY 12108.

PLEASE POST CONSPICUOUSLY AT A HEIGHT REACHABLE BY PEOPLE IN WHEELCHAIRS AND WITH OTHER MOBILITY IMPAIRMENTS – REMOVE AFTER LAST FILING DATE

2025 Salary: \$34,430 - \$37,444

RESIDENCY: Candidates must be legal residents of Hamilton County for at least one month immediately preceding the examination. Preference in appointment may be given to residents of the municipality or civil division in which the vacancy exists

TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES (Illustrative but not exhaustive):

- Assists in maintaining contacts with units under an administrative official's supervision, screening material submitted by staff members for compliance with procedures and policies before forwarding it to supervisor for action or decision, scheduling appointments, answering a variety of inquiries by telephone and in person, and by preparing answers to correspondence for the superior's signature;
- Collects information to be used as a basis for reports and memoranda, and prepares summaries and reports of various phases of the agency's program;
- Maintains personal files for supervisor, and directs the operation of the files system of the agency both manual and computerized;
- Receives and reads all mail addressed to supervisor, personally answering many letters and attaching background material to that referred to supervisor for action;
- Keeps complex records of activities of the agency;
- Types correspondence, memorandums and reports and other documents using a typewriter, word processor, or personal computer;
- Participates in other administrative functions such as interviewing personnel, processing personnel and payroll records and departmental budget preparation and control;
- Assigns work, furnishes guidance while work is in progress and reviews finished work of clerical assistants;
- Maintains office discipline and output;
- Trains new employees.

The above examples of duties are intended only as illustrations of the various types of work performed. The omission of specific statements of duties does not exclude them from the position if the work is similar, related or a logical assignment to the position.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: (Either) On or before the date of the examination, to be eligible for this examination, applicant must meet the following minimum qualifications:

- A. Graduation from a regionally accredited or New York State registered college or university with an Associate's degree in secretarial science or closely related field and two years of clerical experience which shall have involved using a typewriter, word processor or personal computer; or
- B. Graduation from high school or possession of a high school equivalency diploma recognized by the State of New York and four (4) years of clerical experience in an office setting which shall have involved using a typewriter, word processor or personal computer; or
- C. An equivalent combination of training and experience as defined by the limits of (A) and (B) above.

According to Civil Service Law, §54 which became effective September 4, 2024, applicants who are within 12 months of meeting the minimum age or attaining the minimum educational requirements following the date of examination, may take the civil service exam, but will be restricted from certification until such a time that the minimum age or educational requirements are met.

All experience required to meet the minimum qualification section is PAID.

Part-time experience will be pro-rated as follows:

16-23 hrs./wk....1/2 time 24-31 hrs./wk....3/4 time 32+ hrs./wk....full-time

If qualifying by A or B (education options), a copy or photocopy of your official academic transcript showing courses taken and degree conferred (if a degree is required) must accompany your application. If submitting a photocopy, this office must be able to verify it is an official transcript. Your transcript does not have to be submitted in a sealed envelope from the Registrar's Office. If your transcript, as previously described, does not accompany your application, your application will be disqualified and you will be given ten (10) days to submit documentation to substantiate your qualifications. If you fail to provide a copy or photocopy of your official transcript within the ten (10) day period, you will not be allowed to participate in the examination.

Your degree and/or college credit must have been awarded by a regionally accredited college or university or one recognized by the NYS Education Department as following acceptable educational practices. If your degree and/or college credit was awarded by an educational institution outside the United States and its territories, you must provide independent verification of equivalency from a member company of the National Association of Credential Evaluation Services, Inc. (NACES). You can write to the Personnel Office for a list of NACES members who provide this service. You must pay the required evaluation fee.

Scopes / Subjects of examination: A test designed to evaluate knowledge, skills and /or abilities in the following areas.

Grammar/Usage/Punctuation:

The grammar and usage questions test for the ability to apply the basic rules of grammar and usage. The punctuation questions test for a knowledge of the correct placement of punctuation marks in sentences. You will be presented with sets of four sentences from each of which you must choose the sentence that contains a grammatical, usage, or punctuation error.

Keyboarding practices:

These questions test for a knowledge of preferred practices in such areas as letter format, capitalization, hyphenation, plurals, possessives, word division, word and figure style for numbers, and common proofreading marks. In addition, there will be a passage to proofread followed by questions on how to correct the errors in the passage.

Spelling:

These questions test for the ability to spell words that are used in written business communications.

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.

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.

Office practices 01:

These questions test for a knowledge of generally agreed-upon practices governing the handling of situations which office support staff, typists, and secretaries encounter in their work, as well as knowledge of efficient and effective methods used to accomplish office tasks. The questions will cover such topics as planning workflow; setting priorities; dealing effectively with staff, visitors, and callers; filing and retrieving information; safeguarding confidentiality; using office equipment; and making procedural decisions and recommendations which contribute to a well-managed office.

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>.

CALCULATOR POLICY: Quiet, hand-held, solar or battery-powered calculators are RECOMMENDED. Devices with typewriter keyboards, "Spell Checkers", "Personal Digital Assistants", "Address Books", "Language Translators", "Dictionaries", or any similar devices are prohibited.

AT THE EXAM THE USE OF CELLULAR PHONES, BEEPERS, ETC. ARE STRICTLY PROHIBITED.

VETERANS' CREDITS: Veterans, Disabled Veterans, or candidates currently in the armed forces claiming the additional credit allowed veterans in competitive examination, must apply for such credit while filing their examination application or at any time between the date of the application but prior to the date of the establishment of the resulting eligible list. The time periods, for which veterans' credit is permitted, are defined on the examination application. To receive additional veterans' credit you must file a separate Veterans' Credit Application including acceptable supporting documentation for each examination. Veterans' Credit is added only to the score of the examination when the candidate's passing grade is 70 or higher.

CHILDREN AND SIBLINGS OF FIREFIGHTERS AND POLICE OFFICERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY CREDIT: In conformance with Sections 85-a and 85-b of the Civil Service Law, children and siblings of firefighters and police officers killed in the line of duty shall be entitled to receive an additional ten (10) points in a competitive examination for original appointment in the same municipality in which his or her parent, sister or brother has served. If you are qualified to participate in this examination and are a child or sibling of a firefighter or police officer killed in the line of duty 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 (2) 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. Children and Siblings of firefighters and police officers killed in the line of duty credit is added only to the score of the examination when the candidate's passing grade is 70 or higher.

RATING AND REVIEW: This written examination is being prepared by the New York State Department of Civil Service in accordance with Section 23.2 of the Civil Service Law and Section 7.1 of the State's Civil Service Rules and Regulations.

NOTICE TO APPEAR: Approved applicants will receive an Admission Notice for the written examination providing the location and time. Late arrivals will not be admitted into the exam room under any circumstance. Please contact this office if you have not received an Admission Notice for the written examination four (4) days prior to the date of the examination by calling (518) 548-6375.

EMERGENCIES:

If an emergency prevents you from appearing for the examination, please notify this office no later than 10:00 a.m. on the Monday following the test date, providing verifiable documentation of the reasons.

Weather Emergencies: In the case of adverse weather conditions, any delay or cancellation will be on the voice mail message of the Personnel Office at (518) 548-6375 between 6:30 and 8 AM on the date of the examination.

HAMILTON COUNTY DOES NOT DISCRIMINATE ON THE BASIS OF RACE, CREED, COLOR, NATIONAL ORIGIN, MARITAL STATUS, SEX, RELIGION, AGE OR DISABILITY IN EMPLOYMENT OR THE PROVISIONS OF SERVICES.

ISSUED: 12/13/24