



CLINTON COUNTY CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

For Principal Clerk/Typist

Clinton County is an
ADA, EOE Employer

Examination No.: #60023-520

Issued: 02/12/2025
Salary Range: \$41,301 - \$51,132
Closing Date for Filing: 03/14/2025
Calculators: Recommended
(See General Instructions)
Examination Date: 05/03/2025

CONTACT

(518) 565-4676
137 Margaret Street, Plattsburgh, NY 12901
clintoncountyny.gov

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS

This is highly important clerical and typing work involving responsibility for the frequent exercise of independent judgment in planning and overseeing complex clerical activities, and independently performing the more important phases of such work. Work is performed under limited supervision and in accordance with generally accepted clerical objectives, policies, and procedures. Difficult technical or policy problems are referred to a supervisor for decision or review of judgment, where recommendations are initiated. Supervision is exercised over the work of clerical staff. The incumbent does related work as required.

VACANCIES

The eligible list established as a result of this examination will be used to fill present and future vacancies that may occur in the Clinton County Health Department.

RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must be residents of Clinton County for at least thirty (30) days immediately preceding the date of examination.

The Clinton County Department of Personnel must receive applications by **03/14/2025**. Applications received after this date will not be accepted.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Candidates must meet the minimum qualifications at time of examination. All experience must be paid experience unless otherwise noted.

Graduation from high school or possession of a high school equivalency diploma, five (5) years of progressively responsible clerical experience, and proof of typing ability*.

*Proof of typing ability: Work experience must include typing, or
A course in typing, computer, or data entry (high school, trade school or college), or
Acceptable typing waiver showing ability to type a minimum of 35 wpm

NOTE: College courses or related training beyond high school may be credited on a year-for-year basis for experience but you must still possess proof of typing ability as indicated above.

NOTE: Attach to your application a copy of your high school diploma or equivalency, college transcripts and/or diploma, and any certificates applicable based on the minimum qualifications listed above.

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>.

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WRITTEN TEST

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.

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.

Office management

These questions test for knowledge of the principles and practices of planning, organizing and controlling the activities of an office and directing those performing office activities so as to achieve predetermined objectives such as accomplishing office work within reasonable limits of time, effort and cost expenditure. Typical activities may include but will not be restricted to: simplifying and improving procedures, increasing office efficiency, improving the office work environment and controlling office supplies.

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**.

MULTIPLE EXAMINATIONS SCHEDULED FOR THE SAME DAY:

If you have applied to take a written test announced by either one or several local jurisdictions (county, town, city) scheduled to be held on the same test date as this written test, you must notify each of the local jurisdictions no later than two weeks before the test date, so they can make arrangements for taking all tests at one test site.

If you have applied to take a written test announced by New York State scheduled to be held on the same test date as this written test, you must notify us no later than two weeks before the test date. All examinations for positions in State government will be held at a State examination center. Be sure to check "Yes" in the Conflicting Exams Section on the first page of your application and include in the Remarks Section on page four the titles of the exams you are scheduled to take and whether they are offered by another Local agency or New York State.

If you are taking two Local exams, indicate in which county you want to take the exams. If you are taking a Local and a State exam, you must take the exams at the State site. You must call our office at 565-4676 no later than two weeks prior to the examination date to confirm that arrangements have been made for you to take all the examinations at one test site. You will be advised by letter when and where to report for your examinations.

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GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

1. Each candidate must complete an application and file it with the Clinton County Dept. of Personnel, Clinton County Government Center, 137 Margaret Street, Plattsburgh, NY, as soon as possible after the announcement of the exam but not later than the closing date. **Be sure you answer every question before filing your application. An incomplete application may be disapproved.**

2. The Clinton County Dept. of Personnel will notify you by email, when and where to appear for the exam. If you fail to receive an email letter at least seven days prior to the exam date, you should contact the Clinton County Dept. of Personnel immediately. No one will be admitted to the exam without the official admittance letter. The Department will also send due notice if an application is rejected. The Department does not make formal acknowledgment of the receipt of an application.

3. Restrictions on employment may exist for candidates who are under 18 years of age.

4. Unless otherwise stated, all candidates are required to be legal residents of Clinton County for one month immediately preceding the date of exam. Appointing authorities may give preference to legal residents of their jurisdiction.

5. VETERANS: To learn about your rights regarding Civil Service exams, request a copy of Clinton County's "Veterans' Rights For Exams" Summary from the Clinton County Dept. of Personnel or visit our website: clintoncountygov.com.

6. VERIFICATION OF QUALIFICATIONS: Appointing authorities may investigate or call candidates for an interview to determine whether they are qualified for appointment.

7. When the written exam is prepared and rated by the NYS Dept. of Civil Service in accordance with Section 23-2 of the Civil Service Law, the provision of the NYS Civil Service Rules and Regulations dealing with the rating and review of exams apply.

8. The Dept. will establish eligible lists in the order of final rating for successful candidates and will establish lists for a period of 4 years.

9. RETIREMENT SYSTEM: It is mandatory that persons appointed to full-time positions in a political subdivision participating in the NYS Employees' Retirement System, join the system on appointment. For other employees, membership is optional.

10. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS: Candidates requiring special arrangements for testing must indicate this on their application form or write to the Department not later than the last date for filing.

11. RECEIPT OF APPLICATIONS: The Department is not responsible for the arrival of applications if not personally delivered to this office. Therefore, you should contact the Department on or before the final date for filing to verify receipt.

12. USE OF CALCULATORS: Unless otherwise notified, candidates are permitted to use quiet, hand-held, 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.

13. FOR NON-CITIZENS: At the time of appointment, you must be a legal alien authorized to accept employment in the United States and you must maintain such status throughout the term of your employment with Clinton County.

14. ALTERNATE TEST DATE POLICY: Clinton County has an Alternate Test Date Policy, which allows a candidate to participate in the exam other than the set exam date. The alternate test date must be set during the week following the exam date. At no time can an exam be set later than one week following the exam unless NYS Civil Service provides prior approval. If you are unable to take the exam on the set exam date, contact this office for information regarding the policy. For emergency situations, which may occur on the exam date, you must contact the Clinton County Dept. of Personnel no later than 5 o'clock p.m. on the Monday following the exam.

15. WEATHER CONDITIONS: Clinton County will attempt to hold scheduled exams regardless of weather conditions. If an exam is cancelled due to extreme weather conditions, it will be announced on our website: clintoncountygov.com – Personnel Dept. – Exam Weather Alert.

16. Clearance from the Commissioner of Education will be required for positions that are designated by school districts as having direct contact with students.

17. You may wish to retain a copy of your application since we are unable to provide copies of exam applications.

18. POLICE OFFICER OR FIREFIGHTER SURVIVOR CREDITS: Per Section 85-a of Civil Service Law, children of firefighters or police officers killed in the line of duty shall be entitled to receive an additional ten points in a competitive exam for which they qualify for original appointment in the same municipality in which his/her parent served. The parent is deemed to have "served" in a municipality if he/she was employed by or worked primarily in that municipality. If you qualify, inform this office when you submit your application for exam. A candidate claiming such credit has a minimum of 2 months from the application deadline to provide the necessary documentation to verify additional credit eligibility. No credit may be added after establishment of the eligible list.

19. BACKGROUND INVESTIGATION: Applicants may be required to undergo and pay for a state and national criminal history background investigation, which includes a fingerprint check, to determine suitability for appointment. Failure to meet the standards for the background investigation may result in disqualification. Fingerprints to be used in performing the background checks would be collected from applicants pursuant to regulations promulgated by the DCJS, which will perform the state background check. DCJS will also submit the fingerprints to the FBI for the completion of the national background check. Individuals found to have criminal histories that bar their appointment to the position sought would then be disqualified by the municipal civil service agency pursuant to Section 50(4) of Civil Service Law.

20. Clinton County is in compliance with ADA requirements.