

CITY OF WATERTOWN, CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION
245 Washington Street, Room 205
Watertown, New York 13601
www.watertown-ny.gov

Issued: December 3, 2024

**ANNOUNCES AN OPEN-COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION FOR
ACCOUNTANT
EXAM #60011-380**

FILING FEE: \$15.00 non-refundable fee. Cash or check or money order payable to City Comptroller accepted. Include examination number on your check. **Credit cards are only accepted with online/electronic applications.** See general instructions regarding exceptions to the fee requirement. Applicants whose personal checks are returned for insufficient funds will be charged an additional fee.

TO BE HELD: Saturday, **March 1, 2025**

LAST FILING DATE: Applications must be received no later than close of business **Monday, January 27, 2025.**

VACANCIES: The list will be used to fill vacancies as they occur in the City of Watertown and Watertown City School District.

SALARY: \$44,000 - \$59,000

DUTIES OF THE POSITION This is the first level of the Accounting series. The work involves independent responsibility for performing professional level accounting for the Office of the City Comptroller. The work is carried out in accordance with established accounting systems and procedures and involves maintaining accounting records, preparing reports, and reviewing and reconciling data prior to input into an automated financial system. Work is performed under the supervision of the Deputy City Comptroller with latitude for professional judgment in technical accounting problems. Supervision may be exercised over clerical support staff. Incumbent does related work as required. **A complete job description is available from the office of the Civil Service Commission.**

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: either

- (A) Graduation from a regionally accredited college or university or one accredited by the NYS Board of Regents to grant degrees with a Bachelor's Degree or higher in accounting or business administration, which must have included or been supplemented by at least 18 credits in accounting; or
(B) Associate's degree in accounting or business administration, which must have included or been supplemented by at least 18 credits in accounting and 2 years of accounting or financial management experience; or
(C) An equivalent combination of training and experience as defined by the limits of above.

SCOPE OF EXAMINATION: There will be a written test which you must pass with a score of 70 or higher in order to be considered for appointment. It will evaluate knowledge, skills, and/or abilities in such areas as:

- 1. 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.
- 2. General accounting-** These questions test for knowledge of the general accounting principles and practices used in the preparation of financial statements, in the recording and reporting of financial transactions, and in financial decision-making. Candidates will be required to demonstrate a current knowledge of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). Knowledge of computerized information systems as it applies to accounting may be required.
- 3. General auditing-** These questions test for knowledge of the principles and procedures involved in substantiating and examining transactions and financial statements. It will require a knowledge of auditing techniques and Generally Accepted Auditing Standards (GAAS). Knowledge of the use of computerized accounting or auditing systems as it pertains to auditing may be required. Questions relating to internal controls applicable to manual and computerized accounting systems may be included.
- 4. 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.

CALCULATORS: **The use of calculators is recommended** - Candidates are permitted to use quiet, hand-held battery or solar calculators. Devices with typewriter keyboards, spell checkers, PDA's, address books, language translators, dictionaries or any similar devices are prohibited.

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 online at:

<https://www.cs.ny.gov/testing/testguides.cfm>.

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

HOW TO APPLY: Applications may be obtained from and must be filed at the Watertown Civil Service Commission, Room 205 Municipal Building, 245 Washington Street, Watertown, New York. Applicants must answer every question on the application and make sure it is complete in all respects. Incomplete applications will be disapproved. Falsification of any part of the application will result in disqualification. **Education and work experience must be documented on the application regardless if the candidate has elected to attach a resume.** All statements made by candidates in their applications are subject to verification. Applications **will not be accepted** past the last filing date of the examination.

APPLICATION FEE: If your application is disapproved, the fee will not be refunded. You should carefully review the announced minimum qualifications. Please make sure you meet the minimum qualifications before applying to any examination. Applicants whose personal checks are returned for insufficient funds will be charged an additional fee.

EXCEPTIONS TO FEE REQUIREMENT: Application fees may be waived for any candidate who is either an unemployed head of household, receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or public assistance in the form of Safety Net or Family Assistance from a state or local social service agency. Individuals wishing to claim this waiver must complete an Application Fee Waiver form available from the local Civil Service Office. Claims are subject to verification and if not supported by appropriate documentation are grounds for barring appointment.

VETERANS' CREDIT: Veterans or disabled veterans who are eligible for additional credit must submit an application for veterans' credit available from the Civil Service Commission. Applications for veterans' credit may be submitted with your application for examination or at any time before the new eligible list is established. Candidates currently serving in the armed forces may apply for conditional veterans' credits in examinations. Candidates who apply for such credit must provide proof of military status. It is the responsibility of the candidate to provide appropriate documentary proof indicating that the service was in time of war, as defined in Section 85 of the New York State Civil Service Law, and that the candidate received an honorable discharge or was released under honorable conditions. No credit may be granted after the new eligible list is established.

ADDITIONAL CREDITS FOR CHILDREN OF FIREFIGHTERS AND POLICE OFFICERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY: In conformance with Section 85-a of the Civil Service Law, children of firefighters and police officers killed in the line of duty shall be entitled to receive an addition ten (10) 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 a firefighter or police officer killed in the line of duty in the City of Watertown, please inform the Civil Service Commission at the time you submit your application.

SPECIAL TEST DATE ACCOMMODATIONS/ SABATH OBSERVERS/ DISABLED CANDIDATES/ MILITARY MEMBERS: Applicants whose religious beliefs or military service prevent their taking examinations on the scheduled date and disabled candidates who require special accommodations to take the test should indicate the need for special arrangements on their application. Candidates who are called to military service after filing an application should send requests for an alternate test date to the Watertown Civil Service Commission as soon as possible before the test date. Please see back of application for further information and instruction.

MULTIPLE EXAMINATIONS SCHEDULED FOR THE SAME DAY: 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 take all your examinations at the State examination center. Please complete the Cross Filing form located on the City's website and submit it with your application, include all exams for which you have applied and at which agency you wish to take the exams. Your request must be received by this office no later than three (3) weeks before the date of the examinations. Requests received less than three (3) weeks before the date of the examinations will NOT be honored.

ADMISSION TO EXAMINATION: The Watertown Civil Service Commission does not acknowledge receipt of applications but all applicants are notified of the disposition of their application. Approved candidates will be notified at least five days in advance of the examination of the place, date and hour of the examination.

RATINGS REQUIRED: Unless the announcement states otherwise, this examination is being prepared and rated in accordance with Section 23(2) of the Civil Service Law. The provisions of the New York State Civil Service Laws, Rules and Regulations dealing with the preparation and rating of examinations, as well as establishment and certification of eligible lists for positions in the classified service will apply to this examination.

ELIGIBLE LIST: The duration of the eligible list may be fixed for a minimum period of one (1) year up to a maximum period of four (4) years. As employment opportunities arise, appointments from the eligible list will be made from the top three candidates willing to accept appointment.

CONTACT THIS OFFICE AT 315-785-7733 OR CIVILSERVICE@WATERTOWN-NY.GOV WITH ANY QUESTIONS. BE SURE TO FILE YOUR APPLICATION PROMPTLY.

THIS ANNOUNCEMENT IS AVAILABLE ON THE INTERNET AT: www.watertown-ny.gov