

CITY OF WATERTOWN, CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

245 Washington Street, Room 205

Watertown, New York 13601

www.watertown-ny.gov

Issued: March 6, 2024

ANNOUNCES AN OPEN COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION FOR REAL PROPERTY TAX SERVICE AIDE EXAM #86-719

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 ACCEPTED ONLINE ONLY.** 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, June 1, 2024

LAST FILING DATE: Applications must be **received** no later than 11:59 PM **Sunday, April 28, 2024**

VACANCIES: The eligible list resulting from this examination will be used to fill appropriate vacancies as they occur in the City of Watertown.

SALARY: \$43,248 - \$54,177

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- (A) Graduation from a regionally accredited college or university or one accredited by the NYS Board of Regents to grant degrees with an Associates Degree or higher in business, office technology or related field and one (1) year of professional office experience involving real property valuation, real estate, title searching, or assessment, or one (1) year of experience in the management and control of data files used by the New York State Real Property Information System or equivalent system; or
- (B) Graduation from high school or possession of a high school equivalency diploma and three (3) years of professional office experience involving real property valuation, real estate, title searching, or assessment, or three (3) years of experience in the management and control of data files used by the New York State Real Property Information System or equivalent system.
- (C) Graduation from high school or possession of a high school equivalency diploma and five (5) years of professional office experience, or
- (D) An equivalent combination of training and experience as stated above.

DUTIES: This is the stand alone classification which involves the performance of all types of administrative tasks including moderately complex and original material development, i.e. maintaining real property records such as deeds, tax maps and assessment records. This position deals with customers in answering questions about real property issues.

SUBJECT OF EXAMINATION: A test designed to evaluate knowledge, skills and /or abilities in the following areas:

- **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.
- **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.
- **Understanding and interpreting abstracts, deeds, and other documents related to real property-** These questions test for the ability to understand and apply information contained in documents related to real property and include examples, illustrations and applications of laws and procedures in relation to the reading and interpretation of title abstracts, deeds and other related documents.
- **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.

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>.

USE OF CALCULATORS: Calculators are **recommended** for this exam.

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.

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.

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 WITH ANY QUESTIONS. BE SURE TO FILE YOUR APPLICATION PROMPTLY.
THIS ANNOUNCEMENT IS AVAILABE ON THE INTERNET AT: www.watertown-ny.gov