



## SCHUYLER COUNTY CIVIL SERVICE DEPARTMENT

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Watkins Glen, NY 14891  
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Lorry Johnson  
Personnel Officer

**Examination Open to the Public**

**Assessor—Exam #65917**

**EXAM DATE: 02/05/2022**

**LAST DATE TO FILE: December 30, 2021 by 4:30pm**

**SALARY: TBD**

**EXAM FEE:** \$15.00 examination fee payable by cash, money order, or check made payable to the Schuyler County Treasurer. Please write the name and number of the examination on the check.

**HOW TO APPLY:** Must complete Civil Service application and submit to Schuyler Co. Civil Service, 105 Ninth St., Unit 21, Watkins Glen, NY 1489. **Faxed and emailed applications are accepted.**

**VACANCY:** There is currently one vacancy in this position which has been filled provisionally. A permanent appointment will be made from the eligible list established and will be used to fill any appropriate full-time and/or part-time vacancies as they occur.

**RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT:** Candidates must have been **legal residents of Schuyler or a contiguous (Chemung, Seneca, Steuben, Tompkins and Yates) county** for at least one month immediately preceding the date of the written examination. Preference in appointment may be given to a resident of the jurisdiction for which there is a vacancy.

**JOB DESCRIPTION:** Manages the annual valuation of each parcel of real property for ad valorem tax purposes pursuant to the county's initiative to provide assessing services to municipalities. The employee must be able to exercise a great of discretion and independent judgement when setting assessments and making determinations regarding taxpayers eligibility to receive real property tax exemptions. Does related work as required.

**TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES:**

Reviews and makes determinations with respect to applications for tax exemptions;  
Supervises and trains staff in the area of assessment administration;  
Utilizes and maintains current tax maps and appraisal cards;  
Designs and implements a public information program to serve as an educational tool for taxpayers and to provide direct response to taxpayer inquiries;  
Prepares reports of assessment activities as required by the appointing authority or the State Board of Real Property Services;  
Oversees and approves the work of third party, contractual professional appraisers as needed;  
Receives complaints filed and transmits them to the Board of Assessment Review;  
Attends the public examination of the tentative assessment roll at times prescribed by law;  
Attends all hearings of the Board of Assessment Review;  
Makes changes in assessments in accordance with law as directed by the Board of Assessment Review;

Provides school districts within the assessing unit a copy of the current pertinent portion of the assessment roll.

**MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Either:**

- (A) Graduation from high school, or possession of an accredited high school equivalency diploma and two years of satisfactory full-time paid experience in an occupation involving the valuation of real property, such as assessor, appraiser, valuation data manager, real property appraisal aide or the like. Such experience shall be deemed satisfactory if it is demonstrated that the experience primarily was gained in the performance of one or more of the following tasks: collection and recording of property inventory data, preparation of comparable sales analysis reports, preparation of signed valuation or appraisal estimates or reports using cost, income, or market data approaches to value. It shall be the responsibility of the appointee to provide detailed and verified documentation of such experience, including work schedules and samples of finished products. Mere listing of real property for potential sale, or preparation of asking prices for real estate for potential sale, using multiple listing reports or other published asking prices is not qualifying experience; or
- (B) Graduation from an accredited two-year college and one year of the experience described in (A) above; or
- (C) Graduation from an accredited four-year college and six months of experience as specified in (A) above or graduation from an accredited four-year college and a written commitment from the county Real Property Tax Director that the county will provide training in assessment administration, approved by the State Board, within a six-month period; or
- (D) Certification by the State Board as a candidate for assessor.

In evaluating the experience described in (A) above, the following conditions shall apply:

1. If the assessor has been previously certified by the State Board as a Candidate for Assessor pursuant to Subpart 188-3 of the Rules for Real Property Tax Administration, such certification is equivalent to one year of the experience described in (a) above, if the certification has not expired.
2. For the purpose of crediting full-time paid experience, a thirty-hour week shall be deemed as full-time employment.
3. Three years of part-time paid experience as Sole Assessor or as Chairman of a Board of Assessors shall be credited as one year of full-time paid experience, and five years of part-time paid experience as a member of a Board of Assessors shall be credited as one year of full-time paid experience. Paid part-time experience in excess of these amounts shall be credited in accordance with these criteria.
4. Volunteer experience in an Assessor's Office may be credited as paid experience to the extent that it includes tasks such as data collection; calculation of value estimates; preparation of preliminary valuation reports; providing routine assessment information to a computer center; public relations; and review of value estimates, computer output and exemption applications.
5. In no case shall less than six months of the experience specified in (A) above be acceptable with the exception of county training as provided for in option (C) above.

**SUBJECT OF EXAMINATION: Use of calculators is **RECOMMENDED**.**

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

## **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. Understanding and interpreting tax maps and site plans**

These questions test for the ability to read, analyze and perform computations based on various types of maps and plans, and may include tax maps, deed descriptions, site plans, survey maps and building layouts. All the information needed to answer the questions will be provided in the maps, plans, layouts or related written material. A calculator and magnifying glass may be helpful for answering some of these questions. Candidates may bring their own calculator and magnifying glass if they so choose.

## **3. Principles and techniques of real property appraisal**

These questions test for a knowledge of principles and practices used in the appraisal of agricultural, commercial, and residential real property including knowledge of the three approaches to value; sales comparison, income, and cost estimation.

## **4. Principles, practices and theory of real property assessment**

These questions test for a knowledge of the equalization rate process, the assessors' calendar, the content of the assessment roll, and the exemptions from real property taxes in New York State. These questions will also test for the ability to use public relations skills when confronted by individuals in your municipality.

## **5. 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.

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 "How to take a written test" helpful in preparing for this test. This publication is available on line at: [www.cs.ny.gov/testing/localtestguides.cfm](http://www.cs.ny.gov/testing/localtestguides.cfm)

Applications and announcements are available at [www.schuylercounty.us](http://www.schuylercounty.us) or the Schuylers County Civil Service Office 105 Ninth St., Unit 21, Watkins Glen, NY 14891 (607) 535-8190

Issue Date: December 06, 2021

## **SCHUYLER COUNTY CIVIL SERVICE—GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR EXAMINATIONS**

**Application:** An original application must be filed for each separate examination. Applications must be received by 4:30 p.m. on the “Last Filing Date” to be considered for this examination. We do not make formal acknowledgement of the receipt of an application or take responsibility for non-delivery or postal delay. Submission of a resume does not relieve you of the responsibility for completing all sections of the application. Answer every question; incomplete applications will be disapproved. Be sure to read the detailed announcement to determine whether or not you meet the announced requirements. No fee refund will be made to applicants who are disqualified or fail to appear for the examination. Notify this office if your address changes after applying as no attempt will be made to locate candidates who have moved. Download application and forms at web site [www.schuylercounty.us](http://www.schuylercounty.us).

**Education:** A copy of your diploma should be submitted if you qualify by possession of a degree. Transcripts should be submitted whenever the qualifications require a specific college major or specified number of credits.

**Application Fee Waiver:** A waiver of examination fee will be allowed if you are unemployed and primarily responsible for the support of a household or if you are eligible for Medicaid, receiving Supplemental Security Income payments, Public Assistance (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families/Family Assistance or Safety Net Assistance), or are certified Job Training Partnership Act/Workforce Investment Act eligible through a State or local social service agency. All claims for application fee waiver are subject to verification. If you can verify eligibility for application fee waiver, complete an “Application Fee Waiver Request and Certification” form and submit it with your application.

**Application Review:** Disqualified candidates will receive a letter and will have the opportunity to submit facts in opposition to disqualification. Approved candidates will receive an admission letter a week before the date of the exam telling when and where to appear for the examination. If you do not receive a letter within five days of the examination, call Civil Service at 607-535-8190. Falsification or material misstatements of any part of the application may result in disqualification from the exam or from permanent competitive appointment. Statements on the application may be verified after the examination is held. At that time those candidates not meeting the requirements will be disqualified.

**Residency:** Candidates must be legal residents of Schuyler County of one of the contiguous counties (Yates, Seneca, Steuben, Chemung, or Tompkins) for at least one month immediately preceding the examination date. For some examinations, residency may be waived. Under Section 23-4a of Civil Service Law, a municipality may request a certification of eligible candidates who have been residents of that municipality for at least one month prior to certification.

**Multiple Examinations:** Qualified candidates may take a combination of examinations being given on the same date. The time limit for any combination or series of examinations cannot exceed eight (8) hours.

**Crossfiling - 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 by New York State or any other local government jurisdiction, you must notify Schuyler County Civil Service of your intent to take both a State and local government examination. When taking both a State and local government examination you will be required to take all your examinations at a State examination center. You will be advised by letter when and where to report for your examination. (2) If you have applied for examination with another local civil service agency, submit a crossfiling form with each agency to make arrangements no later than two weeks before the date of the examinations; indicate the test site at which you wish to take your examination.

**Calculators:** Unless otherwise notified, candidates are permitted to use a quiet hand-held, solar or battery powered calculator. Devices with typewriter keyboards, spell checkers, personal digital assistants, address books, language translators, dictionaries, or any similar devices are prohibited. No headphones, books or other reference materials are allowed.

**Eligible Lists:** Unless otherwise noted, the final rank order of the eligible list established as a result of this exam will be determined on the basis of the scores received on the written test, plus veterans and seniority credits where appropriate. The resulting eligible list for this examination will not be less than one year but no more than four years. Appointment from an eligible list must be made from the top three candidates willing to accept the appointment.

**Rating:** This examination is announced and will be rated in accordance with Section 23-2 of the Civil Service Law. The provisions of the New York State Civil Service Rules and Regulations dealing with the rating of exams will apply to this examination.

**Veterans/Military:** Veterans or disabled veterans who wish to claim additional credit must submit a copy of their DD-214 and supporting paperwork before the eligible list is established. The requirements set by NYS for these credits must be met. Military Service members on active duty on the exam date may request a military make-up examination.

**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 additional ten points in a competitive examination for original appointment in the same municipality in which his or her parent has served. You must inform this office when you submit your application and must also submit documentation before the eligible list is established.

**Alternate Test Date for Religious Observers:** Most tests are held on Saturdays. If the test date conflicts with a religious observance or practice, check the box on the application. Arrangements will be made for an alternate test date, usually the following Monday.

**Disabled Persons:** If special accommodations for testing are required, please indicate in writing the disability and desired conditions necessary to accommodate your disability by the last filing date of the exam.

**Background Investigation:** Candidates may be required to pass a pre-employment drug test and/or undergo a State and national criminal history background investigation, including a fingerprint check, to determine suitability for appointment.

***This examination may be rescheduled if there is a weather emergency. Listen to radio station WFLR for information***