

Chemung County/City of Elmira Regional Civil Service Commission

PO Box 588 • 203 Lake Street • Elmira, New York 14902-0588

Examination Notice

PRINCIPAL ACCOUNT CLERK – OPEN COMPETITIVE

EXAM #60006320

EXAMINATION DATE

January 18, 2025

APPLICATION DEADLINE

November 22, 2024

SALARY: Varies by agency.

EXAM FEE: There is no exam fee.

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. You will be advised by letter when and where to report for your examinations. 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 weeks before the date of the examinations. You must notify all local government civil service agencies with whom you have filed an application of the test site at which you wish to take your examination.

RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT FOR EXAM: There is no residency requirement for this examination.

PREFERENCE IN APPOINTMENT FOR RESIDENTS: At the appointing authorities' request, preference may be given to successful candidates who have been residents of the municipality or district in which appointment is to be made for at least one (1) month immediately preceding the date of certification and at the time of appointment from the resulting eligible list. FOR APPOINTMENT IN SOME JURISDICTIONS, you may be required to become a resident in accordance with law or resolution.

VACANCIES: This examination is being held to fill vacancies, as they may occur in Chemung County, City of Elmira, GST BOCES District, School Districts and Special Districts.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Either:

A) Graduation from a regionally accredited college or university or one accredited by the New York State Board of Regents to grant degrees with a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting, Business Administration or a related field, including twelve (12) credit hours in accounting or bookkeeping and one (1) year's experience performing financial account and record keeping which shall have involved supervision; **or**

B) Graduation from a regionally accredited college or university or one accredited by the New York State Board of Regents to grant degrees with an Associate's Degree in Accounting, Business Administration or a related field, including completion of twelve (12) credit hours in accounting or bookkeeping and three (3) years of experience performing financial account and record keeping one (1) year of which shall have involved supervision; **or**

C) Graduation from high school or possession of a high school equivalency diploma and five (5) year's experience performing financial account and record keeping one (1) year of which shall have involved supervision.

JOB DESCRIPTION: This is a supervisory position involving responsibility for financial account and record keeping. Work is performed independently under general direction of a department head or other superior. The position differs from Senior Account Clerk in that assignments are more complex and involve broader supervisory responsibilities. Does related work as required.

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

1. 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.

2. Fundamentals of account keeping and bookkeeping:

These questions test for a knowledge of basic principles and practices of account keeping and bookkeeping. The questions test for recognizing account keeping and bookkeeping terms, concepts and relationships; recording financial transactions; and solving elementary problems in account keeping and bookkeeping.

3. 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.

4. 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.

STUDY GUIDE: A Guide for the Written Test for Higher Level Account Clerical is available at the New York State website:<https://www.cs.ny.gov/testing/testguides.cfm>. Candidates not having access to a computer or the internet may request copy of the test guide from the municipal civil service office conducting this examination using the contact information found elsewhere on this announcement.

PRE-EMPLOYMENT DRUG TEST/BACKGROUND INVESTIGATION: Candidates being considered for appointment may be required to pass a pre-employment drug test and/or undergo a State and national criminal history background investigation, which will include a fingerprint check, to determine suitability for appointment. Failure to pass the pre-employment drug test or to meet the standards for the background investigation may result in disqualification.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENT FOR APPOINTMENT IN SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND BOCES: “Per Chapter 180 of the Laws of 2000, and by Regulations of the Commissioner of Education, to be employed in a position designated by a school district or BOCES as involving direct contact with students, a clearance for employment from the State Education Department is required”

CALCULATORS: Use of calculators is **RECOMMENDED**. 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.

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY, AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER.

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

Applications: A regular application form must be filed for each separate examination. The applicant should make sure that every question is answered and that the application is complete in all respects. An incomplete application may be disapproved. There is a \$15.00 non-refundable exam fee (the fee for Uniformed Protective Services exams is \$20.00). The fee must be paid at the time the application is filed and must be paid in cash, check or money order, made payable to the Regional Civil Service Commission. There is a \$30.00 fee for returned checks with non-sufficient funds. Before filling out your application, read carefully the announcement for this examination. When completing your application be sure to enter, at the top of page 1, the examination number which identifies the examination for which you are filing. Applications postmarked after midnight of the "Last Filing Date" will not be considered eligible for this examination.

Waiver of Exam Fee: The exam fee may be waived for the following reasons:

- You are unemployed and primarily responsible for the support of your household.
- You are receiving financial assistance from the Department of Social Services. Applications and Waiver of Application Fee forms are available at the Chemung County/City of Elmira Regional Civil Service Commission, P.O. Box 588, 203 Lake Street, Elmira, New York 14902-0588. Telephone: (607) 737-2811. When submitting your waiver form, please provide proof of eligibility, such as a check stub or benefit card.

Qualification Process: Upon review of applications, candidates will either be disqualified or conditionally approved. Disqualified candidates will be afforded the opportunity to submit facts in opposition to disqualification. Statements in the applications of conditionally approved applicants may be investigated at a later date. The Regional Commission may refuse to certify an eligible after examination pursuant to Section 50.4 of Civil Service Law who is found to lack any of the established requirements for admission to the examination or for appointment to the position for which he applies. No person shall be disqualified pursuant to this subdivision unless he has been given a written statement of the reasons therefore and afforded an opportunity to make an explanation and to submit facts in opposition to such disqualification. **Minimum qualifications that require years of experience will only be considered as qualifying if it is "paid experience," Internships, and volunteer work will only be accepted if it is clearly stated in the minimum qualification section.*

Admission to the Exam: Accepted candidates will receive an admission letter which tells when and where to appear for the exam. No one will be admitted to the examination without the official admission letter. If an application is rejected, a disapproval letter will be sent to you. The Regional Civil Service Commission does NOT make formal acknowledgment of the receipt of an application; however, you should contact the Regional Civil Service Commission if you do not receive a notice within three (3) days of the examination informing you whether or not you are to be admitted to the examination.

Multiple Exams on the Same Day: Qualified candidates may take a combination of examinations being given on the same date. Prior to submitting applications for multiple exams, you may check with the Civil Service office for the maximum time allowance to complete all of the exams.

Religious Accommodation: Most written tests are held on Saturdays. If you cannot take the test on the announced test date due to a conflict with a religious observance or practice, check the area on the examination application (page 1, C) "Religious Accommodation". We will make arrangements for you to take the test on a different date.

Veterans' Credits: Veterans and disabled veterans desiring to claim additional credit must submit veteran's credit forms prior to the establishment of the resulting eligible list. Effective January 1, 1998 the State Constitution was amended to permit a candidate currently in the armed forces to apply for and be conditionally granted veteran's credit in examinations. Active members of the armed forces must provide proof of military status to receive conditional credit. Further information and applications are available at the Regional Civil Service Commission office.

Additional Credit 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 additional ten 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 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 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.

Failing Examination/Failure to Appear: Candidates who fail the examination, or who fail to appear for the examination as scheduled, will be eliminated from further consideration.

Eligible Lists: Unless otherwise specified, 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 remain in force for at least one (1) year and may be extended by the Regional Civil Service Commission for a maximum of four (4) years.

This examination is being prepared and rated by the New York State Department of Civil Service 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.

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