

# ALBANY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL SERVICE

112 STATE STREET, ROOM 900

ALBANY, NEW YORK 12207

CIVIL SERVICE PORTAL: <https://albany-portal.mycivilservice.com>

EMAIL: [csinfo@albanycounty.com](mailto:csinfo@albanycounty.com)

Issued: 1/3/24

ANNOUNCES AN OPEN-COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION FOR

## SECRETARY II

Exam # 86058

**TO APPLY FOR THIS EXAM YOU MUST USE OUR ONLINE CIVIL SERVICE PORTAL (SEE ADDRESS ABOVE). THE EMAIL ADDRESS ASSOCIATED WITH YOUR PORTAL ACCOUNT WILL BE USED FOR ALL CIVIL SERVICE CORRESPONDENCE INCLUDING APPEARANCE NOTICES, DISQUALIFICATION, RESULTS, CANVASSING, ETC. BE SURE TO CHECK BOTH YOUR INBOX AND SPAM/CLUTTER FOLDER FOR ALL CORRESPONDENCE. WE NO LONGER SEND/USE PAPER APPEARANCE LETTERS AS WE HAVE IMPLEMENTED AN ELECTRONIC CHECK-IN PROCESS.**

**FILING FEE:** **\$20.00 non-refundable** filing fee for each application submitted. Submit application and credit card payment online via the Civil Service Portal at the web address above. Cash, check or money order will be accepted if applying in person. **A maximum of two (2) application filing fees per calendar year will be waived for current legal residents of Albany County and/or current employees of a department of Albany County Government and/or a military veteran or an active-duty service member.** (Employees of NYS Government, school districts, towns, villages and libraries are not eligible for the employee waiver but may be eligible for the resident waiver.) Submission of a filing fee, even if you are eligible for a waiver, shall constitute relinquishment of the waiver and payment will be deposited. You may use any remaining waivers within the calendar year. The filing fee is waived for those receiving public assistance or unemployment benefits and the application must be accompanied by a completed Fee Waiver Request Form (ACS-04).

**TO BE HELD:**

Exam will be held on **Saturday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024**. Applicants will be emailed notification of time and exam site on **Tuesday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024**. Be sure to check both your inbox and spam/clutter folder on that date for an email containing a link to your appearance letter.

**LAST FILING DATE:**

Application must be completed and submitted before 11:59pm on Friday, January 19, 2024.

**VACANCIES:**

List will be used to fill future vacancies as they occur in the jurisdictions covered by Albany County Department of Civil Service.

**SALARY:**

Varies by location.

**RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT:** None to sit for the exam. Pursuant to NYS Civil Service Law Sec. 23.4-a, preference in appointment may be given to those eligibles who are legal residents in the municipality where the vacancy or anticipated vacancy exists. Must be a resident of such municipality at time of appointment if the municipality's appointing authority requests a resident list only.

**DUTIES OF POSITION:** The work involves responsibility for performing highly complex duties and administrative support tasks to further the overall work of the organization or program. Incumbents typically serve as a personal secretary to the head of a department or major division relieving them of administrative and business detail and resolving day-to-day operational problems. This position is distinguished from that of Secretary I by virtue of its expanded scope of program support tasks, increased level of decision-making and the relatively small amount of time spent in the operation of office equipment. The work is performed under the general supervision of an administrator with considerable leeway allowed for the use of independent judgment in carrying out the details of the work. Supervision may be exercised over the work of clerical subordinates. Does related work as required.

**MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:** Candidates must meet the following requirements on or before the last date for filing: 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 at least an Associate's degree and two (2) years of clerical experience which involved the operation of a computer for word-processing, database or spreadsheet applications; OR,

B. Graduation from high school or possession of a high school equivalency diploma and four (4) years of experience as defined in (A).

**NOTE:** Copies of college transcripts indicating completion of degree are required if you qualify under A.

**NOTE:** See general instructions to applicants' page for the experience rating scale.

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

**Grammar/Usage/Punctuation:** The grammar and usage questions test for the ability to apply the basic rules of grammar and usage. The punctuation questions test for a knowledge of the correct placement of punctuation marks in sentences. You will be presented with sets of four sentences from each of which you must choose the sentence that contains a grammatical, usage, or punctuation error.

**Keyboarding practices:** These questions test for a knowledge of preferred practices in such areas as letter format, capitalization, hyphenation, plurals, possessives, word division, word and figure style for numbers, and common proofreading marks. In addition, there will be a passage to proofread followed by questions on how to correct the errors in the passage.

**Office practices:** These questions test for a knowledge of generally agreed-upon practices governing the handling of situations which typists, stenographers, secretaries, and office assistants encounter in their work, as well as a knowledge of efficient and effective methods used to accomplish office tasks. The questions cover such topics as planning work flow; setting priorities; dealing effectively with staff, visitors, and callers; filing and retrieving information; safeguarding confidentiality; using office equipment; and making procedural decisions and recommendations which contribute to a well-managed office.

**Spelling:** These questions test for the ability to spell words that are used in written business communications.

**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 on line at: <https://www.cs.ny.gov/testing/testguides.cfm>.

- ♦ Calculators are **recommended** for this exam. Devices with typewriter keyboards, spell checkers, PDAs, address books, language translators, dictionaries or any similar devices are prohibited.

***PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING PAGE(S) FOR ADDITIONAL IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS***

## GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS TO APPLICANTS

### **Application Filing Fee Waiver for County Residents, County Employees and/or Military Veterans/Active-Duty Service Members**

A maximum of two (2) application filing fees per calendar year will be waived for current legal residents of Albany County and/or current employees of Albany County government and/or a military veteran or an active-duty service member. Submission of a filing fee, even if you are eligible for a waiver, shall constitute relinquishment of the waiver and payment will be deposited. You may use any remaining waivers within the calendar year. If you have any questions regarding this policy, please email [csinfo@albanycounty.com](mailto:csinfo@albanycounty.com).

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**APPLICATION PROCESS/FORMS:** Submit application and credit card payment (if required – see above) online via the Civil Service Portal: <https://albany-portal.mycivilservice.com/> . If you do not have access to a computer, you can visit our office at:

**ALBANY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL SERVICE, 112 STATE STREET, ROOM 900, ALBANY, NY 12207**

*Cash, check or money order will be accepted if applying in person.*

The applicant should be certain that all required sections of the application are completed or disqualification may result. **Education and work experience should be documented on the application regardless if the candidate has elected to attach a résumé.** All statements made by candidates in their applications are subject to verification.

**TRANSCRIPTS:** If a college transcript is required per the announcement, copies of the original are acceptable and should be submitted with the application or as soon as possible after applying. See our transcript policy at: [www.albanycounty.com/civilservice](http://www.albanycounty.com/civilservice)

**EXPERIENCE RATING SCALE:** Experience will be rated as follows: 1-10 hours worked per week = ¼ time; 11-20 hours worked per week = ½ time; 21-30 hours worked per week = ¾ time; 31-40 hours worked per week = full time.

**LAST FILING DATE:** It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that the application is completed and submitted before 11:59pm on the specified last filing date.

#### **VETERANS' CREDITS:**

- Disabled and non-disabled veterans who establish eligibility for additional credits and are successful in the examination are entitled to have 10 and 5 points, respectively, (5 and 2.5 points in the case of promotional examinations) added to their earned scores, and provided they have not previously used such credits to obtain permanent appointment or promotion. Veterans may determine to waive the use of their credits at any time up to the time of permanent appointment or promotion.
- Veterans who are eligible for additional credit must submit a copy of their separation papers (DD-214) within two (2) months of the last filing date for the examination. Veterans' credits can only be added to a passing score on the examination. Veterans' credits will not be applied for candidates whose scores make them immediately reachable at the time of list establishment.
- 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 veterans' credits in examinations. Any candidate who applies for such credit must provide proof of military status to receive the conditional credit. **No credit may be granted after the establishment of the list.**
- Effective January 1, 2014, the State Constitution was amended to permit disabled veterans to use additional credits on civil service examinations to obtain a second appointment or promotion.
  - If a veteran previously received five (non-disabled) points on an open-competitive examination and subsequently became certified as disabled, he or she would be entitled to receive another five (disabled) points on a subsequent examination whether an open-competitive or a promotion examination.
  - If a veteran previously received two and one-half (non-disabled) points on a promotion examination and subsequently became certified as disabled, he or she would be entitled to receive another seven and one-half (disabled) points on a subsequent examination whether an open-competitive or a promotion examination.

**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 additional 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 this municipality, please inform this office of this 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.

**ALTERNATE TEST DATE POLICY:** This policy and the required application can be found on our website: [www.albanycounty.com/civilservice](http://www.albanycounty.com/civilservice) . The policy clearly states the specific circumstances whereby a candidate may be eligible for an alternate test date. The candidate will be contacted by email or phone to make arrangements. Be aware that alternate test dates are during our normal business hours.

**SABBATH 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 when applying. Candidates who are called to military service after filing an application should contact Albany County Civil Service as soon as possible at [csinfo@albanycounty.com](mailto:csinfo@albanycounty.com) or (518) 447-7770.

**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. Eligible candidates may be required to pay a fingerprint-processing fee associated with this special requirement.

#### **ELIGIBLE LISTS:**

- For continuous recruitment exams, candidates will have their names placed on the eligible list for a maximum period of one year in the order of their exam score regardless of the date on which they took the exam. Rank on the list changes regularly depending on declinations, appointments and new names being added to the list.
- For all other types of exams, eligible lists are in effect for a minimum of one year up to a maximum of four years unless superseded by a new exam.
- Changing conditions may make it necessary to canvass future vacancies at higher or lower salaries than those originally announced.

**CONTACT THIS OFFICE AT [CSINFO@ALBANYCOUNTY.COM](mailto:CSINFO@ALBANYCOUNTY.COM) OR (518) 447-7770 WITH ANY QUESTIONS.**

THE NEW YORK STATE HUMAN RIGHTS LAW (ARTICLE 15) PROHIBITS DISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYMENT BECAUSE OF AGE, RACE, CREED, COLOR, NATIONAL ORIGIN, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, MILITARY STATUS, SEX, MARITAL STATUS OR DISABILITY.

AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER