



PROMOTIONAL EXAMINATION

ISSUED: February 20, 2019

PRINCIPAL CLERK

EXAMINATION NO. **76009**

Steuben County

March 20, 2019

Read these instructions
carefully and thoroughly.

May 11, 2019

LAST FILING DATE

EXAMINATION DATE

A NON-REFUNDABLE **\$15.⁰⁰ APPLICATION FEE** APPLIES FOR THIS TEST. See page 2 for details.
INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL BE DISAPPROVED.

SALARY: Varies according to location of appointment. As an example, the current starting salary for this title in Steuben County Departments is \$35,651 – \$42,781 annually.

VACANCIES: The Eligible List resulting from this examination will be used to fill any appropriate vacancies that may occur in this title during the life of the list.

NOTE: An open-competitive examination for this title will be held at the same time as this promotion examination. The eligible list resulting from the promotion examination will be utilized *first* for filling available vacancies. Successful promotion examination candidates are eligible for promotion *only within the jurisdiction, school district, or special district in which they are employed at time of qualification for examination*. Successful open-competitive examination candidates are eligible for appointment to this title in any municipality, school district, or special district after any applicable promotion list has been exhausted. **To be included on both the open-competitive and promotion lists, you must apply and qualify for both examinations separately.** Although both examinations will have the same title and examination content, each will have a different and unique examination number, may have different Minimum Qualifications, and will result in a separate eligible list.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: POSSESSION OF THE MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS MUST BE **CLEARLY DEMONSTRATED ON YOUR APPLICATION.**
As of the date of the examination, candidates must have continuously served for at least two years, *and currently be still serving*, on a permanent Competitive Class or 55-a basis as a Senior Clerk in one of the Steuben County Departments, Corning Community College, municipalities, school districts, or special districts under the jurisdiction of the Steuben County Department of Personnel and Civil Service.

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: The work involves responsibility for the performance of complex and highly responsible supervisory clerical work requiring a thorough knowledge of specific department clerical procedures and functions and applicable laws, rules and policies. The work is carried out in accordance with exacting and specific clerical procedures indigenous to the department in which the position is located and involves supervision of the work of a department's clerical unit in the processing of documents, forms, statistics and records; the maintenance of confidential material and documents on behalf of the department head including personnel files; the preparation of complex reports indigenous to the department in which the position is located; and the personal performance of the more complex clerical duties assigned to the unit. This class differs from that of Supervising Clerk by virtue of the deemphasis on responsibility for financial record keeping and the maintenance of department accounts and budgets. Work is performed under the general supervision of the department head, or in the case of a large department, a higher level unit supervisor, with wide leeway allowed the incumbent for the exercise of independent judgment in planning and carrying out the details of accomplishment of all assigned tasks. Direct supervision is exercised over the work of subordinate senior level and entry level clerical personnel. Does related work as required.



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

1. Office management

These questions test for knowledge of the principles and practices of planning, organizing and controlling the activities of an office and directing those performing office activities so as to achieve predetermined objectives such as accomplishing office work within reasonable limits of time, effort and cost expenditure. Typical activities may include but will not be restricted to: simplifying and improving procedures, increasing office efficiency, improving the office work environment and controlling office supplies.

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. 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.

The use of calculators is **RECOMMENDED** for this examination, as is the use of books or other reference materials.

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/testguides.cfm or from the Steuben County Civil Service Office.

SENIORITY POINTS: Rating of seniority is based on service starting with the time of original entry in the permanent classified service of the government unit in which promotion is sought. Points will be added to an eligible score as follows:

Less than 1 year _____	0 points
1 year up to 6 years _____	1 point
Over 6 years up to 11 years _____	2 points
Over 11 years up to 16 years _____	3 points
Over 16 years up to 21 years _____	4 points
Over 21 years up to 26 years _____	5 points

\$15 APPLICATION FEE: NO CASH ACCEPTED.

The New York State Civil Service Law requires our Office to collect an application fee. The amount of the fee is **fifteen dollars (\$15) per applicant for EACH examination** applied for. Fee must be submitted with the application form, **by check (personal or certified) or money order**, payable to "**Steuben County Finance**." You must record the EXAMINATION NUMBER(S) and TITLE(S) on your CHECK.



Applicants whose application forms are not accompanied by the appropriate fee or whose personal checks are returned for insufficient funds will not be considered as candidates. No Refunds. Also, no refund will be made to applicants who are *disapproved* or who *fail to appear*.

You are urged to compare your qualifications carefully with the requirements for admission and file only for those examinations for which you are clearly qualified. Assistance is available from our office in person or by telephone at 607-664-2345.

MULTIPLE EXAMINATIONS SCHEDULED FOR THE SAME DAY: If you have applied to take a written test announced by either one or several local jurisdictions (county, town, city) scheduled to be held on the same test date as this written test, you must notify each of the local jurisdictions no later than two weeks before the test date, so they can make arrangements for taking all tests at one test site. All examinations for positions in State government will be held at a State examination center.

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Applications and additional information are available at the Steuben County Department of Personnel and Civil Service, Steuben County Office Building, 3 East Pulteney Square, Bath, New York 14810, or by calling 607-664-2345. Examination announcements are also available on the Internet at www.steubencony.org.
2. Applications postmarked after midnight of the "Last Filing Date" will be disapproved for this examination. If hand delivered, applications must be filed in the Steuben County Department of Personnel and Civil Service no later than 5:00 p.m. on the "Last Filing Date."
3. Falsification of any part of the "Application for Employment" will result in disqualification and possible legal action. Inquiries may be made as to character and ability and **all statements made by candidates are subject to verification**.
4. Applicants must **answer every question** on the application form and provide an **original signature**. You may include a resume in addition to completing the application form; however, **you may NOT substitute "See Resume"** for completing any portion of the application form. **INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL BE DISAPPROVED.**
5. Be sure to KEEP A COPY of your application materials. The Department of Personnel and Civil Service does not provide copies of records you submit.
6. APPLICATION FEE WAIVER: A waiver of the application fee will be allowed if you are unemployed and primarily responsible for the support of a household. In addition, a waiver of the application fee will be allowed if you are determined eligible for Medicaid; receiving Supplemental Security Income payments or 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 an application fee waiver, complete Application Item #13.
7. Accepted candidates will be notified of when and where to appear for the exam approximately one week before the scheduled date of the exam. None will be admitted to the examination without the official admission notice. If an application is disapproved, due notice will be sent.
8. This department does not make formal acknowledgment of the receipt of an application.
9. If you have not received your notice to appear for the exam by three days before the exam date, call 607-664-2345.
10. TESTING ACCOMMODATIONS: If special arrangements for testing are required (i.e. religious observance, disability, temporary disability conditions), submit a written request describing your needs with the application form. See Application item #12.
11. INTERVIEW ACCOMMODATIONS: If special arrangements for interviewing are required (i.e. disability, temporary disability conditions), submit a written request describing your needs with the application form. See Application item #12.
12. VETERANS CREDITS: Active service members, veterans or disabled veterans desiring to claim additional credit may submit an "Application for Veteran's Credit" accompanied by the form DD-214 prior to the establishment of the eligible list. The Form DD-214 may be submitted with your application for examination or at any time prior to the establishment of the resulting eligible list. **IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO SEE THAT THE FORM DD-214 IS SUBMITTED TO THIS OFFICE. FAILURE TO SUBMIT A COPY OF YOUR DD-214 TO THIS OFFICE PRIOR TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ANY ELIGIBLE LIST WILL RESULT IN NO ADDITIONAL CREDIT BEING GRANTED.**
13. Military Service members on active duty on the exam date may request a military makeup exam by calling 607-664-2345. Members on active duty or discharged during the exam filing period may apply for the exam up to ten days before the exam date.
14. Per Section 85-a of the Civil Service Law, children of firefighters and police officers killed in the line of duty are entitled to receive ten additional credits on an exam which may result in an original appointment in the municipality where the deceased parent served. Candidates eligible for additional credit should indicate this on their exam application.



15. Candidates who fail the examination or who fail to appear for the examination as scheduled will be eliminated from further consideration.
16. Under specific circumstances, an alternate test date may be arranged in accordance with established policy. Your request *and verifiable documentation* should be submitted at least one week prior to the test date or *in case of an emergency no later than 5:00 p.m. on the next business day* following the test. See Application item #12.
17. 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 provision of the New York State Civil Service Rules and Regulations dealing with the rating of exams will apply to this examination.
18. 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.
19. Your degree and/or college credits must have been awarded by a regionally-accredited college or university or one recognized by the New York State Education Department as following acceptable educational practices. If an educational institution outside of the United States and its territories awarded your degree and/or college credit you must provide independent verification of equivalency. You can call or write to our Department for a list of acceptable companies providing this service; you must pay the required evaluation fee.
20. **Unless otherwise noted, candidates are recommended 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*. You will not be permitted to use the calculator function of a cell phone.


Nathan A. Alderman, Personnel Officer