

ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY
A.A./E.E.O. EMPLOYER
CIVIL SERVICE OPPORTUNITY
PROMOTIONAL OPPORTUNITY

EXAMINATION DATE: February 28, 2026

LAST FILING DATE: January 21, 2026

Administrative Assistant - # 70011-950

The eligible list resulting from this examination will be used to fill vacancies as they occur in agencies under the jurisdiction of the St. Lawrence County Human Resources Department. Salary varies with jurisdiction.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Candidate must be permanently employed in the competitive class, or under Section 55A, and must have served on a continuous basis for eighteen (18) months holding the position of Secretary I or thirty-six (36) months holding the position of Keyboard Specialist in an agency under the jurisdiction of the St. Lawrence County Human Resources Department. Preference in appointment may be given within the Agency/Department in which the vacancy exists.

*****If you were permanently appointed to a qualifying title and had provisional service in the same title immediately preceding the permanent appointment, such provisional service may be counted towards meeting the time in title required to apply for this examination. Your provisional appointment must have been on or before September 7, 2024, to qualify for this examination*****

NOTE: Submission of a resume does not relieve you of the responsibility for completing ALL sections of the official application. Your resume is a supplement to the application, not a substitute for it.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT: Effective November 7, 2018, the St. Lawrence County Personnel Officer has assumed the administration of civil service for the City of Ogdensburg. At that time, St. Lawrence County eligible lists will, as appropriate, be certified to fill vacancies in the City of Ogdensburg. Candidates interested in employment with the City of Ogdensburg must now participate in examinations conducted by the St. Lawrence County Human Resources Department.

APPLICATION FEE: The St. Lawrence County Human Resources Department will be collecting an application fee of \$12.50 from examination applicants. The required fee must accompany your application and must be in the form of either a check or money order payable to the St. Lawrence County Treasurer. Write the number of the examination on your check or money order. **DO NOT SEND CASH.** As no refund will be made, you are urged to compare your qualifications carefully with the specified minimum qualifications and file for the examination only if you believe you are clearly qualified. Any application received after the last filing date will be returned along with the application fee. There will be a \$15.00 returned check fee of any returned check.

APPLICATION FEE WAIVER: A waiver of application fee will be allowed if you are unemployed and primarily responsible for the support of a household. In addition, a waiver of application fee will be allowed if you are determined eligible for Medicaid, or 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, please complete a "Request for Application Fee Waiver and Certification" form and submit it with your application by the close of business on the Application Deadline as listed on the Examination Announcement. The "Request for Application Fee Waiver and Certification" form is located on the St. Lawrence County web site at: <https://stlawco.gov/Departments/HumanResources> or by contacting the Human Resources Department at (315) 379-2210.**

GENERAL STATEMENT OF DUTIES: This position involves responsibility for performing highly complex clerical duties and administrative support tasks to further the overall work of the organization or program. Incumbents typically serve as secretaries to the head of a department or major division relieving them of administrative and business details 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 small amount of time spent keyboarding. The work is performed under the general supervision of an administrator with considerable leeway allowed for the use of independent judgment in carrying out work assignments. Supervision may be exercised over the work of clerical subordinates. The incumbent does related work as required.

NOTE: Calculators are **RECOMMENDED** for this exam.

SUBJECT OF EXAMINATION: SEE ATTACHED EXPANDED SCOPE STATEMENT

Applications and application fees must be submitted or postmarked by the last filing date stated above. Normal business hours are 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. Late applications and/or application fees will not be accepted. Candidates will be notified approximately two weeks prior to the examination date, as to the time and place of the examination. In order to assure you receive all correspondence from our office, we **must** have your current address on file. Email changes to: exams@stlawco.gov or contact the St. Lawrence County Human Resources Department at the number listed below.

Date Published: December 11, 2025

APPLICATIONS AND FURTHER INFORMATION
St. Lawrence County Human Resources Department
48 Court Street, Canton, New York 13617-1169
(315) 379-2210
<https://stlawco.gov/Departments/HumanResources>
(SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS)

SITTING CONDITIONALLY FOR AN EXAMINATION

Candidates who will receive a qualifying degree within twelve (12) months after the date of this examination will be allowed to sit conditionally. The candidates' name will be withheld from certification until proof of the qualifying degree has been received by the Human Resources Department. The candidate will be required to furnish proof that they have received said degree, **no later than twelve (12) months after the establishment of the Eligible List** resulting from this examination. Upon receipt of said proof within the time frame so stated, the candidate will become eligible for certification.

SPECIAL EXAMINATION ARRANGEMENTS

Special accommodations for handicapped candidates will be made unless such accommodations would impose an undue hardship on the Human Resources Department. Written requests specifying such accommodations should be filed with the examination application in order to allow for the necessary documentation, determination and arrangements.

RELIGIOUS ACCOMMODATION

Candidates who, because of a religious observance or practice, are unable to compete in an examination scheduled to be held by this office, will be rescheduled. Notification must be made in writing to the Human Resources Department with the examination application. The candidate will be notified by the Human Resources Department of an alternate test date.

MILITARY COMMITMENT

Candidates who are unable to appear on the regularly scheduled examination date due to ordered military duty should contact the Human Resources Department for information regarding their rights to an alternate test date.

OTHER ALTERNATE TEST DATES

Alternate examination dates may be granted for qualifying circumstances. A request for alternate examination date must be submitted to the St. Lawrence County Human Resources Department no later than the close of business on the next business day following the examination date, whenever practicable. Any alternate examination date administration beyond the Saturday following the scheduled Saturday examination date must be reviewed with the New York State Department of Civil Service.

MULTIPLE EXAMINATIONS SCHEDULED FOR THE SAME DAY (CROSS FILERS)

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 (2) 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.

VETERANS CREDITS

For purpose of claiming Veterans Credits on a Civil Service examination, an applicant must have served in the armed forces of the United States at any time during the following periods:

Dec. 7, 1941 - Dec. 31, 1946

June 27, 1950 - Jan. 31, 1955

Feb. 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975

June 1, 1983 - Dec. 1, 1987

Oct. 23, 1983 - Nov. 21, 1983

Dec. 20, 1989 - Jan. 31, 1990

Aug. 2, 1990 - End of Persian Gulf Conflict

Disabled or Non-Disabled Veterans who claim additional credits will receive information as to the filing procedure approximately 2 weeks prior to the date of the examination. (See section 6 of the application for additional information)

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.

WRITTEN EXAMINATION

This written examination is 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 which deals with the rating of examinations will apply.

CONTINUOUS RECRUITMENT EXAMINATIONS

Names of candidates from a continuous recruitment examination will be inter-filed on the continuing eligible list in rank order regardless of the date on which they took the test. A department/agency/municipality reserves the right to terminate the continuous recruitment program.

ELIGIBLE LISTS

Eligible Lists will be ranked in the order of final rating, and will be established for a minimum of one year to a maximum of four years unless exhausted prior to that date. Established Eligible Lists may be extended by the Personnel Officer not to exceed four years.

NOTE TO CANDIDATES

Unless otherwise notified, candidates are permitted to use quiet, hand-held, solar or battery powered calculators. The use of cellular phones, smart watches, Fit Bits, Beepers, Headphones or other communication devices; devices with typewriter keyboards, 'spell-checkers', 'personal digital assistant', 'address books', 'language translators', 'dictionaries' and any similar devices are strictly prohibited. Books or other reference materials are also prohibited.

BACKGROUND INVESTIGATIONS, FINGERPRINTS AND FEES

Fingerprinting is sometimes required at the time of appointment. If so, you may be required to pay the processing fee. Background Investigation: Applicants may be required to undergo a State and national criminal history background investigation, which will include a fingerprint check, to determine suitability for appointment. Failure to meet the standards for the background investigation may result in disqualification.

EXPANDED SCOPE STATEMENT

Administrative Assistant

Exam Date: 02/28/2026

70011-950

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

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. Spelling

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

6. 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.

7. 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**.

8. Office practices

These questions test for a knowledge of generally agreed-upon practices governing the handling of situations which office support staff, typists, and secretaries encounter in their work, as well as knowledge of efficient and effective methods used to accomplish office tasks. The questions will cover such topics as planning workflow; 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.

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>.