



**COUNTY OF ERIE - DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL  
invites applications for the position of:**

**Real Property Appraisal Technician #66-449 OPEN**

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<b>SALARY:</b>	SALARIES VARY
<b>OPENING DATE:</b>	04/16/15
<b>CLOSING DATE:</b>	05/13/15
<b>DESCRIPTION:</b>	

At present there is one anticipated vacancy in the **Town of Amherst**. The eligible list resulting from this examination will be used to fill this vacancy and other appropriate vacancies which may occur in municipalities or districts under the jurisdiction of Erie County Civil Service while this list is active.

**RESIDENCE REQUIREMENTS:** CANDIDATES MUST HAVE BEEN LEGAL RESIDENTS OF ERIE COUNTY FOR AT LEAST FOUR MONTHS IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THE DATE OF THE WRITTEN TEST AND MUST BE LEGAL RESIDENTS OF ERIE COUNTY AT THE TIME OF APPOINTMENT. Preference may be given to successful candidates who have been residents of the municipality in which the appointment is to be made for one month preceding the date of the written test and who are residents of the municipality at the time of appointment. Non-residents may be required to become a resident of the appointing municipality if local law so states.

**EXAMPLES OF DUTIES:**

A *Real Property Appraisal Technician* gathers basic data for use by a real property appraiser or assessor determining valuation for tax purposes; measures and prepares scale diagrams of buildings and structures; calculates the area of the structure based on own measurements and using construction blueprints; records the physical features of properties on standard forms; judges construction quality based on field observation of structural detail; prices structural components from standard price tables; estimates depreciation from established age-life-condition relationships; conducts assigned field inspections of real property for appraisal and reappraisal and makes field notes; reviews deeds and other property records to extract pertinent information; reports discrepancies in records of building location, topography, condition, bulk reading, street conditions and improvements.

**MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:** Candidates must meet one of the following requirements on or before the date of the written test:

- A. Graduation from high school or possession of a high school equivalency diploma and two years of experience in an occupation involving the valuation of real property; OR
- B. Completion of 60 semester credit hours from a regionally accredited or New York State registered college or university in engineering or a related field; OR
- C. An equivalent combination of training and experience as defined by the limits of (A) and (B).

**NOTE:** Your degree and/or college credit 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. A grade of "D" or better is necessary for a course to be credited as successfully completed. If your degree and/or college credit was awarded by an educational institution outside of the United States and its territories, you must provide independent verification of equivalency. You can write to this Department for a list of acceptable companies providing this service; you must pay the required evaluation fee.

**Notice to Candidates:**

**Transcripts will now be accepted by the Department of Personnel ONLY at time of application.  
All subsequent transcripts must be submitted at time of interview.**

**SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION:**

A medical examination may be required before appointment.

**VETERANS: PROOF OF SERVICE MUST BE SUBMITTED BEFORE LIST IS ESTABLISHED  
TO RECEIVE ADDITIONAL POINTS. (See application for more information.)**

**NOTICES TO APPEAR FOR THE EXAMINATION ARE MAILED  
APPROXIMATELY ONE WEEK PRIOR TO THE EXAMINATION DATE  
NO CELL PHONES ARE PERMITTED AT THE EXAM SITE.**

EXAMINATION DATE  
**JUNE 6, 2015**

APPLICATIONS MUST BE  
POSTMARKED BY  
**May 6, 2015**

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)

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

1. **DATA COLLECTION:** These questions test for a knowledge of the variables that are collected for residential, commercial, vacant and farm properties. Hypothetical situations may be used to test for candidate knowledge, skill, and ability in this area. The majority of these questions are based on the terms, concepts, and principles of data collection that are contained in the Department of Taxation and Finances' data collection manuals which can be found at <http://www.tax.ny.gov/research/property/assess/manuals/assersmanual.htm>
2. **NAME AND NUMBER CHECKING:** These questions test for the ability to distinguish between sets of words, letters, and/or numbers that are almost exactly alike. Material is usually presented in two or three columns, and you will have to determine how the entry in the first column compares with the entry in the second column and possibly the third. You will be instructed to mark your answers according to a designated code provided in the directions.
3. **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.
4. **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. Special emphasis will be placed upon the ability to analyze market data and develop land schedules, market models, and income models for use in mass appraisal.
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.

**NOTICE TO CANDIDATES:** Unless otherwise noted, 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. You may not bring books or other reference materials.

**NOTICE TO CANDIDATES WHO ARE ALSO TAKING ANOTHER CIVIL SERVICE EXAM(S) ON THIS DATE (See Below)  
(IF YOU ARE TAKING 2 OR MORE ERIE COUNTY EXAMS ON THIS DATE IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO CALL)  
INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES**

**APPLICATION FORMS:** You may obtain these forms in person at the Erie County Personnel Department, Rath County Office Building, 95 Franklin St., Buffalo. Forms are also available in the libraries and at Town, Village and School District administrative offices.

Mail your application form when completed to the Erie County Department of Personnel, 95 Franklin St., Buffalo, NY 14202.

Candidates who submit incomplete applications and documentation may be disqualified. The Erie County Department of Personnel reserves the right to reject for lateness or to accept applications filed after the advertised filing period.

**MILITARY STATUS:** Active duty military personnel may file an application for this exam. A special military make-up examination will be conducted for any member of the armed forces of the United States who has duly filed a timely application but who was deprived of the opportunity to compete in the scheduled exam due to active military duty. Special conditions apply to these requests and may be reviewed at the Erie County Department of Personnel.

**VETERANS:** Disabled and non-disabled veterans as defined in Section 85, New York State Civil Service Law, will have 10 and 5 points, respectively added to their earned scores if successful in the examination. You must claim these credits when you file

application but you have an option to waive them any time prior to appointment. If you have already used these credits for a permanent position in NYS, you may not claim them again.

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.

**SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS:** Applicants whose religious beliefs prevent their taking examinations before sundown on Saturday and physically handicapped candidates who require special examination facilities should so inform the Erie County Department of Personnel, by a separately mailed letter at the earliest possible date before the test.

**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. **\*\*For this exam, please complete and submit an Erie County EXAMS CROSS-FILER Form with your Erie County exam application to alert Erie County Civil Service about your additional exams being held at other locations on the same day.\*\*** The Cross-Filer Form is found online at: [www2.erie.gov/employment/index.php?q=applications](http://www2.erie.gov/employment/index.php?q=applications) or call (716) 858-8484. All examinations for positions in State government will be held at a State examination center. You will be advised by letter when and where to report for your examinations.

**ADMISSION TO EXAMINATION:** Notice to appear for the test will be conditional as review of application for minimum requirements may not be made until after the written test. Call or write this Department if you have not received your notice 3 days before the date of the test. You may not be admitted to the examination room without official notice.

**RATINGS REQUIRED:** Tests are rated on a scale of 100 with a passing mark at 70. Unless the announcement states otherwise, you must pass the written test and the oral test, if any. Test instructions may further divide the tests into parts and set minimum standards for each part.

**TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE:** If a subject of the examination, training and experience may not be rated if all passing candidates are expected to be immediately reachable for appointment. If rated, training and experience will be based on the statements in your application subject to verification. If this examination includes a qualifying written test, candidates admitted to the test will have conditional approval only. Final decision regarding the qualifications of candidates rests with the New York State Department of Civil Service.

**MEDICAL EXAMINATION:** You may be required to take a medical examination to determine if you are medically and physically capable of performing the duties of the position.

In accordance with State Law, Governor's Executive Order 6, and Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended the County of Erie does not discriminate against handicapped persons in access to employment, during employment, or in any of its programs and activities

**VERIFICATION OF QUALIFICATIONS:** Candidates may be investigated or called for an interview to verify information contained on the application. Verifiable part-time and/or volunteer experience may be pro-rated toward meeting full-time experience requirements

**ELIGIBLE LIST:** The eligible list resulting from an examination may also be used for appointment to the same title or to any other title deemed to be similar and appropriate. Eligible lists are active for a minimum of one year and a maximum of four years from the date established.

**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. Applicants may be required to pay a fee for the investigation.

**NOTE:** Fingerprints are sometimes required at the time of appointment. When they are required, the fee involved must be paid by the appointee.

**\*\*IMPORTANT APPLICATION FEE –  
READ CAREFULLY\*\***

A \$20.00 filing fee is required for this exam. The required fee must accompany your application. Send or bring check or money order made payable to Erie County Personnel Department and write the examination number(s) on your check or money order. Do not send or bring cash, as the County cannot be responsible for cash payment. As no refund will be made, 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.

**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. If you can verify eligibility for application fee waiver, 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 form is available at the Erie County Personnel Department, 95 Franklin Street, Buffalo, NY (Room 604) or can be downloaded from the County’s website at [www.erie.gov](http://www.erie.gov). Click on “County Departments and Agencies”, then “Erie County Civil Service”.

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This examination is prepared and rated by the New York State Department of Civil Service,  
and held in compliance with the New York State Civil Service Law  
and the rules and regulations of the New York State Department of Civil Service.