

**Albany Municipal Civil Service Commission  
City Hall Room 301  
Albany, New York 12207  
Telephone: (518) 434-5049**

**PLEASE POST CONSPICUOUSLY**

**AN OPEN COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION FOR PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER (APL)  
EXAM #69-994**

**FILING FEE:** \$7.50 NON-REFUNDABLE filing fee for each application submitted. Make check or money order payable to the **Albany City Treasurer**. *Include exam number and last four (4) digits of your social security number on the check.*

**TO BE HELD:** Saturday, March 6, 2010. Candidates will be notified by mail of time and location.

**LAST FILING DATE:** Applications must be received no later than Monday, February 8, 2010.

Individuals who are on military leave or recently discharged from military service are permitted to file for an examination up to ten days prior to the examination.

**VACANCY:** Resulting eligible list to be used to fill vacancies in the Albany Public Library.

**SALARY:** \$47,500/Annual

**DUTIES OF THE POSITION:** Under general supervision of the Director, the incumbent is responsible for organizing and implementing the Library's public relations and public information activities. Work is performed in accordance with prescribed policy with leeway allowed for the exercise of independent judgment and initiative. Supervision may be exercised over the work of subordinate employees.

**MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:** Candidates must meet the minimum qualifications by the date of the examination.

- (a) Graduation from a regionally accredited or NYS registered college or university or one accredited by the NYS Board of Regents to grant degrees with a Bachelor's Degree in Journalism, English, Public Relations or a related field and two (2) years of fulltime paid experience writing public announcements, newsletters, news and/or feature articles, and preparing and presenting informational materials and reports; **OR**
- (b) Graduation from a regionally accredited or New York State registered college or one accredited by the NYS Board of Regents to grant degrees with an Associate's Degree in Communications, Liberal Arts, Business-Marketing or a related field and four (4) years of fulltime paid experience writing public announcements, newsletters, news and/or feature articles, and preparing and presenting informational materials and reports; **OR**
- (c) Any equivalent combination of training and experience as defined by the limits of (a) and (b) above.

**APPLICATION AND A COPY OF THIS ANNOUNCEMENT MAY BE SECURED AT THE ABOVE ADDRESS OR AT  
THE CITY OF ALBANY WEBSITE: <http://www.albanyny.gov>**

## GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS TO APPLICANTS

### **#1 AGE LIMITS:**

Unless otherwise specified in the examination announcement, there are no age restrictions. However there may be statutory restrictions on your employment if you are under 40 or over 70 years of age.

### **#2 APPLICATION FORMS:**

Forms can be obtained by visiting the:

Civil Service Commission

City Hall Room 301

Albany, New York 12207

Phone: (518) 434-5049

<http://www.albanyny.gov>

A standard application must be filed for each examination. The applicant should be certain that every question is answered and that the application is complete in all respects, including the title of the examination.

### **#3 VETERAN'S CREDITS:**

For the purpose of claiming veteran's credits on a civil service examination, an applicant must have been honorably discharged or released under honorable circumstances after serving on active duty with the armed forces of the United States during time of war.

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, provided they have not 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.

### **#4 TRANSCRIPTS:**

Whenever college transcripts or diplomas are requested, they should be submitted with the application for the examination or as soon thereafter as possible BEFORE the examination.

### **#5 ADMISSIONS TO EXAMINATION:**

The Commission does not acknowledge receipt of applications but all applicants are notified of the disposition of their applications. Approved candidates will be notified at least four days in advance of the place, date and hour of the examination. Applicants who have not received notice by this deadline should contact the office of the Commission.

Every candidate should bring his or her notice to appear, social security number and photo ID to the examination. Do not interpret a notice to appear for, or an actual participation in, the examination to mean

that you have been found to meet fully the announced requirements. Applicants are admitted to the examination on the basis of statements made in the application. These statements may not be verified until after the examination has been held. Those candidates not meeting the requirements are disqualified at that time.

Inquiries may be made as to character and ability of candidates. All statements made by candidates in their applications are subject to verification.

### **#6 SATURDAY SABBATH OBSERVERS & HANDICAPPED PERSONS:**

If special arrangements for testing are required, indicate this on your application form.

### **#7 RATINGS REQUIRED:**

This examination will be prepared and rated in accordance with Section 23.2 of the Civil Service Law. The provisions of New York State Civil Service Law, rules and regulations dealing with the preparation and rating of examinations, will apply to this examination.

### **#8 MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS:**

Candidates may be required to have a medical examination to determine if they are physically capable of performing the duties of the position.

### **#9 ELIGIBLE LISTS:**

Eligible lists are established for a minimum duration of one year but may be extended by the Commission before expiration, for a total of no more than four years.

Changing conditions may make it necessary to certify to future vacancies at higher or lower salaries than those originally announced.

### **#10 CHILDREN OF POLICE/FIREFIGHTERS KILLED ON DUTY CREDITS:**

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.

**FILE YOUR APPLICATION IMMEDIATELY  
AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER**

## SCOPE OF THE EXAMINATION

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

### 1. Directing a public information program

These questions test for the ability to conduct a public information program for a department or agency. Questions may cover such topics as evaluating needs, planning publicity programs, developing relations with the community and media, and directing the activities of a public relations or marketing plan.

### 2. Educating and interacting with the public

These questions test for the ability to communicate with others in a manner consistent with good public relations practices. Questions will cover such concepts as interviewing or gathering information from others; participating in meetings or work groups; and presenting information to citizens, community organizations, staff and the media.

### 3. Grammar, usage, punctuation, and editing

These questions test for the ability to prepare letters, reports, and other documents. Some questions test for a knowledge of grammar, usage, punctuation, and sentence structure. Others test for the ability to edit sentences to produce correct, clear, concise copy.

### 4. Preparing public information materials – basic

These questions test for the ability to prepare basic informational materials electronically and in print, for the public and the media, including such products as correspondence, brochures, and news releases. Questions may cover such topics as selecting content to effectively communicate with the intended audience, making decisions regarding page readability of text, and using graphics, photographs, headlines, or captions to enhance a message.

### 5. Preparing public information materials:

These questions test for knowledge of professional standards and practices used to produce public information materials for print, electronic, or broadcast media. Questions may cover such topics as developing content, selecting media, coordinating the release and distribution of information, and maintaining a web site.

### 6. 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.

**NOTE:** Candidates are **ALLOWED** to use a quiet, hand-held, solar or battery powered calculator. Devices with typewriter keyboard, spell checkers, personal digital assistants, address books, language translators, dictionaries or any other similar devices are prohibited. **YOU MAY NOT BRING HIGHLIGHTERS, FIREARMS, BOOKS OR OTHER REFERENCE MATERIAL TO THE TEST.**

**CROSS-FILER STATEMENT:** If you have applied for other Civil service examinations for employment with New York State or any other local government jurisdiction, you must make arrangements to take all the examinations at one test site.

If you have applied for both State & Local government examinations, you must make arrangements to take all of your examinations at the STATE examination center by calling (518) 474-6470 no later than 14 days before the test date.

If you have applied for other local government examinations, call or write to each Civil Service agency to make arrangements. You must make your request for these arrangements no later than 14 days before the date of the examination. You must notify all local government Civil Service agencies with which you have filed an application of the site where you wish to take your examinations. A cross-filer application must be completed for City of Albany examinations.

**VETERAN'S CREDIT:**

Veterans or disabled veterans who are eligible for additional credit must submit an application for veteran's credit with their application for examination or at any time between the dates of their application for examination and the date of the establishment of the resulting eligible list. Applications for veteran's credit are available from this office. Veteran's credits can only be added to a passing score on the examination.

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. 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. It is the responsibility of the candidate to provide appropriate documentary proof indicating that the service was in time of war, as defined in Section 85 of Civil Service Law, and that the candidate received an honorable discharge or was released under honorable conditions in order to be certified at a score including veteran's credits.

**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. "Request for Application Fee Waiver and Certification" forms may be obtained at the Albany Municipal Civil Service Commission Office: Albany City Hall Room 301, Albany, New York 12207**