



# Office Assistant CR ~ 23



## Open Competitive Continuous Recruitment Examination ~ Applications Accepted Continuously

**FILING FEE: \$35 (Non-Refundable)**

**Administration of This Examination Does Not Imply That a Vacancy Exists**

⊗ **Effective April 13, 2013, ONLY EXAMINATION APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED ONLINE Will Be Accepted** ⊗

**TO APPLY:** 1. Go to [www.putnamcountyny.gov/personnel/](http://www.putnamcountyny.gov/personnel/) & click [APPLY FOR EXAMINATIONS](#)

2. View exam information & click **APPLY** 3. Complete & submit online application. 4. Mail or deliver to drop box outside Personnel Department or pay filing fee online within five (5) business days

- Filing fees must be RECEIVED by Putnam County Personnel Dept. within FIVE (5) BUSINESS DAYS following application submission.
- Exam filing fees are NOT REFUNDABLE for any reason, including disqualification.
- If your filing fee is not received within the time permitted, your application will be disqualified without review.

Make CHECK or MONEY ORDER payable to "Putnam County Personnel Department" – NO CASH

\*\*Returned checks are subject to a \$15 fee as per Putnam County Resolution #247 of 1998\*\*

**\*\*Please read the back of this notice carefully for Important Civil Service Information. \*\***

**VACANCIES:** The eligible list established as a result of the continuous recruitment examination will be used, where appropriate, to fill current and future vacancies in all agencies under the jurisdiction of the Putnam County Personnel Department. In addition to full-time positions, this list may also be used to fill part-time positions in this title, where appropriate.

**PUTNAM COUNTY STARTING SALARY:** \$45,334 (2026) Salaries in the Towns, School Districts and other agencies vary according to jurisdiction.

**DUTIES:** This position involves the performance of standardized clerical tasks and the operation of equipment requiring the manipulation of an alphanumeric keyboard to produce printed copy. Specific duties vary with the needs of the municipality, department or division. Procedures are usually fixed but detailed instructions are given for new or difficult assignments. The work involves the processing of all or part of the paper work flow of an office or part of an office which involves judgment in work scheduling and the evaluation of submitted data for compliance with established criteria. Supervision over the work of others is typically not a responsibility of employees in this class. Performs a variety of related duties as required.

**MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:** Either

- Graduation from high school or possession of a comparable diploma; or
- Two (2) years of clerical experience which must have involved some use of computer applications to enter data, maintain records or prepare reports; or
- An equivalent combination of training and experience as indicated in a) and b) above.

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

- Spelling:** These questions are designed to test the candidate's ability to spell words that office employees might encounter in their daily work.
- Alphabetizing:** These questions are designed to test a candidate's ability to file material accurately in alphabetic order.
- Clerical Operations With Letters and Numbers:** These questions are designed to test a candidate's visual perception and basic clerical accuracy in working with alphanumeric characters. The candidate is required to read, compare, check, reorder and count letters and numbers following specific directions for each question. Knowledge of the alphabet and the ability to count are required.
- Record Keeping:** These questions are designed to test a candidate's ability to perform common record keeping tasks. 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 data from several sources; scheduling, maintaining a record system using running balances; or completion of a table summarizing data using totals, subtotals, averages and percents.

**Use of Calculators is ALLOWED. See reverse for restrictions.**

**ELIGIBLE LIST:** Successful candidates will have their names placed on the eligible list in the order of final scores, regardless of the date on which they took the test. The names of qualified candidates will remain on the eligible list for a non-extendible one (1) year period.

**EXAM PROCEDURE INFORMATION:** The test will be administered on a laptop computer. A study guide entitled "Clerical/Steno/Typist Series, Entry-Level," is available online at <https://www.cs.ny.gov/testing/testguides.cfm>. If you do not have online access, contact this office for a copy.

**RETEST POLICY:** Candidates must wait a minimum of 1 year to retest regardless of whether they pass or fail.

**FOR INFORMATION:**

PUTNAM COUNTY PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT

Donald B. Smith County Government Campus

110 Old Route 6, Bldg. 3, Carmel, NY 10512

Tel: 845-808-1650 x46104

<https://www.putnamcountyny.gov/personnel/>

<http://www.facebook.com/PutnamCountyPersonnelNY>

ISSUED: JANUARY 2026

**ADMISSION TO EXAMINATIONS:** Call the Personnel Department if you do not receive a notice within three days of the date of examination. Admission to examinations does not necessarily mean that the application has been approved unconditionally; final review of applications for all requirements may not be made until after the written test. You may not be admitted to the examination room without official notice, or more than one half hour after an examination has begun. You must bring picture identification (such as a driver's license) and your Social Security number to the examination. You may be fingerprinted prior to admission to the examination.

**AGE LIMITS:** There may be statutory restrictions on your employment if you are under 18 or over 70 years of age; any other age restrictions are stated on the face of this examination announcement.

**APPLICATION:** A separate application must be filed for each examination desired. Effective April 13, 2013, Putnam County Personnel Department accepts ONLY EXAMINATION APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED ONLINE. Paper examination applications will not be accepted. Go to [www.putnamcountyny.gov/personnel](http://www.putnamcountyny.gov/personnel) for information, explanation, and to access the online application form. You may also apply online at the Personnel Dept., 110 Old Rt 6, Bldg #3, Carmel, NY.

**APPLICATION FEE:** A fee (see front) is required from candidates for each separately-numbered examination for which they apply. Mail, deliver or pay filing fee online within five (5) business days. **NO CASH. NO REFUNDS** will be made to applicants who fail to appear for the scheduled examination. File only for those examinations for which you are qualified. As of February 1, 2006, per Putnam County Resolution #305 of 2005, **EXAM FILING FEES WILL NOT BE REFUNDED**, even if you are disqualified from taking the exam. It is therefore recommended that you consider very carefully whether or not you believe that you meet the minimum qualifications before submitting your application.

**APPLICATION FEE, WAIVER OF:** 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 and proof of benefits by the close of business on the Application Deadline as listed on this Examination Announcement. A copy of the waiver request form can be obtained from the website or by calling the Putnam County Personnel Department.

**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. The cost for fingerprinting is the responsibility of the candidate being considered for, or conditionally offered, appointment.

**CALCULATORS:** Candidates are permitted to use quiet, hand-held, solar or battery powered calculators, **UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTIFIED**.

**CHILDREN OF FIREFIGHTERS AND POLICE OFFICERS Killed in the Line of Duty:** In conformance with section 85-a of the Civil Service Law, signed into law on September 17, 2002, 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 matter when you submit your application for examination. A candidate claiming such credit has a minimum of two (2) 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.

**CITIZENSHIP:** Citizenship is required only for Public Officer positions.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** Any changes in contact information must be communicated to the Personnel Dept. in order to ensure timely delivery of important information. A change of address form is available on our website or the Personnel Dept. It is the candidates' responsibility to obtain and submit the necessary documents.

**CROSS FILING or EXAMINATIONS IN MULTIPLE JURISDICTIONS:**

If you have applied to take an examination announced by more than one local jurisdiction (county, town, city) scheduled to be held on the same test date, you must notify each of the local jurisdictions as early as possible (no later than two weeks before the test date), so that arrangements can be made for taking all examinations at one test site. You must inform each jurisdiction of all examination titles and numbers, and at which jurisdiction you want to sit for the examinations. Please note that all examinations for positions in State government must be taken at a State examination center. Cross-file form is available on the website.

**DRUG & ALCOHOL TESTING:** You may be required to take a pre-employment alcohol and drug test to determine that you are free of such substances.

**EDUCATION:** Where high school graduation is required, a High School Equivalency Diploma from any State or an armed forces GED (high school level) will be acceptable. College graduation, when required, must have been from a regionally accredited college or university or one recognized by the New York State Education Department as following acceptable educational practices. In evaluating a candidate's qualifications, the equivalent of 30 college credit hours equals one year of college. Transcripts should be submitted with the application or as soon thereafter as possible whenever the qualifications call for a specific college major or specified number of credits. **NOTE:** 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.

**ELIGIBILITY ANTICIPATED:** According to Civil Service Law, section 54 which became effective September 4, 2024, applicants who are within 12 months of meeting the minimum age or attaining the minimum educational requirements following the date of examination, may take the civil service exam, but will be restricted from certification until such a time that the minimum age or educational requirements are met. If the minimum qualifications require a degree in education and/or experience/licensure/certification, the following statements shall pertain to this exam announcement: if you expect to complete the educational requirement within 12 months or the experience requirement within 6 months from the date of the examination date on the reverse side of this examination announcement, you can be admitted to this examination on a conditional basis. If successful on the examination, you will not be certified for appointment until you have submitted proof of completion of the announced requirements to the Putnam County Personnel Department. In the case of anticipated education degree, proof must be submitted within 3 months following award of degree; failure to do so will result in removal of your name from the eligible list. In the case of anticipated experience, your name will not be certified until you obtain and show proof of the necessary experience. In the case of licensure/certification, if you are eligible for the required licensure/certification you can be admitted to the examination. If successful on the examination, you will not be certified for permanent appointment until you have submitted proof of possession of the required licensure/certificate to the Putnam County Personnel Department.

**ELIGIBLE LIST:** The eligible list is made up of all candidates who successfully pass all portions of the examination. The eligible list resulting from this examination will remain in existence for a minimum of one year up to a maximum of four years or until terminated by the establishment of an appropriate new eligible list. In the case where a **Promotional** exam is being held in conjunction

with an Open Competitive exam in the same title, the resulting eligible list from the Promotional exam will be canvassed first. Any person whose name is on a preferred eligible list and who meets the requirements for a promotion examination in the agency for which the examination is being held is eligible to compete in the examination. Candidates currently holding a permanent 55-a position will be afforded the same opportunity as employees in the competitive class to take promotion examinations, if qualified.

**EQUAL OPPORTUNITY:** It is the policy of the Putnam County Personnel Department to provide for and promote equal opportunity in employment, compensation and other terms and conditions of employment without discrimination on the basis of age, race, color, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, or arrest and/or criminal conviction record, unless based upon a bona fide occupational qualification or other exception. Those requiring special testing arrangements (such as military personnel or Saturday religious observers) must note this on their applications. It is Putnam County's policy, in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, to provide equal employment opportunity and equal opportunity to participate in and receive any benefits, services, programs and activities to persons with disabilities. Any person who requires reasonable accommodations and reasonable modifications (e.g. Braille booklet, amanuensis, reader, sign language interpreter, etc.) must note this on their application.

**EXPERIENCE:** For each examination, unpaid, verifiable part-time and volunteer experience in one of the specialized areas will only be credited when specifically allowed by the examination announcement. The number of years of experience required in the minimum qualifications is based upon the presumption of full-time employment (35 hour workweek). Part-time experience will be prorated.

**FINGERPRINT CHECK:** A state and/or national fingerprint supported background investigation is required before an appointment is made to some positions. If such search is required, the applicant will be responsible to pay the Division of Criminal Justice Services fee for such search (approximately \$100-150)

**INCLEMENT WEATHER:** In rare cases, an examination may be postponed if weather conditions are unsafe. In such cases, call 845-808-1650 for recorded information available 24 hours. Also, announcements will be made over the radio on WHUD (100.7 FM). If an examination is postponed due to weather conditions, a new examination date will be set as soon as possible. Candidates will be notified of such new examination date in writing by Putnam County Personnel Department as soon as this information becomes available.

**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.

**MULTIPLE EXAMINATIONS SCHEDULED FOR THE SAME DAY:** Applicants may participate in multiple examinations given for Putnam County on the same day. The maximum time allowed for any combination of examinations is eight (8) hours. If you have applied for multiple examinations scheduled for the same day, please indicate this on your application.

**PROHIBITED DEVICES:** Cell phones, pagers, and similar devices are prohibited at examination sites. Devices with typewriter keyboards, spell checks, personal digital assistants, address books, language translators, cell phones, dictionaries and/or similar devices are prohibited.

**PUBLIC SERVICE LOAN FORGIVENESS:** College graduates with student loans may be eligible to have part of their loan paid for after being employed in a full-time position at Putnam County. Additional information is available at <https://studentaid.gov/manage-loans/forgiveness-cancellation/public-service#qualifying-employment>

**RATINGS AND REVIEW:** When this written 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 provisions of the New York State Civil Service Rules and Regulations dealing with the rating and review of examinations apply. Otherwise, rating and review of the examination is governed by the Putnam County Civil Service Rules.

**RATINGS REQUIRED:** Tests are rated on a scale of 100 with the passing mark at 70.0. Unless the announcement states otherwise, you must pass the written test as a whole and the oral and practical tests, if any. Test instructions may further divide the tests into parts and set minimum standards for each part.

**RESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE:** Preference in appointment from open-competitive lists may be given to residents of the jurisdiction making the appointments; for appointment in some jurisdictions you may be required to become a resident thereof, in accordance with law or resolution. Residence requirements and such preferential certifications do not apply in promotion examinations.

**SPECIAL REQUIREMENT FOR APPOINTMENT IN SCHOOL DISTRICTS:** In accordance with the Safe Schools Against Violence in Education (SAVE) legislation, Chapter 180 of the Laws of 2000, and by the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education, candidates for appointment in school districts must obtain clearance for employment from the State Education Department prior to employment based upon a fingerprint and criminal history background check.

**SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS (RELIGIOUS ACCOMMODATION, DISABILITIES, MILITARY):** 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 on their application.

**Military Service Members:** If you apply for an examination during the filing period but are on active military duty on the date the examination is scheduled, you may request a military makeup examination. Contact the Putnam County Personnel Department for more information. If you are on active duty or discharged after the filing period has begun, you may apply for the examination up to ten days before the test date.

**VETERANS:** Eligible disabled and non-disabled war veterans may have ten or five points, respectively, added to an earned passing score in an open-competitive examination and five or two and a half-points are added in a promotion examination. It is the candidate's responsibility to obtain and submit the necessary forms and documents prior to the establishment of the eligible list. You may waive these credits any time prior to appointment.

**VERIFICATION OF QUALIFICATIONS:** Candidates may be investigated or called for an interview to determine whether they are qualified for appointment. All statements made by candidates on the application form are subject to verification