



RENSSELAER COUNTY
CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION
Opportunities in the Public Service
OPEN COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION

ACCEPTING ONLINE APPLICATIONS ONLY

Click [here](#) or visit <https://rensco-portal.mycivilservice.com> to apply online.

Exam Title: **SPECIAL INVESTIGATOR (CONFIDENTIAL)**

Exam Number: **60052670**

Date of Examination: **JUNE 13, 2026**

Last Filing Date: **MAY 8, 2026**

(Applications must be submitted by the last filing date)

NON-REFUNDABLE \$20.00 APPLICATION FILING FEE MUST ACCOMPANY EACH APPLICATION. APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED ONLINE MUST BE PAID BY CREDIT CARD AT TIME OF FILING.

SPECIAL INVESTIGATOR (CONFIDENTIAL), Rensselaer County. This examination is being held to establish an eligible list and fill future vacancies as they occur.

SALARY: \$77,900.94

GRADE: 20

RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS: Candidates must have been legal residents of Rensselaer County for at least four (4) months immediately preceding the date of examination and at time of appointment.

TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES: (Illustrative only)

- Conducts general investigations;
- May conduct, advise or participate in investigations for other County Departments and other Police Agencies as requested and with the approval of the District Attorney;
- Obtains, receives, logs and makes available for trial all evidence, including all electronic evidence (digital, CD, flash, USB, AXON, & PCMS, etc.) that is required for each case.
- Researches and provides past criminal records and Department of Motor Vehicle (DMV) Histories on defendants by the use of eJustice, PCMS and AXON data;
- Locates, notifies, transports and protects witnesses and prisoners as required;
- Maintains progress reports on all investigations and advises the District Attorney of same;
- Makes arrests;
- Serves warrants and subpoenas;
- Testifies when necessary.
- Assists the legal office with work related travel, transportation, and public appearances.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Graduation from high school and five (5) years of full-time paid experience as a Police Officer at time of appointment, must be certified as a Police Officer by the State of New York as per section 209-q of the General Municipal Law, section 845 of the Executive Law of the State of New York, and 1.20 (34) of the Criminal Procedure Law of the State of New York.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS: Possession of a current valid New York State Class D driver's license issued by the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles at time of appointment and must maintain the license throughout the term of employment.

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

Evaluating information and evidence- These questions test for the ability to evaluate and draw conclusions from information and evidence. Each question consists of a set of facts and a conclusion based on the facts. The candidate must decide if the conclusion is warranted by the facts.

Investigative techniques and criminalistics- These questions test for knowledge of criminal investigation techniques and criminalistics. The questions will deal with, but will not necessarily be restricted to, such concepts as: interviewing; interrogation; evidence gathering and preservation; and surveillance.

New York State Laws- These questions test for knowledge of the laws in effect on January 1, 2025 that law enforcement personnel may encounter in the course of their day-to-day work-related activities. The questions are a sampling of job-related sections of the Penal Law, Criminal Procedure Law, Vehicle and Traffic Law, Family Court Act and other laws relevant to law enforcement in New York State.

Understanding and interpreting written material- These questions test how well you comprehend written material. You will be provided with brief reading selections and will be asked questions about the selections. All the information required to answer the questions will be presented in the selections; you will not be required to have any special knowledge relating to the subject areas of the selections.

Preparing written material in a police setting- These questions test for the ability to prepare the types of reports that police personnel write. Some questions test for the ability to present information clearly and accurately. They consist of restatements of information given in note form. You must choose the best version from each set of four choices. Other questions test for the ability to organize paragraphs. They consist of paragraphs with their sentences out of order. For each of the paragraphs you must choose, from four suggestions, the best order of the sentences.

THE USE OF CALCULATORS IS PROHIBITED FOR THIS EXAMINATION.

CELLPHONE CALCULATORS ARE PROHIBITED

Unless otherwise specified, candidates are permitted to use quiet, handheld solar or battery-powered calculators. Devices with a typewriter keyboard, spell checkers, personal digital assistants, address books, language translators, dictionaries, or any similar devices are prohibited.

Test Guide:

A Guide for the Written Test for **Police Supervisors/Investigators** is available at the New York State website: <https://www.cs.ny.gov/testing/testguides.cfm>. Candidates not having access to a computer or the internet may request copy of the test guide from the municipal civil service office conducting this examination using the contact information found elsewhere on this announcement.

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Each candidate must complete an application form and file it with the Rensselaer County Civil Service Commission, County Office Building, 99 Troy Road, East Greenbush, New York 12061. Applications should be filed as soon as possible after the announcement of the examination. Applications must be submitted online using the Civil Service Portal located on the Rensselaer County website at www.rensco.com. **BE SURE EVERY QUESTION IS ANSWERED. SUBMISSION OF A RESUME INSTEAD OF A COMPLETED APPLICATION IS UNACCEPTABLE. AN INCOMPLETE APPLICATION MAY BE DISAPPROVED. APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AFTER THE LAST FILING DATE.** Please contact our office if you are unable to complete the online application process.
 2. Accepted candidates will be notified by email when and where to appear for examination. No one will be admitted to the examination without the official admission notice. If an application is rejected, you will be notified in writing. The Civil Service Commission does not make formal acknowledgment of receipt of an application. **Email the Civil Service Office if you have not received your notice three (3) days prior to the date of examination. Send emails to: civilservice@renscony.gov.**
 3. Unless otherwise stated, all candidates are required to be legal residents of Rensselaer County for four (4) months immediately preceding the date of examination. Appointing authorities may give preference to legal residents of their jurisdiction. (Candidates who are not residents of Rensselaer County but live within the geographical boundaries of a governmental agency under the jurisdiction of the Rensselaer County Civil Service Commission will be considered residents for examinations held to fill positions in that governmental agency.)
 4. **SENIORITY CREDITS-(PROMOTIONAL EXAMS ONLY)** will be added to an eligible score as follows: Using as a basis six (6) months of continuous permanent or contingent permanent service in the jurisdiction for which the eligible list is being established as an equivalent to 0.1. No seniority credit will be allowed for service in excess of twenty (20) years.
 5. For purposes of claiming veterans credits on a Civil Service examination, an applicant must have received an honorable discharge and have served in the armed forces of the United States at any time during the following periods:

December 7, 1941 to December 31, 1946	June 1, 1983 to December 1, 1987*
June 27, 1950 to January 31, 1955	October 23, 1983 to November 21, 1983
December 22, 1961 to May 7, 1975	December 20, 1989 to January 31, 1990*
August 2, 1990 to end of such hostilities	
- *Credit for Lebanon, Grenada and Panama will be limited to those who receive the armed forces expeditionary medal, the navy expeditionary medal or the Marine Corps expeditionary medal. Veterans wishing to claim additional credit on the examination must make claim when filing application. All veterans making application for additional credit must file a Photostat copy of their discharge papers with applications. A candidate who fails to establish, by appropriate documentary proof, his eligibility to receive additional credit by the time an eligible list is established, shall **not**, thereafter be granted additional credit on such eligible list.
- 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 examination. 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 prove appropriate documentary proof indicating that the service was in time of war, as defined in Section 85 of the 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.
6. 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 (10) points in a competitive examination for original appointments 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 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.

7. 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 dealing with the rating and review of examinations will apply. **VERIFICATION OF QUALIFICATIONS** may be investigated and candidates may be called for an interview to determine whether they are qualified for appointment. 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.
8. Eligible lists will be established in order of final rating for successful candidates and will be established for a period of four (4) years or until the establishment of an appropriate new list.
9. **NOTICE TO CANDIDATES:** Unless otherwise notified, candidates are permitted to use quiet, hand-held solar or battery powered calculators. Cell phone calculators are not permitted. Devices with typewriter keyboards, spell-check, personal digital assistants, address books, language translators, dictionaries or any similar devices are prohibited.
10. **APPLICATION FEE:** A **non-refundable** fee of \$20.00 is required for each separately numbered examination for which you apply. Certain examinations will require a \$30.00 filing fee. **The required examination fee listed on pg.1 of this announcement must be paid online at time of filing each application.** 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.
11. **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, you must complete a "Request for Application Fee Waiver and Certification" form **and provide the required documents with your application** by the application deadline as listed on the Examination announcement. The Examination Fee Waiver Request and Certification Form is available at time of submitting your online application. Application Fee Waiver and Certification Forms **WILL NOT** be accepted after the last filing date of an examination or without the required documentation.
12. **ANTICIPATED ELIGIBILITY:** 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 Rensselaer County Civil Service office. 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 Rensselaer County Civil Service office.
13. **ALTERNATE TEST DATE POLICY:** It is the policy of the Rensselaer Civil Service Commission to provide an alternate test date to those candidates who are unable to appear on the regularly scheduled test date due to compelling circumstances. Such as an emergency or conflict between the announced date that is beyond his or her control. However, a candidate should make every effort to appear on the announced date. To request an alternate test date, contact the Rensselaer County Civil Service Commission as soon as possible.

NOTE: For emergency situations or illness, which occurs on the scheduled written test date, the candidate must notify the Rensselaer County Civil Service Office no later than close of business Monday following the Saturday on which the test was held.

**THE TEST CANNOT, UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES, BE ADMINISTERED ONCE A CANDIDATE HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH OTHER CANDIDATES OR AFTER THE PRE-RATING REVIEW.
AN EXAMINATION CANNOT BE ADMINISTERED PRIOR TO THE SCHEDULED DATE.**
14. **CROSS FILER STATEMENT:** If you have applied for any other civil service exams to be given on the same test date for employment with NY State or any other local government jurisdiction (excluding NYC), you must make arrangements to take all the exams at one test site. If you have applied for both State and local government exams to be held on the same date, you must notify the Rensselaer County Civil Service Commission of your intent to take both a State and local government examination, no less than two (2) weeks before the date of the exam. When taking both a State and a local government examination you will be required to take all your examinations at a State examination center. If you have applied for other local government exams, call or write to each civil service agency to make exam site arrangements. You must make your request for these arrangements no later than two (2) weeks before the date of the exams. You must notify all government civil service agencies with whom you have filed an application of the test site at which you wish to take your examination.
15. **RELIGIOUS ACCOMODATIONS:** Most written tests are held on Saturdays. If you cannot take the test on the announced test date due to a conflict with a religious observance or practice, check the appropriate box under "Religious Accommodations" on your application. We will make arrangements for you to take the test on a different date.