

Schenectady County Is An Equal Opportunity Employer

Open Competitive Examination

Exam Title: **Firefighter**
City of Schenectady
The resulting eligible list will be used to fill vacancies as needed.

Exam Number: 60038-950

Salary Range: $49,067 - $78,399 (2025)

Last Date for Filing: November 24, 2025

Date of Examination: January 10, 2026

Residency Requirement: Immediately preceding the date of the written test and appointment, candidates must have been legal residents of New York State for at least one (1) month. Preference in appointment may be given to successful candidates who have been legal residents of the City of Schenectady for at least one month immediately preceding the date of certification and at the time of appointment.

Duties: This position involves responsibility for performing the functions of firefighting and prevention, as well as providing emergency medical services. Incumbents drive and operate specially equipped medical emergency vehicles and motor driven firefighting equipment. General supervision is received from a higher-ranking officer. Routine maintenance and custodial work on station and equipment is also performed under general supervision and inspected upon completion. The incumbent does related work as required.

Minimum Qualifications: (on the date of the written test)

Graduation from high school or possession of a high school equivalency diploma.

AGE REQUIREMENT: Candidates must be at least 18 years of age at time of examination.

DATE OF BIRTH MUST BE ON APPLICATION

OVER

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS: (AT TIME OF APPOINTMENT)

1. Candidate must be 19 years of age.
2. Possession of a valid current certificate as an Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (A-EMT-P, EMT-Paramedic) issued by the New York State Health Department in accordance with part 800, Chapter VI of the State Emergency Medical Services Code.
3. Possession of appropriate level motor vehicle operator's license issued by the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles.
4. Must maintain New York State Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (A-EMT-P, EMT-Paramedic) certification throughout employment.
5. Must maintain the appropriate motor vehicle operator's license throughout employment.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENT AT COMPLETION OF PROBATIONARY PERIOD:

Successful completion of Fire Academy training and certification as a PRO-BOARD Class A Firefighter.

Anticipated eligibility:

According to Civil Service Law, section 54 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. You must provide proof that you are within a year of meeting the age and/or the educational requirements.

This examination will consist of three parts:

Part 1: Written Exam
Part 2: Firefighter Physical Ability Test (FPAT)
Part 3: Medical Exam

Part 1: Written Exam

Ability to learn and apply information

These questions test for the ability to learn new information and apply it to answer questions effectively. Candidates will read information presented in a Training Lesson and then answer questions regarding the information and procedures covered in the Training Lesson. All information needed to answer the questions will be provided in the Training Lesson, and candidates will be able to refer to the Training Lesson when answering the questions. Some of the questions may require candidates to combine information from different portions of what has been learned in the Training Lesson. No prior knowledge of any specific job or subject matter is needed.

Basic arithmetic

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This section requires candidates to use basic arithmetic (add, subtract, multiply, divide) to find a missing value in a table of numbers. Candidates will not need to refer to the Training Lesson or any other section of the test to answer the questions in this section. All information needed to answer each question will be contained in this section. No knowledge of firefighting or any other job is required. **Candidates should bring a hand-held battery- or solar-powered calculator for use on this test.** Candidates will **not** be permitted to use the **calculator** function on their **cell phone**.

Reading comprehension

These questions test for the ability to understand written materials (e.g., sentences, passages) and answer questions about the information presented. Candidates will be provided with reading passages, followed by questions related to each passage. Each question will require candidates to demonstrate that they have read and understood the information contained in the passage.

Situational judgment

This section tests for the ability to identify appropriate and effective responses to work-related challenges. Candidates will be presented with several scenarios that reflect the types of challenges one could encounter in a work environment. They will then be asked to rate the effectiveness of a number of possible responses to each scenario.

Test guide:

A Guide for the Written Test for **Firefighter** 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.

Use of Calculators: It is ***recommended*** that calculators be used for this examination. 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.

Part 2: Firefighter Physical Ability Test (FPAT)

The Firefighter Physical Ability Test (FPAT) is a qualifying test and consists of six separate events requiring you to progress along a predetermined path from event to event in a continuous manner. The events are stair climb, hose drag, equipment carry, forcible entry, search, and rescue. Detailed information about the Firefighter Physical Ability Test (FPAT) will be provided to candidates prior to the ability test date.

A candidate who fails the Firefighter Physical Ability Test (FPAT) will be able to retest once per calendar year.

Qualification on the Firefighter Physical Ability Test (FPAT) will be good for a period of one year from the date taken. If not appointed within the one-year time, candidates will be required to be tested again.

Part 3: Medical Exam

It shall be a condition of employment that candidates successfully pass a medical examination which follows the specifications of the NFPA (National Fire Protection Association).

Note: The written exam is both qualifying and ranking. The scores on the written test will be the final scores, and will be used to rank candidates on the eligible list. **Parts 2 and 3** are qualifying only and will be rated pass/fail. Candidates must pass **all** parts of the exam to be considered eligible for appointment. Only a sufficient number of candidates will be tested on the qualifying portion of the exam as needed to produce enough eligibles to meet departmental needs throughout the lifetime of the list.

MEDICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SCREENING EXAMINATIONS: Candidates who achieve a passing score on the written test and the physical agility fitness test will be required by the appointing authority to participate in a medical exam and a psychological screening process. If a candidate fails the medical exam or the psychological screening, he/she may be disqualified and permanently removed from the civil service eligible list for this title.

REMOVAL AND DISQUALIFICATION: Removals and disqualifications from the eligible list or from appointment shall be in accordance with New York State Civil Service Law Section 50.4.

Failure to appear at any scheduled portion of this examination will result in your removal from further consideration in the examination process and eligibility on the list.

Background Investigation: Candidates 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.

Any appointees will be required to pass a Candidate Physical Ability Test at the end of Fire Academy.

Applying For Civil Service Examinations In Multiple Jurisdictions When Examinations Are Scheduled On Same Date

If you have applied for any other civil service examinations to be given on the same test date for employment with New York State or any other Local Government Jurisdiction excluding New York City, you must make arrangements to take all the examinations at one test site.

If you have applied for both **State** and **Local** government examinations, you must notify our agency, **Schenectady County Civil Service**, of your intent to take both a state and a local government examination. When taking both a **state** and a **local** government examination you will be required to take all your examinations **at a state examination center**. You must complete a **cross-filer form** indicating what exams you have applied for and we will notify New York State Civil Service of your intent. You will be advised when and where to report for your examinations.

If you have applied for more than one **Local Government Examination** with more than one **Local Civil Service Agency**, you must notify each civil service agency to make arrangements. Schenectady County has a **cross-filer form** which you must complete. You must make your request for these arrangements no later than **two weeks** before the date of the examinations. On the cross-filer form you will indicate all exams you have signed up to take and the location you wish to be tested at. If you have questions regarding this examination call (518) 388-4233 or write to Schenectady County Civil Service Commission, 620 State Street, Schenectady, NY 12305.

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You are encouraged to read the General Conditions and Instructions Attachment

Date released: 10/21/25

Schenectady County Civil Service Examinations

General Conditions and Instructions

1. **Application Forms**. Applications may be obtained at the Schenectady County Civil Service Office or on the Civil Service Department website at www.schenectadycounty.com. Candidates will be notified of the time and place of the examination.

2. **Application Deadline**. Applications postmarked after midnight of the last filing date will not be considered eligible for this examination.

3. **Change of Address.** You must notify the Civil Service Office of any change of address.

4. **Special Rights for Military Personnel**.

   - **Application Filing Period Extension.** Individuals serving on active duty in the armed forces during the filing period for a civil service examination, or individuals who have been discharged with other than a dishonorable discharge after the filing period has commenced will be permitted to file an application for examination no later than ten business days before the scheduled examination date, or the last date to file, whichever is later.

   - **Make Up Examination.** Any member of the armed forces who properly filed, within the announced filing period, an application for a competitive examination but was unable to participate in the examination due to active military service, will be provided with a special make-up examination under the terms and conditions deemed appropriate by the New York State Department of Civil Service and/or the Schenectady County Civil Service Commission.

5. **Examination Fee**. No examination fee will be collected for all examinations held in 2026. All examination fees are being covered by the Schenectady County Legislature. 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.

6. **2026 Examination Fee Waiver Form**. Even though examination fees will be waived for 2026, those applicants who are unemployed and primarily responsible for the support of a household, those applicants who are receiving SSI or public assistance (TANF, Family Assistance or Safety Net Assistance), or those applicants certified as JTPA / WIA eligible must complete the **Fee Waiver Form** and attach it to your application. This form can be obtained at the Civil Service Office or on the Civil Service Department website at www.schenectadycounty.com.

7. **Special Testing Arrangements**. If you need a special arrangement or accommodation to take the examination for one of the reasons outlined below, please check the appropriate box on the Examination Application and contact the Civil Service Office at (518) 388-4233.

   - **Religious Accommodations**. Most written exams are held on Saturdays. If you cannot take the exam on the announced date due to a conflict with a religious observation or practice, arrangements will be made so that you can take the examination on an alternate date.

   - **Reasonable Accommodation for Individuals with a Disability**. A reasonable accommodation will be made for individuals with a disability during the application and examination process. You must provide documentation as to the accommodation you need to apply for and/or take the examination.

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- **Other Reasons**. An alternate exam date may be requested for one of the following reasons. Documentation supporting the request will be required.

  1. A death in the immediate family or household within the week preceding the exam date.
  2. Medical emergencies involving the candidate or member(s) of the candidate's immediate family.
  3. Military Orders (a copy of the orders is required).
  4. Wedding – must be a member of the wedding party or an immediate family member of the bride or groom.
  5. Vacation for which a non-refundable down payment was made before the exam announcement was issued.
  6. If an employee of the Unified Communications Center and mandated to work during the exam or mandated to work the shift immediately prior to the exam. Sufficiency of proof is at the discretion of the Civil Service Office. Employees must agree to take the exam prior to returning back to work after the exam has been given and have no exposure to exam material, other candidates who have taken the exam, and have no other members of their household also taking the exam.

8. **Notice to Appear for Examination**. Accepted candidates will be notified when and where to appear for the examination. If an application is disapproved, due notice will be sent.

9. **Failure to Appear for Exam**. Candidates who fail to appear for the exam as scheduled will be eliminated from further consideration for this competitive examination.

10. **Use of Calculators**. Unless otherwise notified, 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 material to the test site.

11. **Examination Preparation and Rating**. 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 of examinations will apply to this written examination.

12. **Eligible List**. The minimum qualifications listed in this announcement have been approved by the Schenectady County Civil Service Commission for the purpose of evaluating a candidate's education, training and experience to determine admission to this examination. This examination is being conducted to establish a Civil Service Eligible List which will be certified to appointing authorities to fill available vacancies. Candidates whose names are certified for appointment have only met the minimum qualifications to take the examination. All candidates who pass the examination will be placed on an eligible list. Unless otherwise specified, the final rank order of the eligible list will be determined on the basis of the scores received on the written test, plus Veterans Credits and Seniority Credits where appropriate. The eligible list established as a result of this examination will be established for four years, but may expire after one year if superseded by a new list.

13. **Application Verification and Background Checks** – Statements made on the Examination Application are subject to verification. A clearance from the Commissioner of Education will be required for employment within a school district for those positions that are designated by the school district as having direct contact with students.

14. Persons holding a permanent position in this title, in this department are not eligible for admittance to this examination.

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15. **Veterans Credits**. The following information and instructions pertain to those candidates who are claiming Veterans Credits. **Please note that Veterans Credits will not be granted after the establishment of the eligible list.**

- If you are claiming Veterans Credits as either a disabled or non-disabled veteran, you must check the appropriate box on the ***Application for Examination*** form and answer all questions accurately and completely. You must also complete the ***Application for Veterans Credits*** (obtained in the Schenectady County Civil Service Office or on the Civil Service Department website at www.schenectadycounty.com), and submit the DD-214 Discharge Papers showing that you have an honorable discharge. Failure to do so may result in a denial of your claim for Veterans Credits.

- If you are claiming credits as a disabled veteran, you must in addition to meeting the requirements as indicated on the Examination Application, be certified by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs as being disabled in the actual performance of duty in any war; that the disability is rated at ten percent or more, and that the disability exists at the time of application for appointment or promotion.

- All claims for Veterans Credits are tentative and must be verified through inspection of discharge papers and related documents prior to the establishment of the eligible list. All statements you make in support of your claim for Veterans Credits are subject to investigation and substantiation by the Schenectady County Civil Service Commission. In the event of subsequent disclosure of any material misstatement or fraud in your claim, your appointment may be rescinded and you may be disqualified from further appointment on which you have been granted additional credits as a result of such material misstatement or fraud.

- Any candidate who is currently serving in the armed forces of the United States on a full-time active duty basis, other than active duty for training, may file for Veterans Credits on an examination **prior to the list being established.**

- **Conditional Veterans Credits**. A qualified candidate receiving Conditional Veterans Credits will be restricted from certification using the credits until the appropriate documentary proof indicating that the service was in time of war and that the individual received an honorable discharge or was released under honorable circumstances has been presented. It is the candidate's responsibility to provide such proof to the Schenectady County Civil Service Office in order to have the restriction removed and be certified at a score including the Veterans Credits. Until such documentation is submitted, a candidate may only be certified with the examination score, not including the Veterans Credits.

- **Additional Veterans Credits.** Effective January 1, 2014, additional Veterans Credits may be granted to veterans who:

    1. Used <u>Non-Disabled</u> Veterans Credits to obtain a civil service appointment or promotion with New York State or a local government; and

    2. Subsequent to such appointment, are certified by the US Department of Veterans Affairs as having a service connected disability rated at 10% or more.

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16. **Seniority Credits (Promotional Exams Only)**. Seniority Credits will be added to an eligible score based on continuous permanent competitive class service in the jurisdiction holding the examination. Service would be credited up to and including the date of examination as follows:

No. of Years	Credits	No. of Years	Credits	No. of Years	Credits
Less than 1 year	0	6 to 10 years	2	16 to 20 years	4
1 to 5 years	1	11 to 15 years	3	21 to 25 years	5

Each additional 5 years will be credited 1 point in accordance with the above schedule.

17. **Additional Credits for Eligible Children or Siblings of Firefighters and Police Officers Killed in the Line of Duty**. If you are either a child or sibling of Firefighter or Police Officer killed in the line of duty as defined in Civil Service Law Sections 85-a or b (see below), you may be entitled to receive an additional ten points in a competitive examination for original appointment in the same municipality in which the deceased firefighter or police officer had served. 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. **You must contact this office regarding these credits upon submission or your application for examination.**

- **Civil Service Law Section 85-a**. Children of firefighters and police officers killed in the line of duty are eligible for these additional credits.

- **Civil Service Law Section 85-b.** Siblings of Firefighters and Police Officers killed in line of duty (World Trade Center, September 11, 2001) are eligible for these additional credits. Pursuant to CSL §85-b, “killed in the line of duty” shall mean having died in the performance of duty as the natural and proximate results of participation in the rescue effort that was conducted in response to such attack.