



CITY OF ITHACA

108 East Green Street Ithaca, New York 14850-5690

OFFICE OF HUMAN RESOURCES / CIVIL SERVICE

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POLICE CHIEF – TYPE C OPEN-COMPETITIVE EXAM NO. 60043280

APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED UNTIL:

January 15, 2026

EXAMINATION WILL BE HELD:

February 28, 2026

ACCEPTANCE OF APPLICATIONS: Applications must be received by the City of Ithaca Human Resources Department no later than 4:30 PM EST on the last filing date indicated above. Applications must be submitted electronically through our online application program at <https://ithaca-portal.mycivilservice.com>. We do not accept paper applications, faxed applications, e-mailed applications or photocopies of applications.

APPLICATION MATERIALS REQUIRED: A City of Ithaca application, copy of high school transcript, and copy of driver license.

VACANCIES: Currently, there are no vacancies in the City of Ithaca Police Department. The eligible list established as a result of this examination may be used to fill this vacancy and any future vacancies that may occur during the life of the eligible list.

RESIDENCY: There are no residency requirements for this position. Preference in certification may be given to candidates who are residents of the municipality in which appointment is to be made, provided that the candidate is a resident of such municipality at the time of examination and remains a resident of such municipality continuously thereafter, up to and including the dates of certification and appointment.

SALARY: \$126,250 - \$151,500

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: This is the principal administrative position of the Police Department. The position provides administrative oversight to the Police Department and maintains collaborative relationships with the County-wide public safety dispatch center and other regional law enforcement agencies, as well as mental health and human service providers and law enforcement assisted diversion programs. The work involves significant community engagement and public involvement with elected officials, educational institutions, residents (especially communities disproportionately impacted by law enforcement), neighborhood groups, and other governmental agencies and City departments. The Police Chief has complete charge and responsibility for all police functions and requires exceptional ability to plan and direct law enforcement activities on a large scale. This position is responsible for transformational leadership for police operations and is focused on community and law enforcement partnerships, and problem solving. The Police Chief is also responsible for seeing that the police force is thoroughly trained and that high standards are maintained. As a member of the City's senior management team, the Police Chief collaborates with the Mayor's Office, City Council, and other City departments on strategy and policy to ensure that the City's mission

and core values are incorporated into operational activities and services. The work is performed under the general direction of the Mayor, in accordance with federal and state law and regulations, inter-local and agency agreements, the City's municipal code, policies, and procedures, and the objectives and priorities of the Mayor and Common Council. General supervision is exercised over the activities of all subordinate members of the police force and civilian personnel. Does related work as required.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- A. Possession of a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice, Police Science, Criminology or a closely related field with similar course curriculum and four (4) years of progressively responsible law enforcement experience, at least two (2) years of which must have been at or above the second-line supervisory level; or
- B. Possession of an Associate's Degree in Criminal Justice, Police Science, Criminology or a closely related field with similar course curriculum and six (6) years of progressively responsible law enforcement experience, at least two (2) years of which must have been at or above the second-line supervisory level; or
- C. Graduation from high school or possession of a high school equivalency diploma and eight (8) years of progressively responsible law enforcement experience, at least two (2) years of which must have been at or above the second-line supervisory level.

NOTE: "Second-line" supervision refers to the second level of supervisory authority in an agency. For the purpose of these qualifications, it must include the supervision of supervisory law enforcement officers. In the Ithaca Police Department, for example, it would equate to the level of Police Lieutenant. Second-line supervisory experience must have been gained through an actual appointment into a second-line supervisory position. "Acting" or "out-of-title" second-line supervisory experience is not qualifying experience.

Note: College degrees must have been awarded by a college or university accredited by a regional, national, or specialized agency recognized as an accrediting agency by the U.S. Department of Education and/or U.S. Secretary of Education. If an applicant's degree was awarded by an educational institution outside the United States and its territories, the applicant must provide independent verification of equivalency. A list of acceptable companies who provide this service can be found at <https://www.cs.ny.gov/jobseeker/degrees.cfm>. Applicants are responsible for payment of the required evaluation fee.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:

- 1. Possession of a valid New York State Class D driver license or a valid driver license equivalent to a New York State Class D driver license at the time of appointment and maintenance of said license for the duration of employment.
- 2. Notwithstanding the provisions of any other section of law, general, special or local, in political subdivisions maintaining a police department serving a population of one hundred fifty thousand or less, no person shall be appointed to any rank above the rank of police officer unless he or she has been appointed a police officer from an eligible list established according to merit and fitness as provided by Section 6 of Article V of the Constitution of the State of New York, or has previously served as a member of the New York State Police.

If you expect to complete the educational requirement within six (6) months of the date of examination, you can be admitted to this examination. If successful on the examination, you will not be certified for appointment until you have submitted proof of completion of the requirements to the Civil Service Commission. Proof must be submitted within eight months of the date of examination. Failure to do so will result in removal of your name from the eligible list.

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.

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

1. Knowledge of law enforcement methods, practices, and procedures

These questions test for knowledge of accepted police methods and practices and/or their application to situations in the police field. The questions are a sampling of the various knowledge that police personnel may be required to possess in the course of their day-to-day, work-related activities. Areas covered include investigation procedures, patrol techniques, police-community relations, courtroom procedures, personnel practices, policy making and budgeting procedures.

2. Knowledge of New York State laws – Criminal

These questions test the candidates' knowledge of the laws in effect on January 1, 2026. This portion of the test is a sampling of the various sections of the law that police personnel may encounter in the course of their day-to-day work-related activities. Laws covered may include the Penal Law, Criminal Procedure Law, Vehicle and Traffic Law, Family Court Act, and other laws relevant to law enforcement in New York State.

3. Police Administrative Supervision and Administration

These questions test for the knowledge of managerial functions involved in directing the operations of a B or C level police department as well as the knowledge of the principles and practices involved in supervising a large subordinate staff, including subordinate supervisors. These questions cover such areas as: developing objectives and formulating policies; forecasting and planning; organizing and coordinating; informing and instructing; guiding and leading; decision-making and problem solving; communicating effectively; staffing and staff development; time management; assigning work and evaluating performance; handling conflict and grievances; and budgeting.

4. Job simulation exercises in police administration

This job simulation exercise will cover such areas as: human resources management, prioritizing, problem-solving, public relations, and police procedure.

5. 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.

6. 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.

7. Job simulation exercise in police command

This job simulation exercise will cover such areas as: management of operations, decision-making under pressure, public relations, and police procedure.

A Guide for the Written Test for **Police Chief/Assistant Chief** 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.

NOTE: Most Civil Service examinations do not require the use of a quiet, hand-held calculator or slide rule; however, candidates have the option of bringing a battery-operated or solar-powered calculator to the test room unless specifically notified that their use is prohibited. Devices with typewriter keyboards, spell checkers, Personal Digital Assistants, Address Books, Language Translators, Dictionaries, or any similar devices are prohibited. **USE OF CALCULATORS IS PROHIBITED FOR THIS EXAM.**

RELIGIOUS ACCOMMODATION - CANDIDATES WITH DISABILITIES - MILITARY MEMBERS:

—— Applicants whose religious beliefs or military service prevent their taking examinations on the scheduled date and candidates with disabilities who require special accommodations to take the test should indicate the need for special arrangements on their application. Candidates who are called to military service after filing an application should send requests for an alternate test date to the City of Ithaca Human Resources/Civil Service Department before the test date.

—— 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 City of Ithaca Human Resources/Civil Service 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.

SECTION 23.2 STATEMENT: 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.

TIME AND PLACE OF THE EXAMINATION: Approved candidates will be notified by mail regarding the time and place of the examination. If notice of approval or disapproval is not received three (3) days

prior to the exam date, please call the City of Ithaca Human Resources/Civil Service Department at (607) 274-6539.

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. All examinations for positions in State government will be held at a State examination center.

VETERANS CREDIT: Veterans or disabled veterans who are eligible for additional credit must submit an application for veterans 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 veterans credit are available from this office. Veterans 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 veterans 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 of military service, and verification that the candidate received an honorable discharge or was released under honorable conditions in order to be certified at a score including veterans credits.

ADDITIONAL CREDIT FOR CHILDREN OF FIREFIGHTERS AND POLICE OFFICERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY: 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.

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS AND INFORMATION

1. Falsification of any part of your employment application will result in disqualification.
2. Applicants must answer every question on the application and make sure that the application is complete in all respects. Incomplete applications will be disapproved.
3. Candidates who wish to take more than one examination must submit an application for each examination. If you are cross-filing for another examination to be held on the same date, please indicate this on the application and specify the examination title and number, and the jurisdiction offering the other examination.

4. Appointments from an eligible list must be made from the top three candidates willing to accept appointment. The duration of an eligible list may be fixed for a minimum period of one (1) year and a maximum period of four (4) years.
5. It is the responsibility of the candidate to notify the City of Ithaca Human Resources/Civil Service Department of any change in address. No attempt will be made to locate candidates who have moved.

Issued by: City of Ithaca Civil Service Commission
November 20, 2025

The City of Ithaca is committed to Equity and Inclusion. We encourage those with similar values to apply.