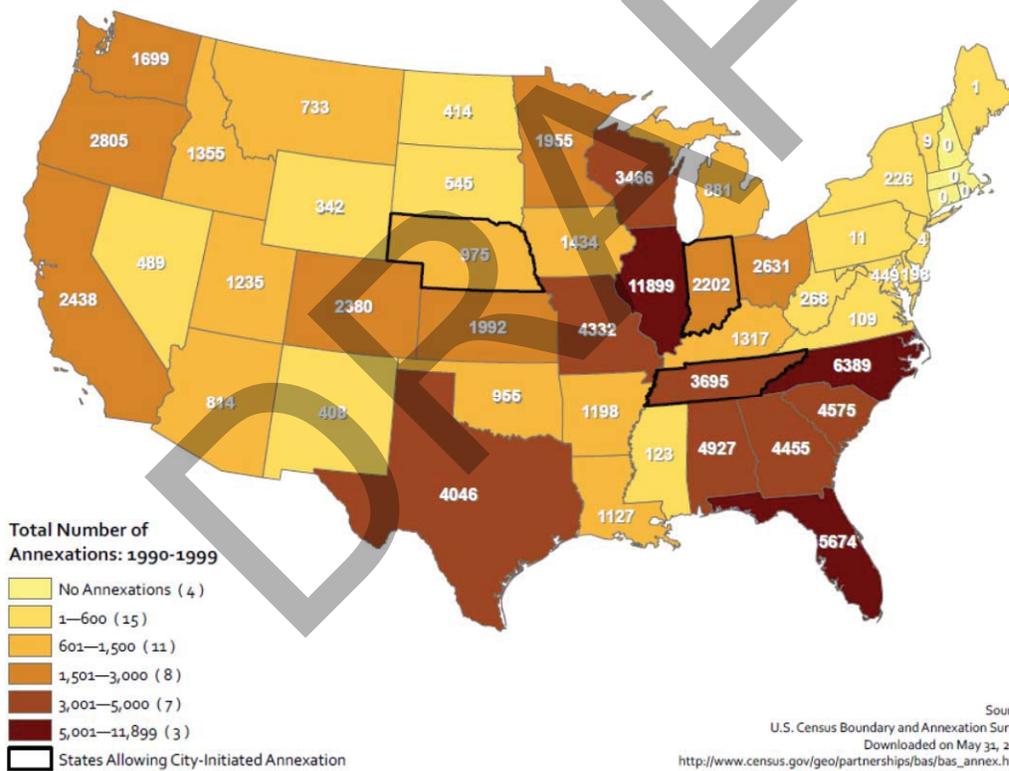


## Appendix C. How Does Annexation in Tennessee Compare to Other States?

### *Did PC 1101 have an effect?*

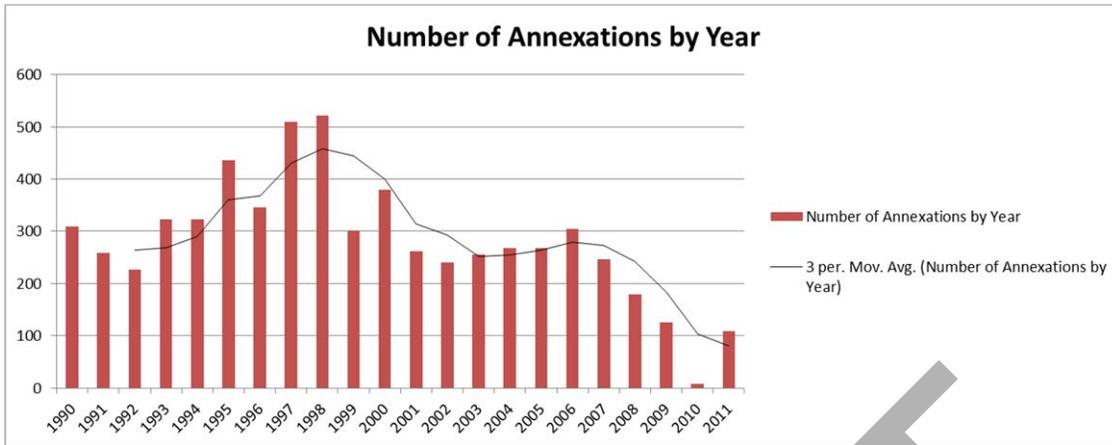
Passed by the General Assembly in 1998, Tennessee’s Growth Policy Act—known as Public Chapter 1101—required counties and their associated municipalities to come together to develop countywide growth plans. The purpose of the Act was to establish a comprehensive growth policy for the state that would eliminate annexation and incorporation out of fear, as well as to encourage annexation and development where appropriate, minimizing urban sprawl.<sup>1</sup> In order to determine the efficacy of Tennessee’s growth planning policies, it is important to compare Tennessee to other states both before the passage of the Act and since.

While the Growth Policy Act was enacted in 1998, the first county growth plans were not approved until January, 2000.<sup>2</sup> To answer the question of whether annexations have increased or decreased since adoption of the Act, we looked at US Census Boundary and Annexation Survey data from 1990-1999, and from 2000-2009.



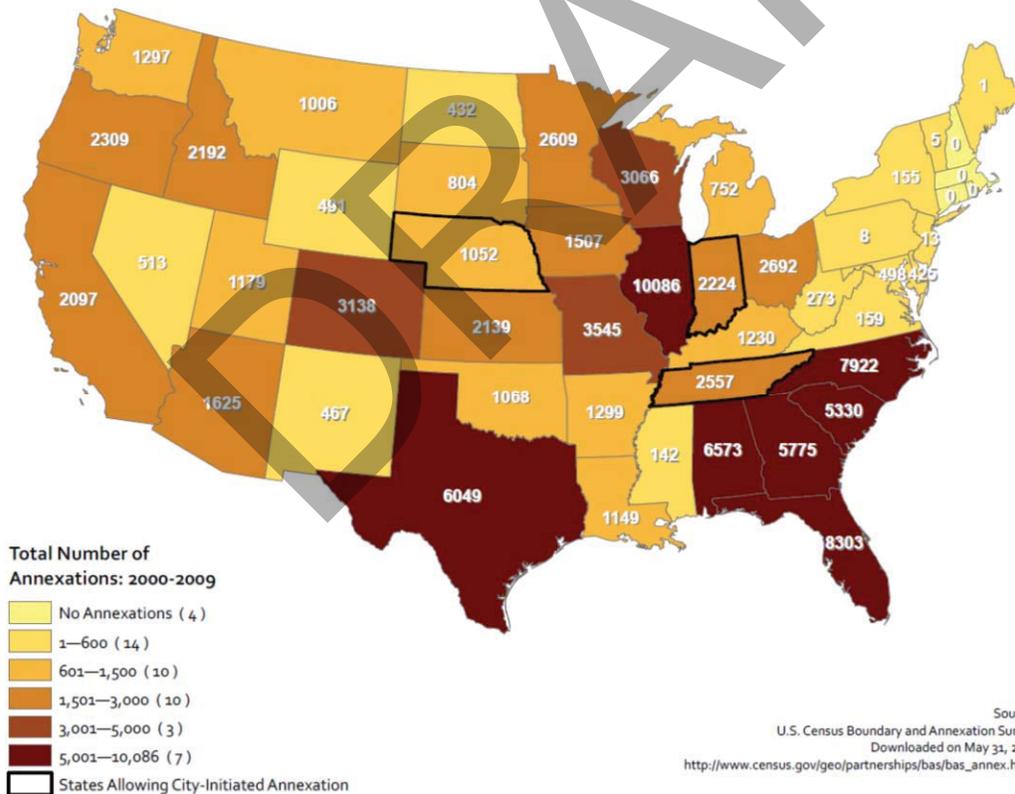
<sup>1</sup> <http://state.tn.us/sos/acts/100/pub/PUBC1101.htm>

<sup>2</sup> <http://tn.gov/tacir/Growth/growthplanapprovals.html>



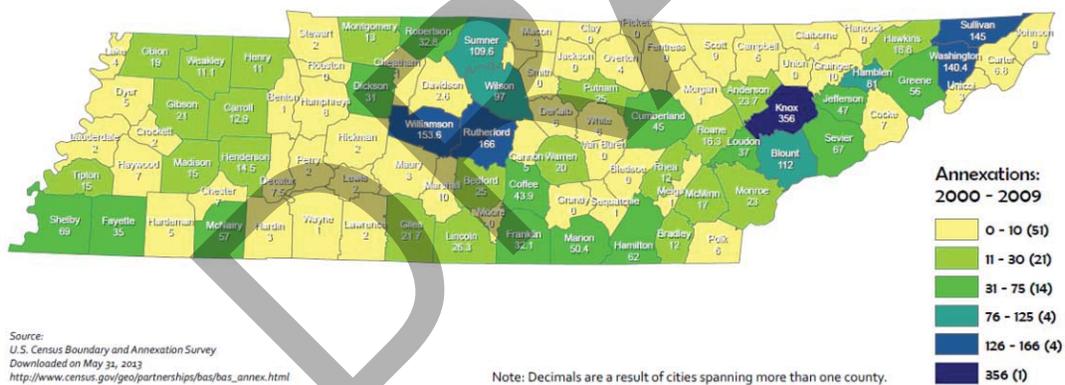
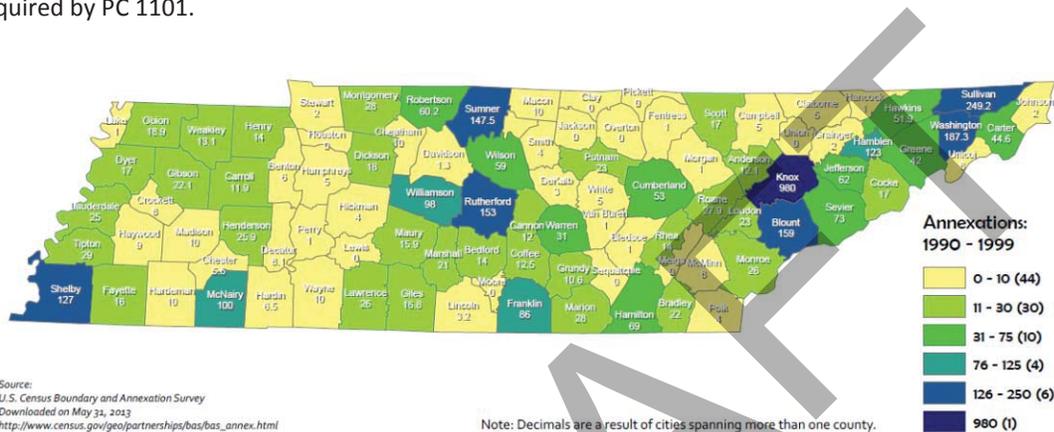
With 3,695 annexations statewide from 1990-1999, Tennessee ranked 9<sup>th</sup> among the 50 states for that time period. There were more annexations in Tennessee than in the other two states allowing cities to annex by ordinance of their own initiative without referendum. However, there were fewer annexations in Tennessee than there were in neighboring Southeast states.

For the years 2000-2009, Tennessee had 2,557 annexations—and its position among the 50 states fell to

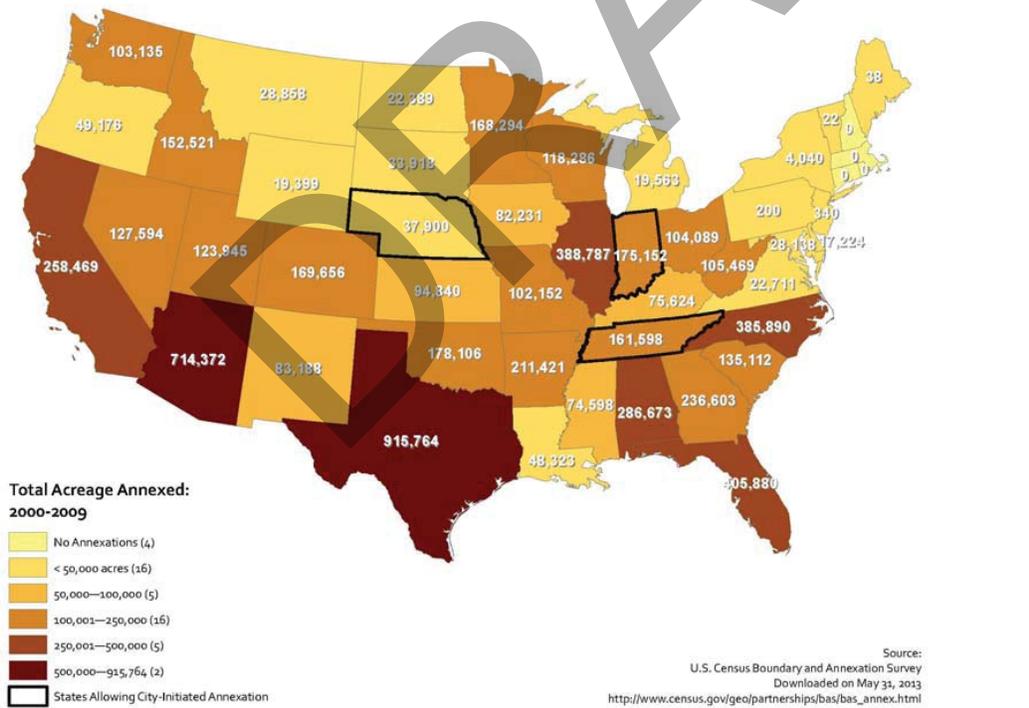
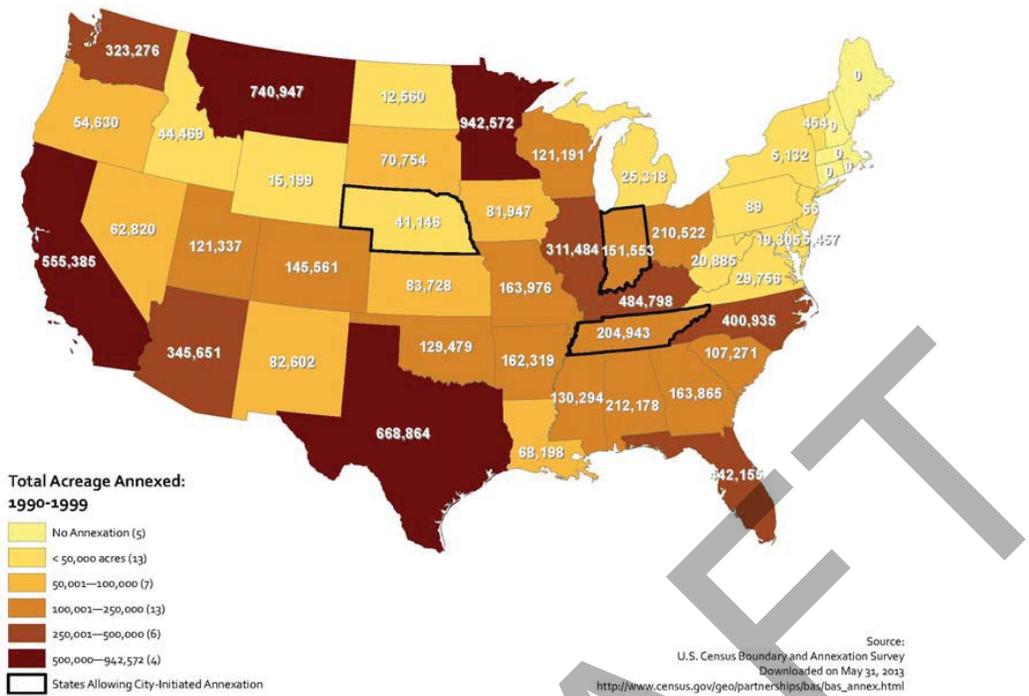


13<sup>th</sup>. This downward trend occurred while the other states in the fast-growing southeast continued to see their numbers of annexations increase. The other two states with laws allowing cities to annex by ordinance without referendum saw a slight increase in their number of annexations over this time as well. For the country as a whole, annexation rates were about the same over both time periods. It would appear that the changes implemented by Public Chapter 1101 had an influence on the rate of annexation in Tennessee compared to other states.

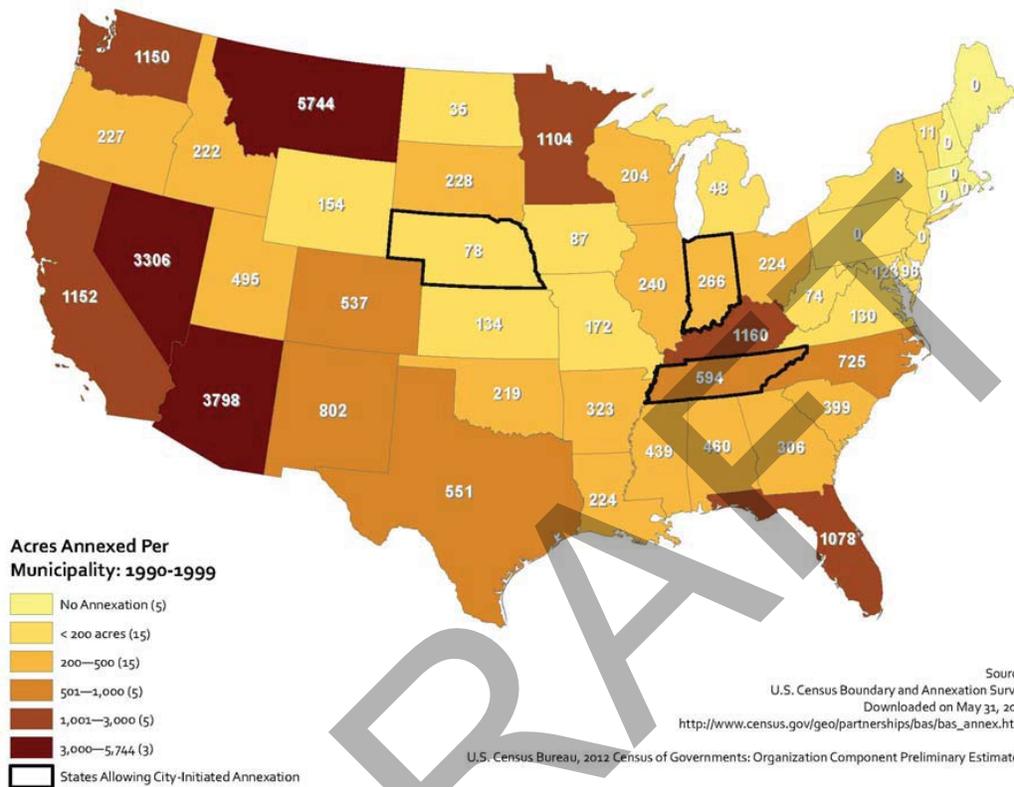
Among Tennessee’s 95 counties, 32 saw an increase in the number of annexations from 2000-2009 compared to 1990-1999. Sixty-three counties had fewer annexations after adopting growth plans required by PC 1101.



The amount of land being annexed (acreage) in Tennessee has also decreased since counties began adopting growth plans in 2000. However, Tennessee’s position among all states has not changed much in this measure, as the amount of land being annexed across all states has decreased as well. From 1990-1999, cities in Tennessee annexed 204,943 acres of land, placing Tennessee 13<sup>th</sup> among 44 states that reported annexing some acreage during the time period. The average state annexed 184,156 acres. The total acreage annexed by Tennessee cities dropped to 161,598 for the years 2000-2009. This ranked Tennessee 14<sup>th</sup> among 45 states reporting acres annexed. The average among all states fell to 147,494 for the time period.



An additional way to compare annexation numbers across different states is to look at them in relation to the number of municipalities a state has. Since it is cities that execute annexations, it makes sense to look at them from this perspective. According to the US Census Bureau’s 2012 Census of Governments, Tennessee has 345 municipalities. Three states have over a thousand.



In the years before growth plans were adopted, Tennessee cities were annexing more acres of land than most neighboring states, but still fewer than Kentucky, North Carolina and Florida. From 2000-2009, after counties began adopting their growth plans, we have seen that the amount of land being annexed did decrease. Some neighboring states saw an increase in the amount of land their cities were annexing during this time period.

