



Winter Storm & Bitter Cold This Weekend

January 21, 2026

1:40 PM

Confidence Continues to Increase in Moderate to Major Impacts in the Ozarks this Weekend

Key Messages

- A **Winter Storm Watch** has been issued areawide in anticipation of a large winter storm that will track through the region and bring impactful, accumulating snow Friday through Sunday.
- Dangerous cold will accompany this system, bringing single digit lows & below-zero wind chills through at least next Tuesday.

NEW

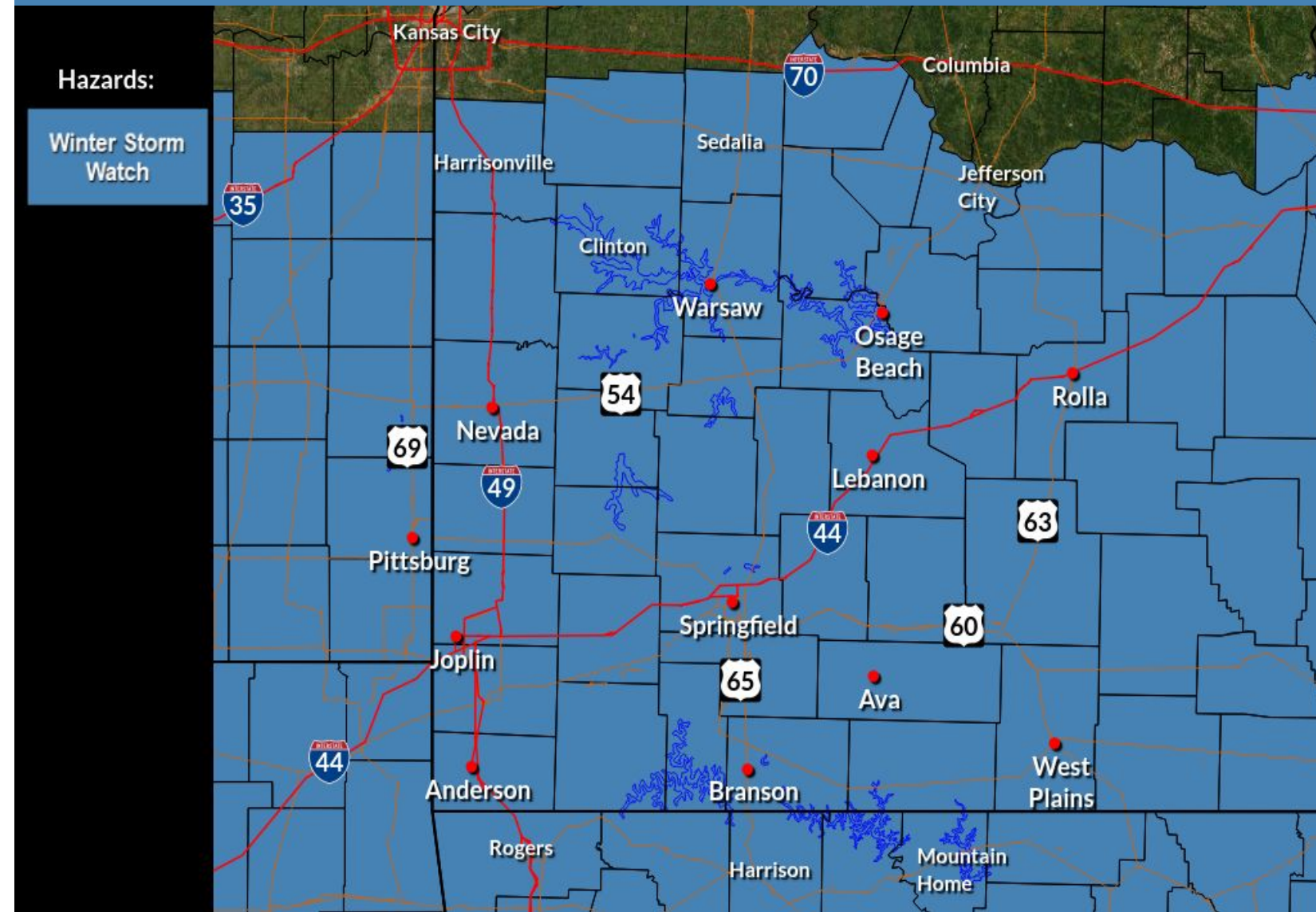
Important Updates

- Winter Storm Watch expanded across the entire area.
- There is a northward trend in the forecast track of this system, which would likely mean greater snow amounts for our area.

Next Scheduled Briefing

- By 5 AM Thursday

Winter Storm Watch 12 PM Friday - 12 PM Sunday



National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Springfield, MO

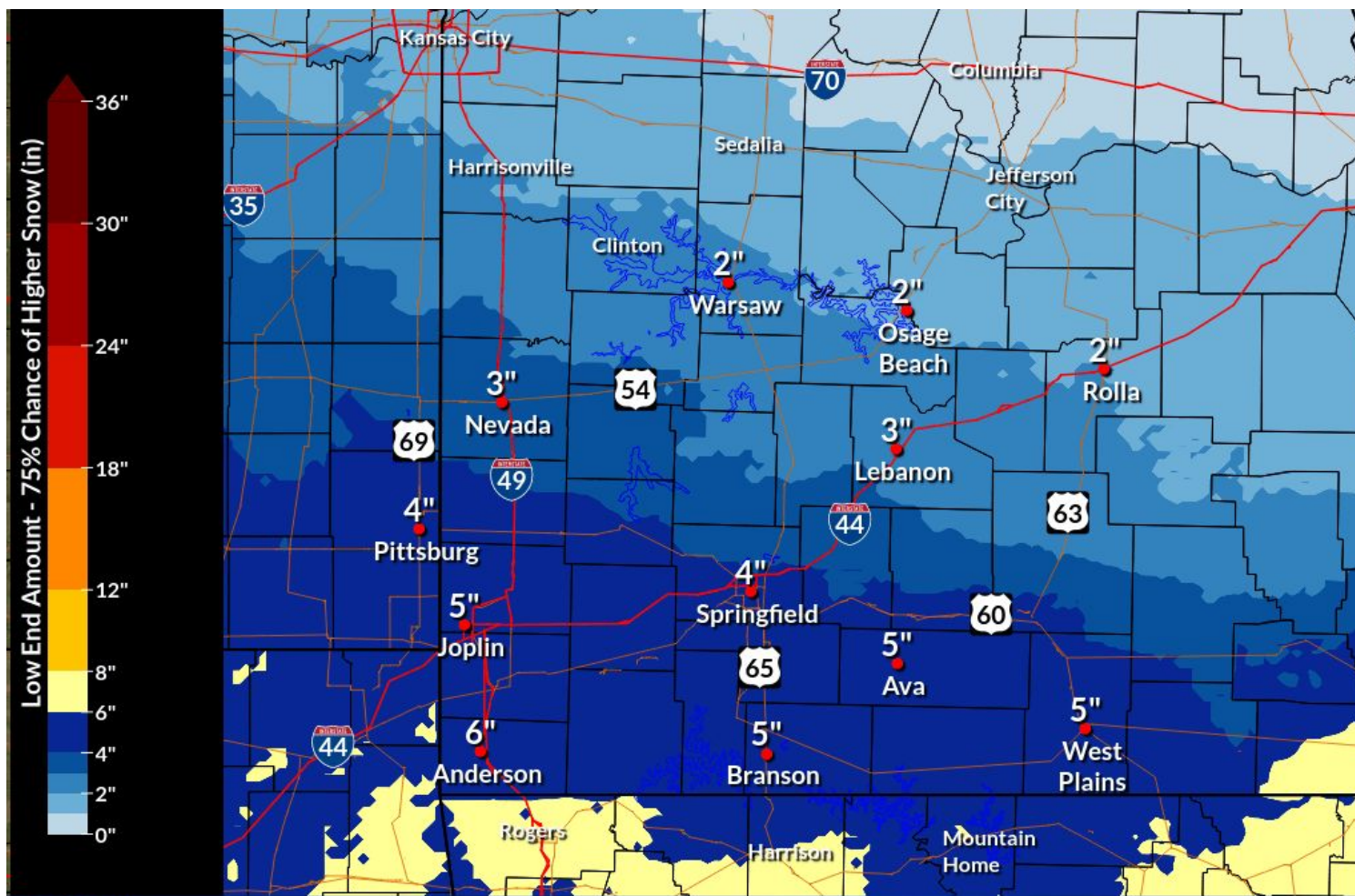


High End and Low End Snowfall Amounts

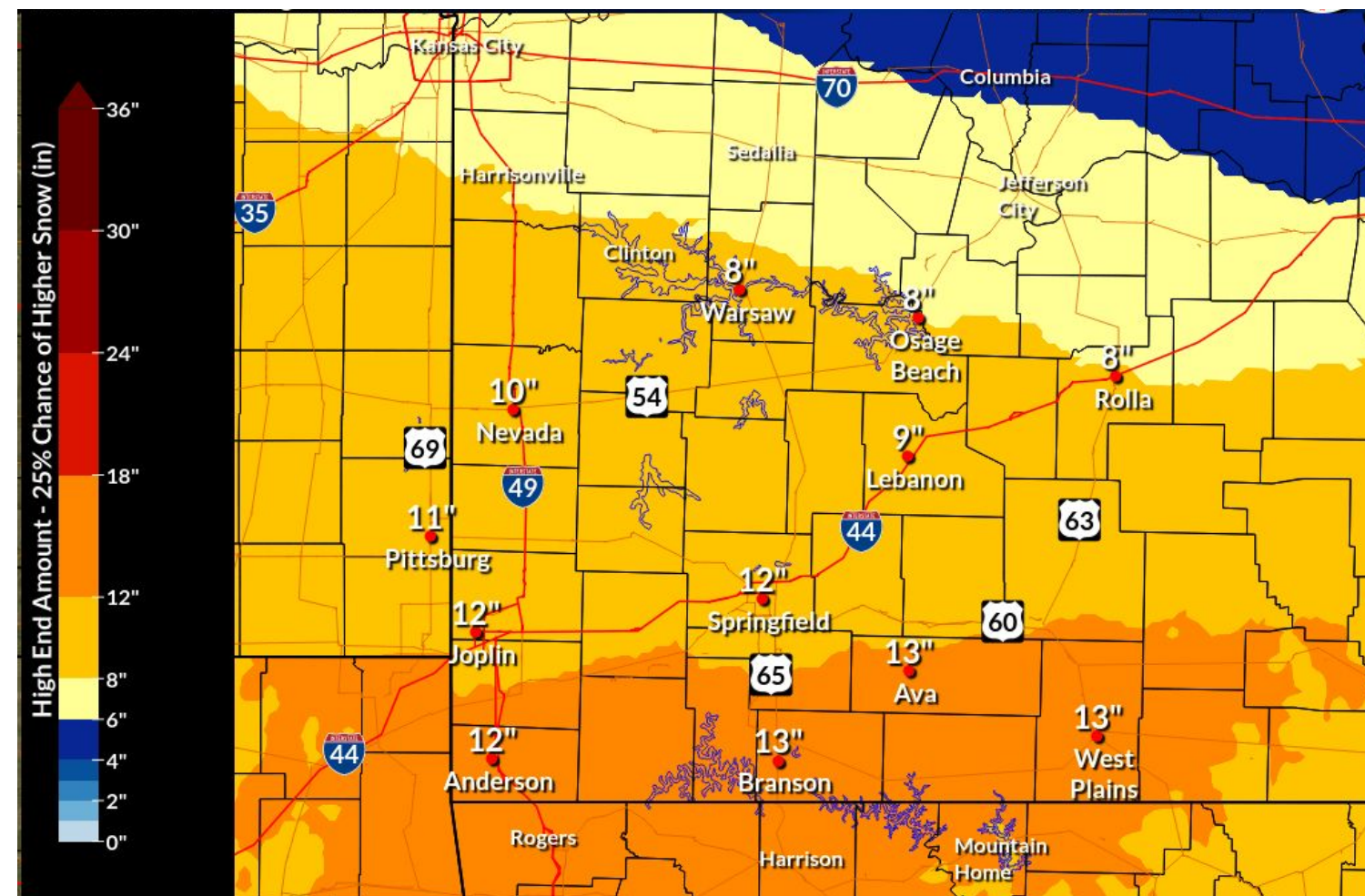
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Friday Afternoon through Sunday Morning



Low End Snow Amounts
(75% Chance of Greater Than This Amount)



High End Snow Amounts
(25% Chance of Greater Than This Amount)

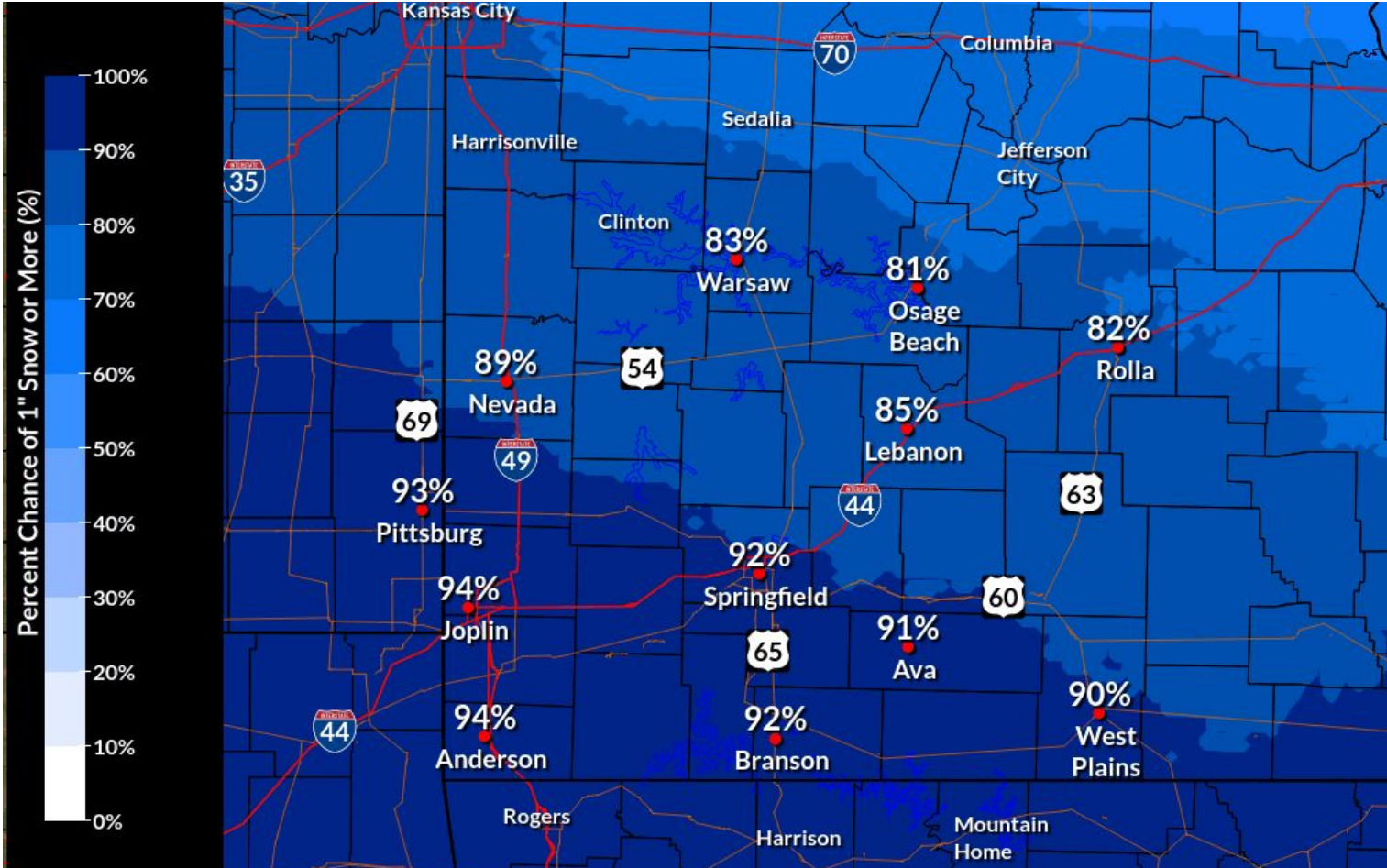




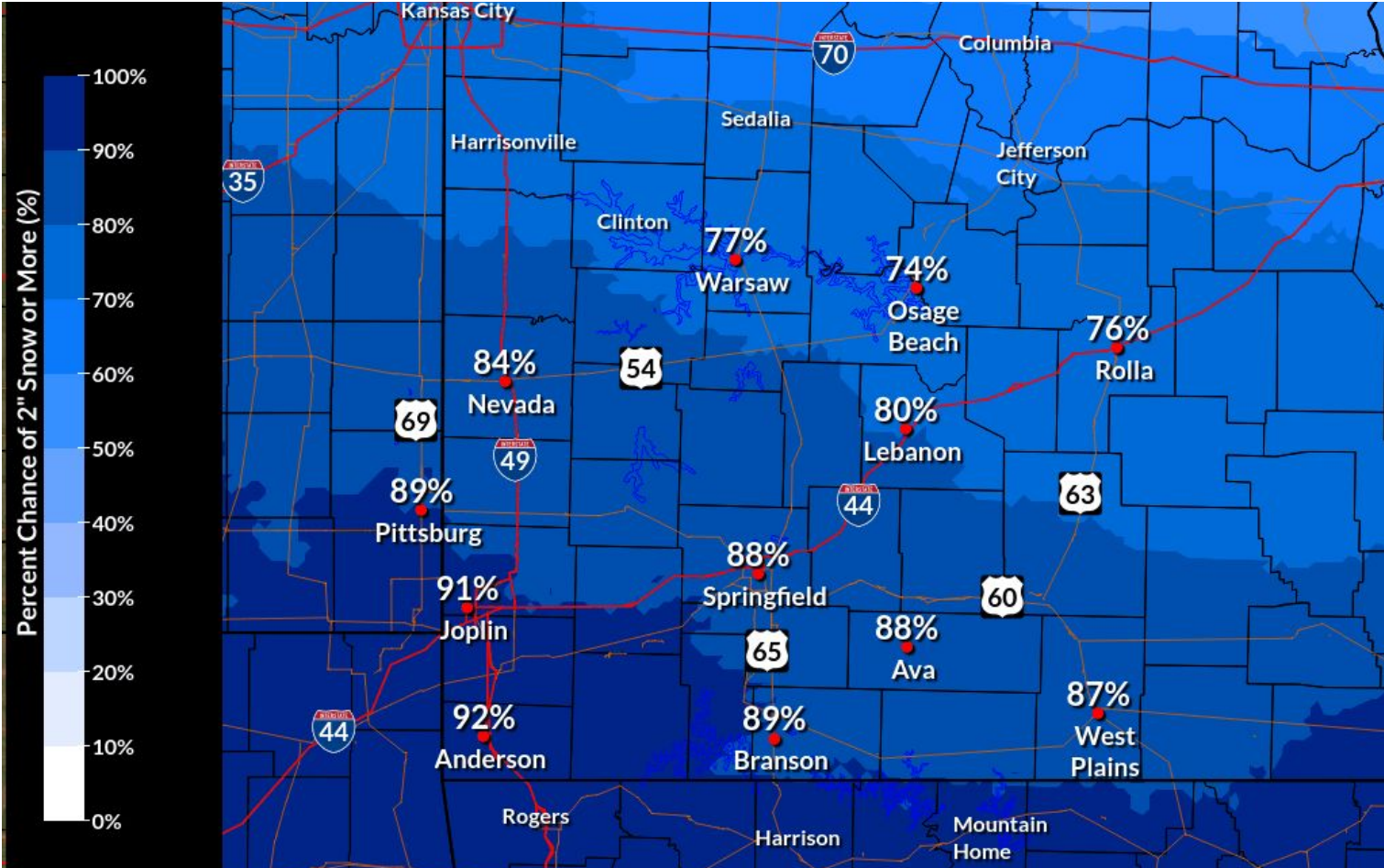
Probabilistic Snowfall

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Through Sunday Morning



Probability of > 1.0" of snowfall



Probability of > 2.0" of snowfall



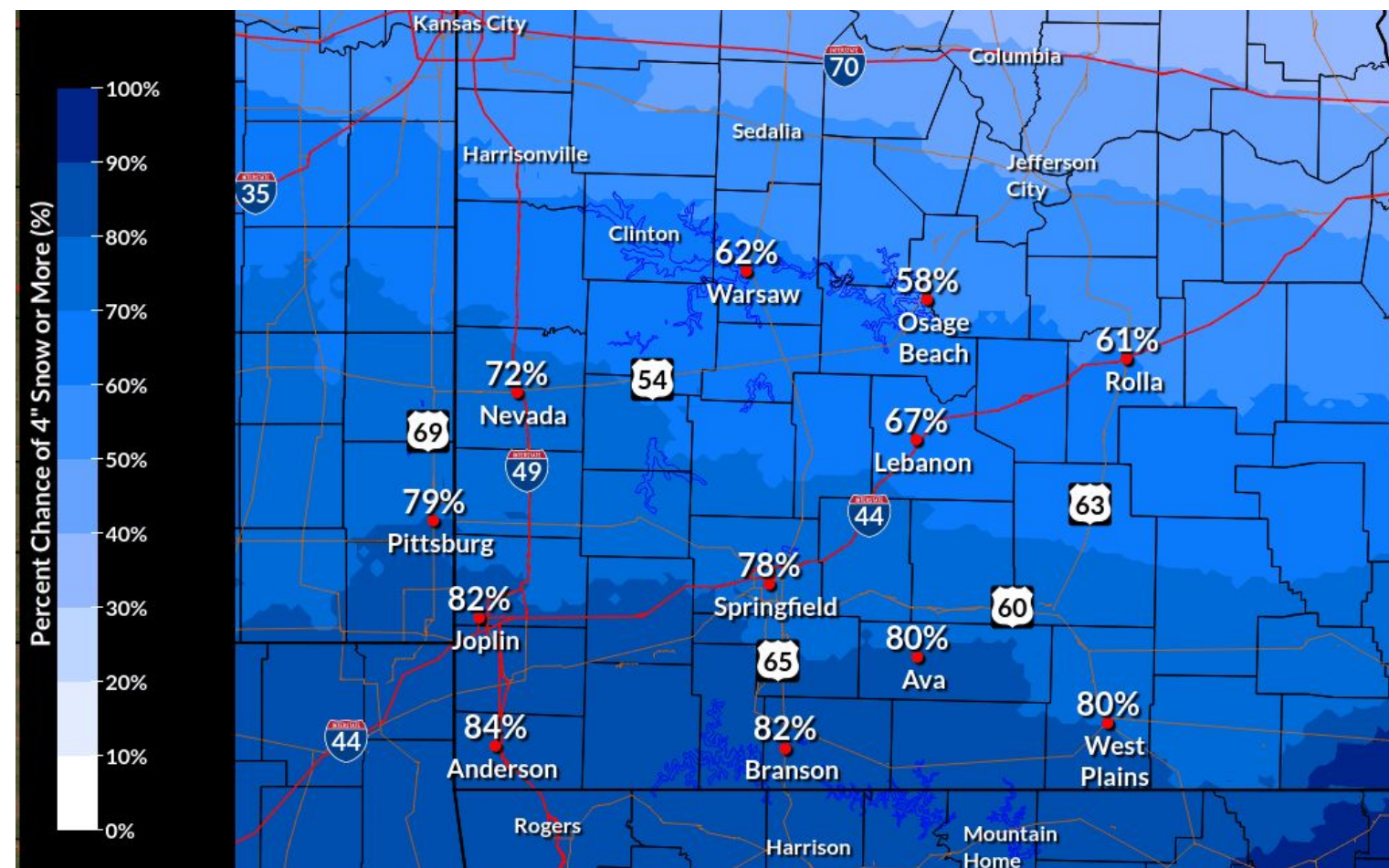


Probabilistic Snowfall

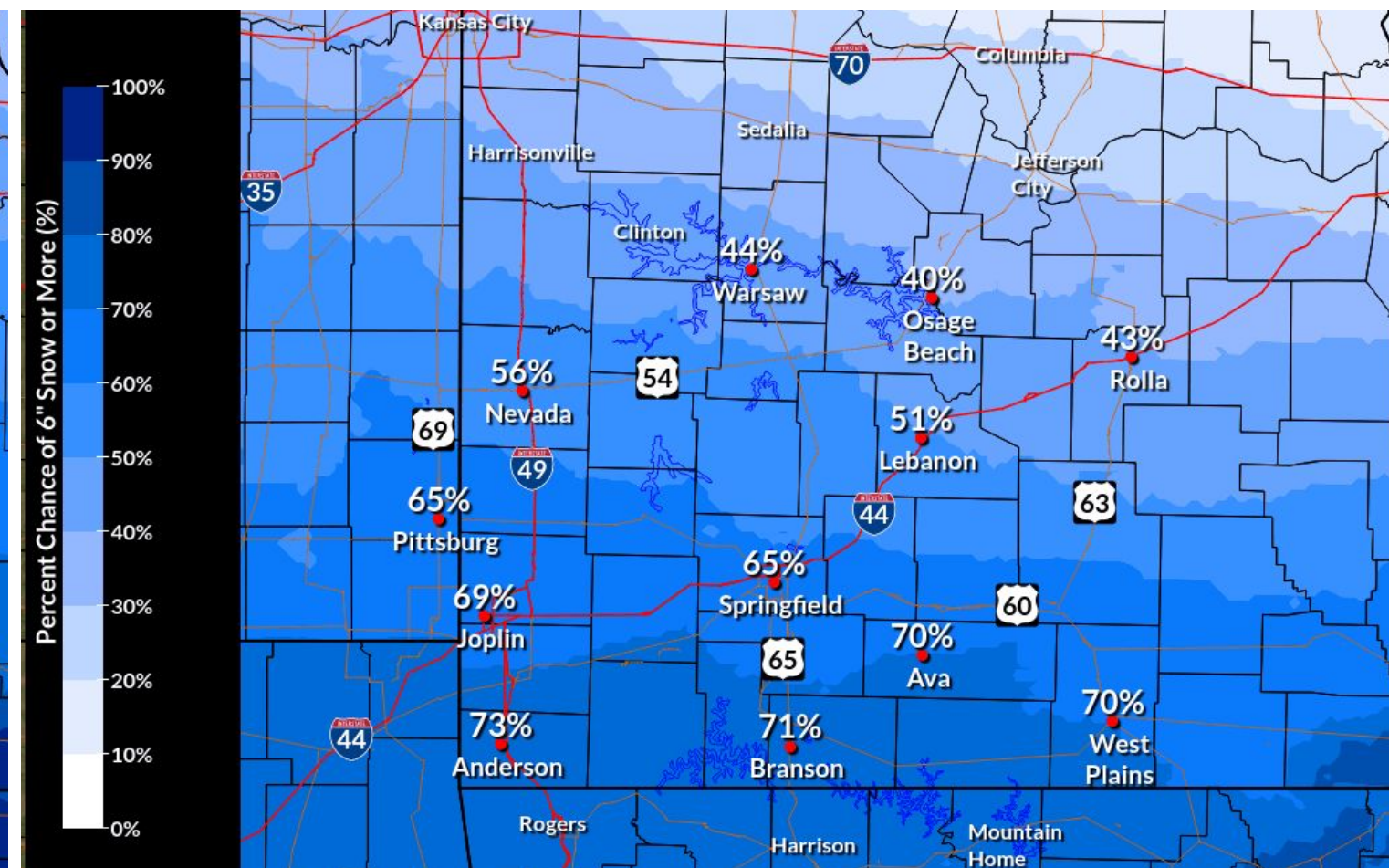
January 21, 2026

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Through Sunday Morning



Probability of > 4.0" of snowfall



Probability of > 6.0" of snowfall

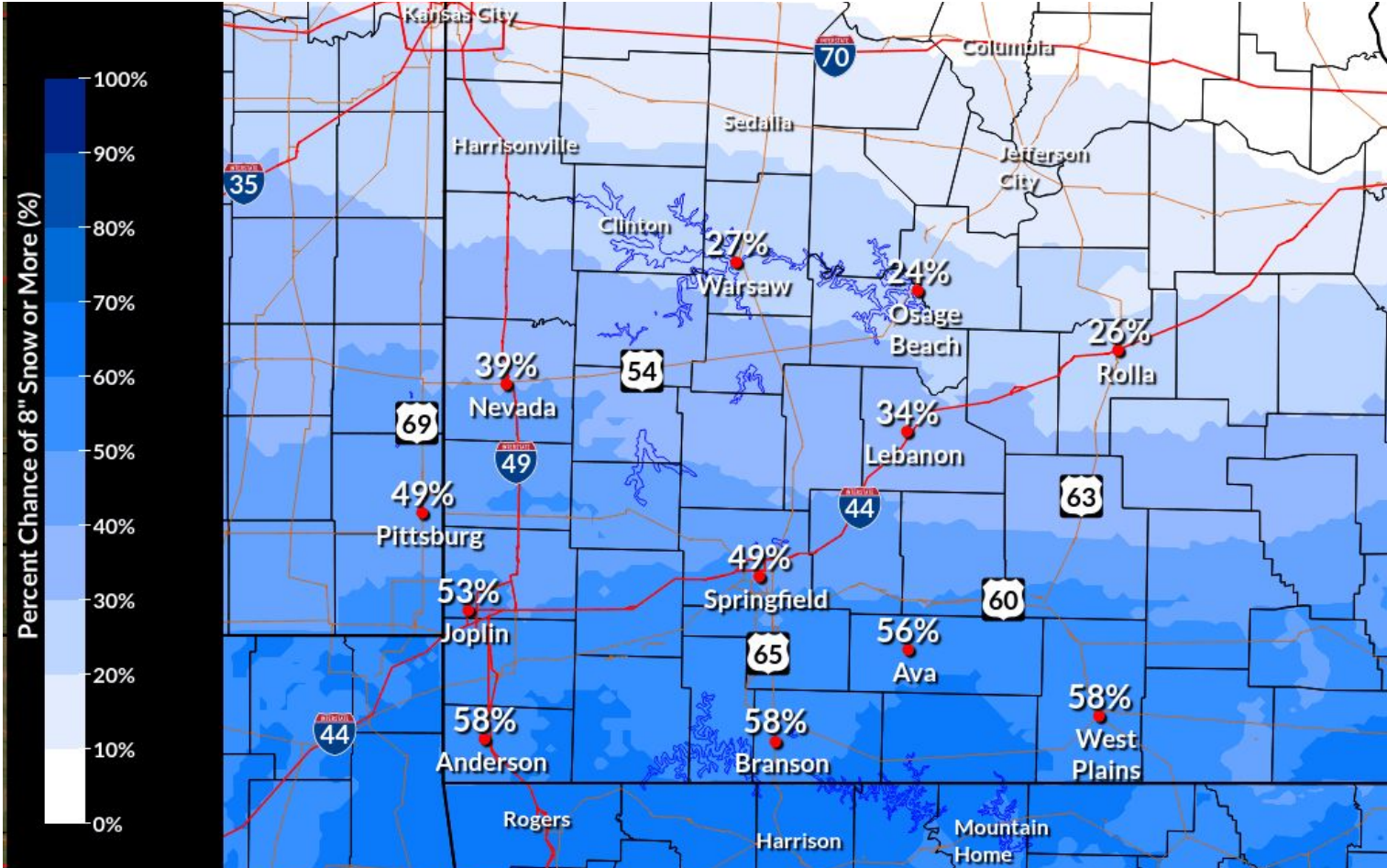




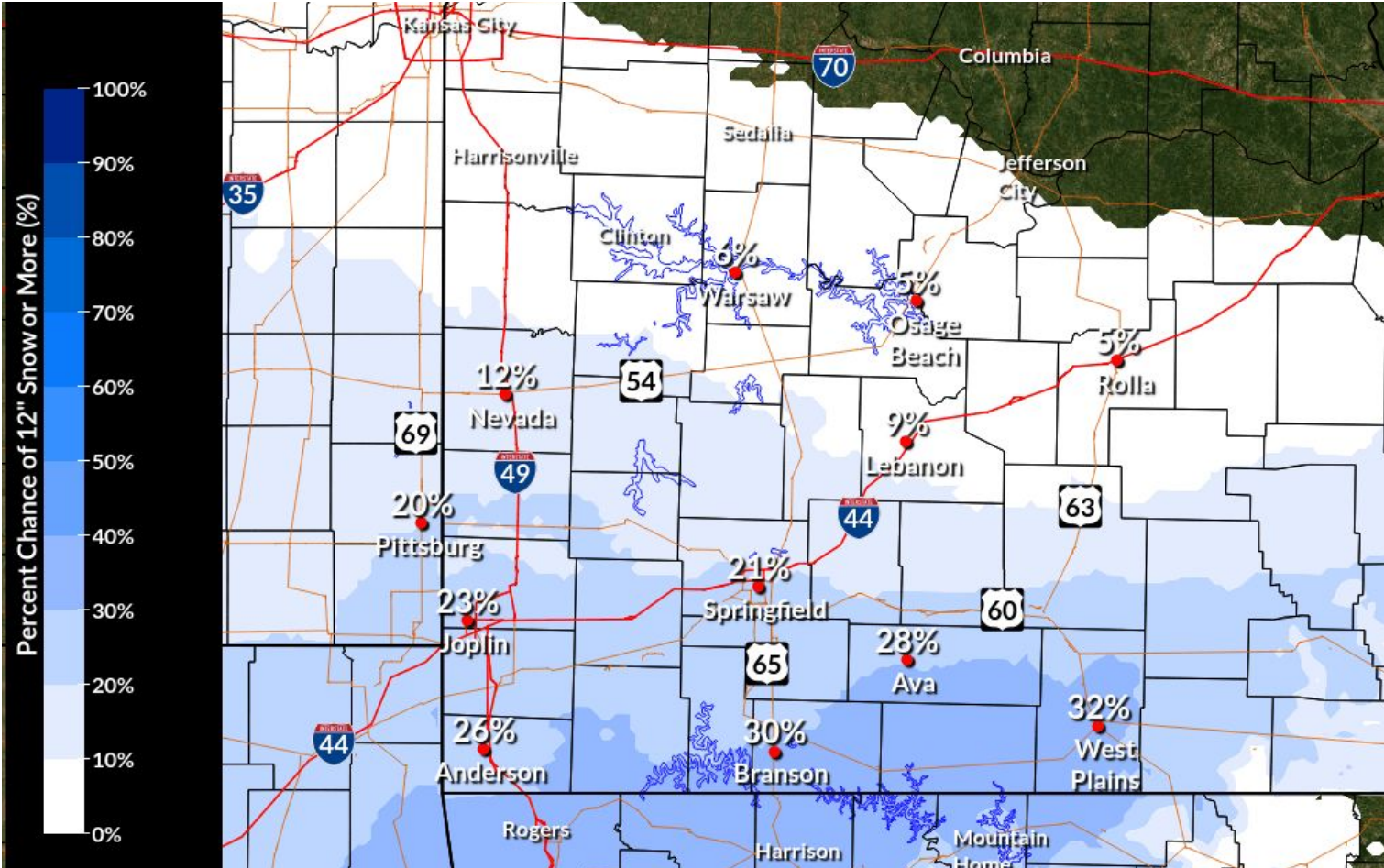
Probabilistic Snowfall

January 21, 2026
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Through Sunday Morning



Probability of > 8.0" of snowfall



Probability of > 12.0" of snowfall



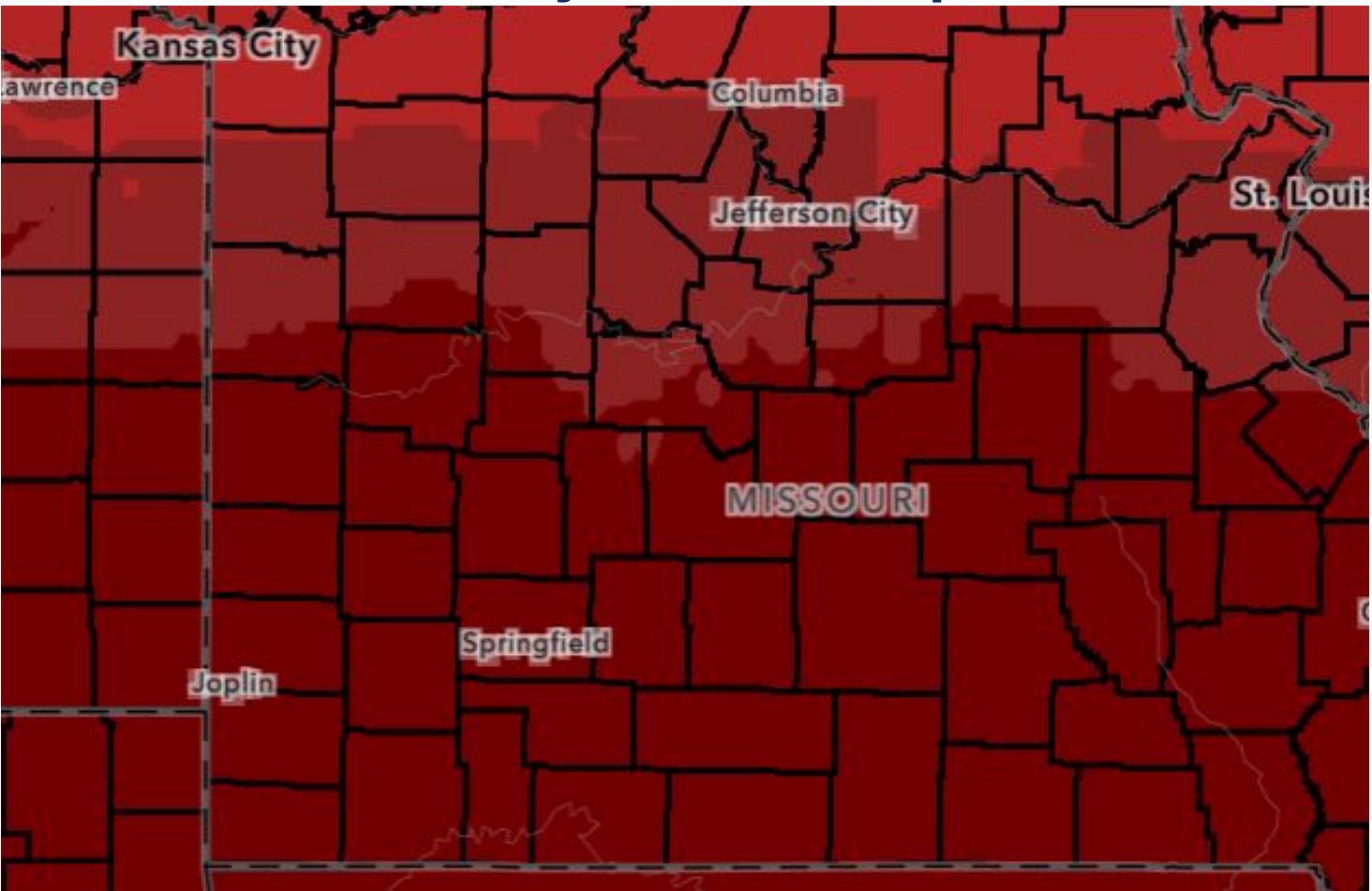


Probabilistic Winter Storm Severity Index

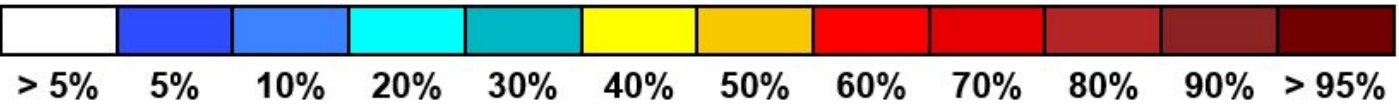
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Valid 6 AM Saturday - 6 AM Sunday

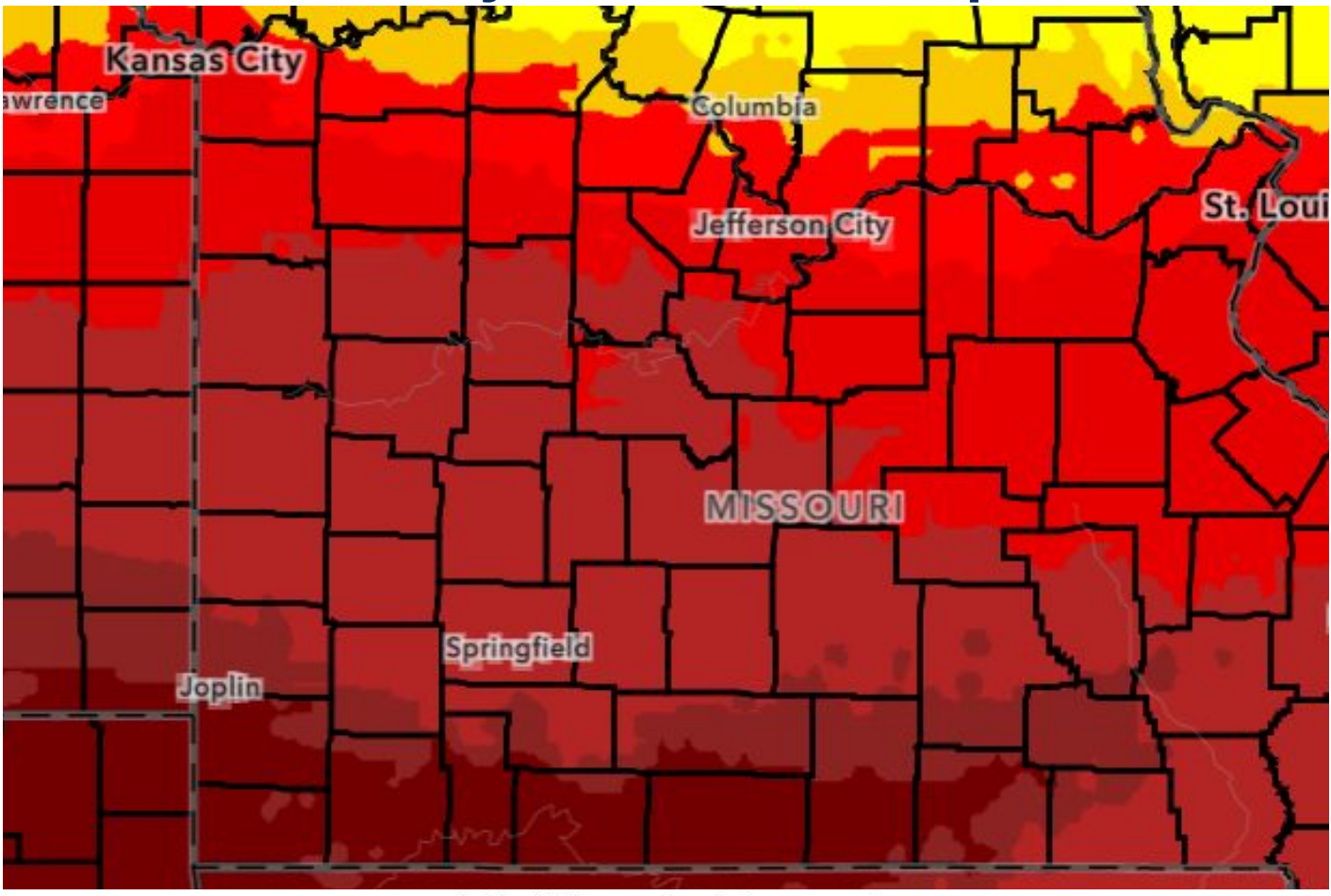
Probability of Minor Impacts



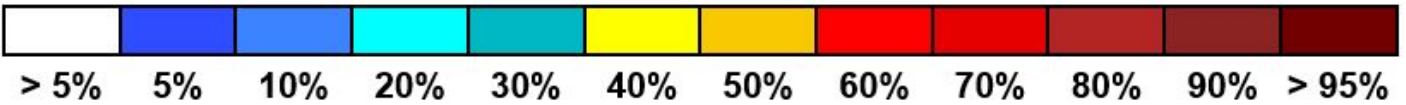
Likelihood of Impact



Probability of Moderate Impacts



Likelihood of Impact



[Probabilistic WSSI](#)



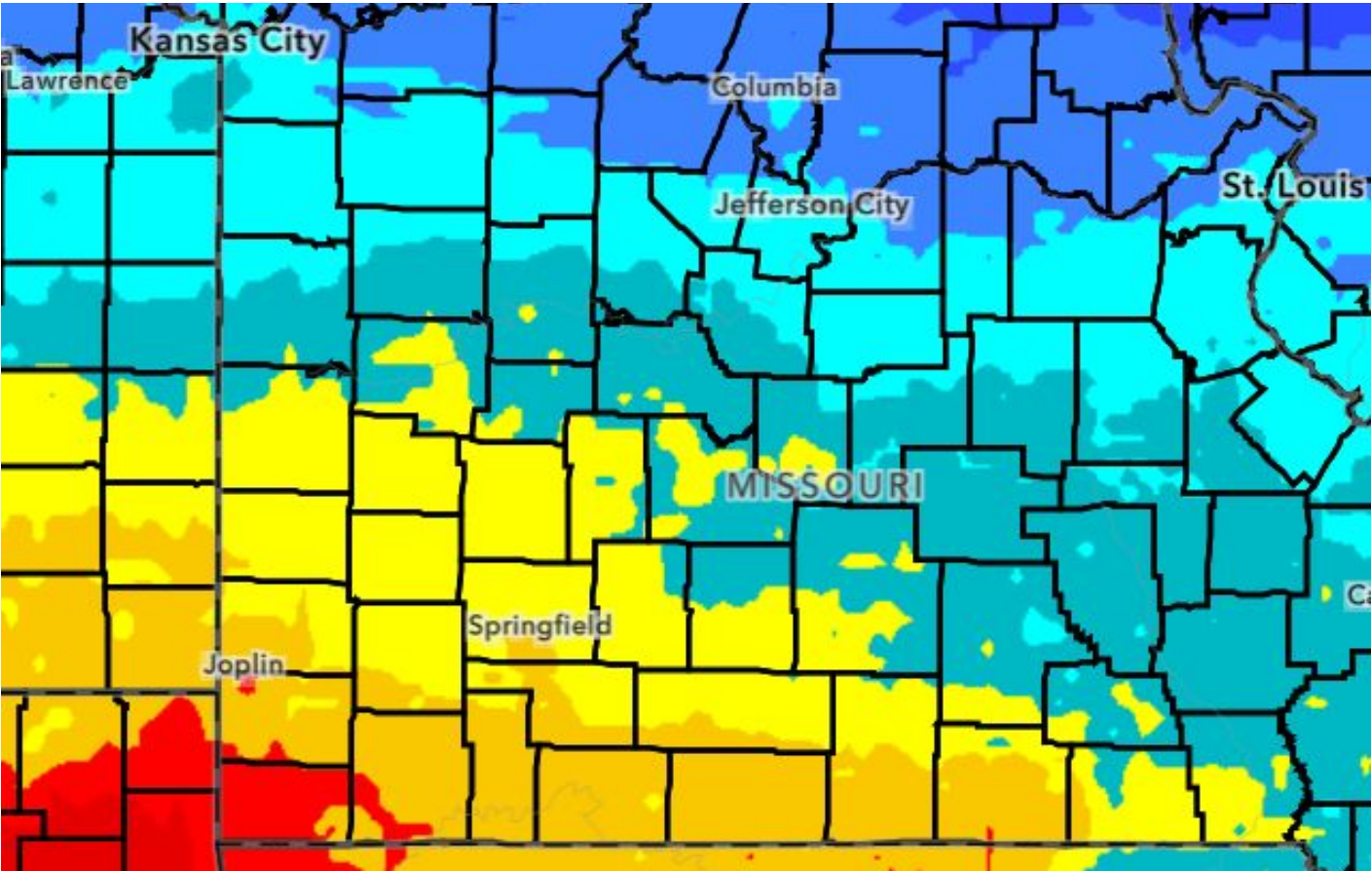


Probabilistic Winter Storm Severity Index

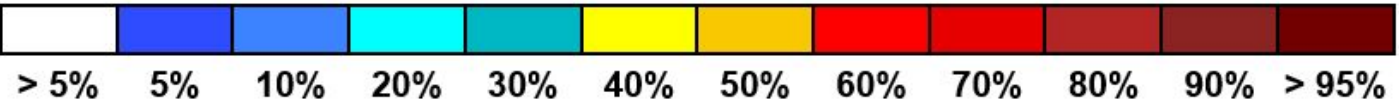
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Valid 6 AM Saturday - 6 AM Sunday

Probability of Major Impacts



Likelihood of Impact



[Probabilistic WSSI](#)

Potential Winter Storm Impacts

Winter Weather Area

- Expect Winter Weather.
- Winter driving conditions. **Drive carefully.**

Minor Impacts

- Expect a few inconveniences to daily life.
- Winter driving conditions. **Use caution while driving.**

Moderate Impacts

- Expect disruptions to daily life.
- Hazardous driving conditions. **Use extra caution while driving.**
 - Closures and disruptions to infrastructure may occur.

Major Impacts

- Expect considerable disruptions to daily life.
- Dangerous or impossible driving conditions. **Avoid travel if possible.**
 - Widespread closures and disruptions to infrastructure may occur.

Extreme Impacts

- Expect substantial disruptions to daily life.
- Extremely dangerous or impossible driving conditions. **Travel is not advised.**
 - Extensive and widespread closures and disruptions to infrastructure may occur.
 - Life-saving actions may be needed.





Snow Character

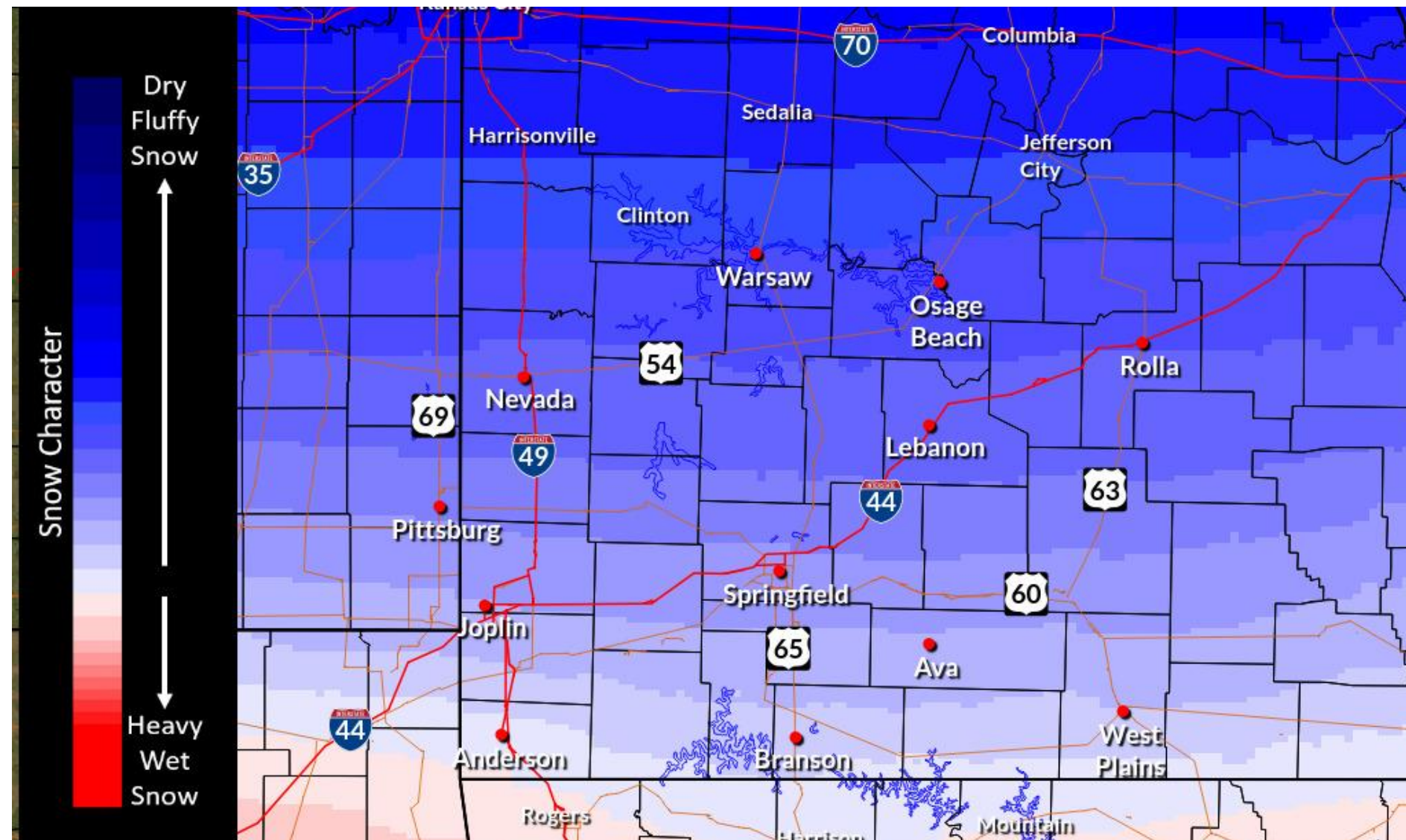
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How the Snow Will Feel and Act Due to its Moisture Content

Key Points

- Snow character will be slightly on the drier side of what we normally see around the Ozarks this time of year.
- With no wet rain/snow mixes expected, snow will be fluffy and will accumulate efficiently.
- The longevity of the cold after the snow will cause the snow to become more compact with time, making it harder to remove the longer it sits after initially falling.



Snow Character

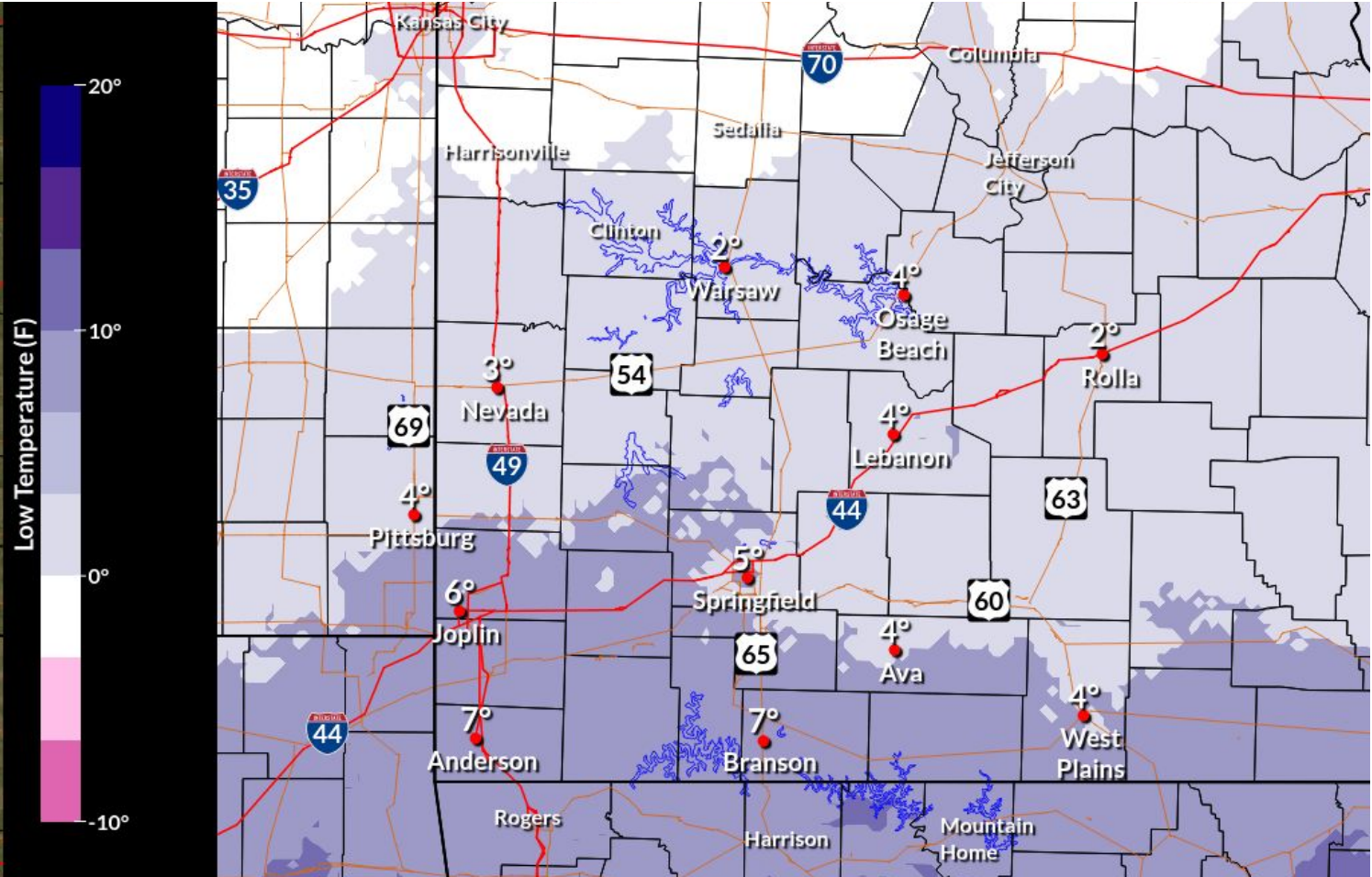




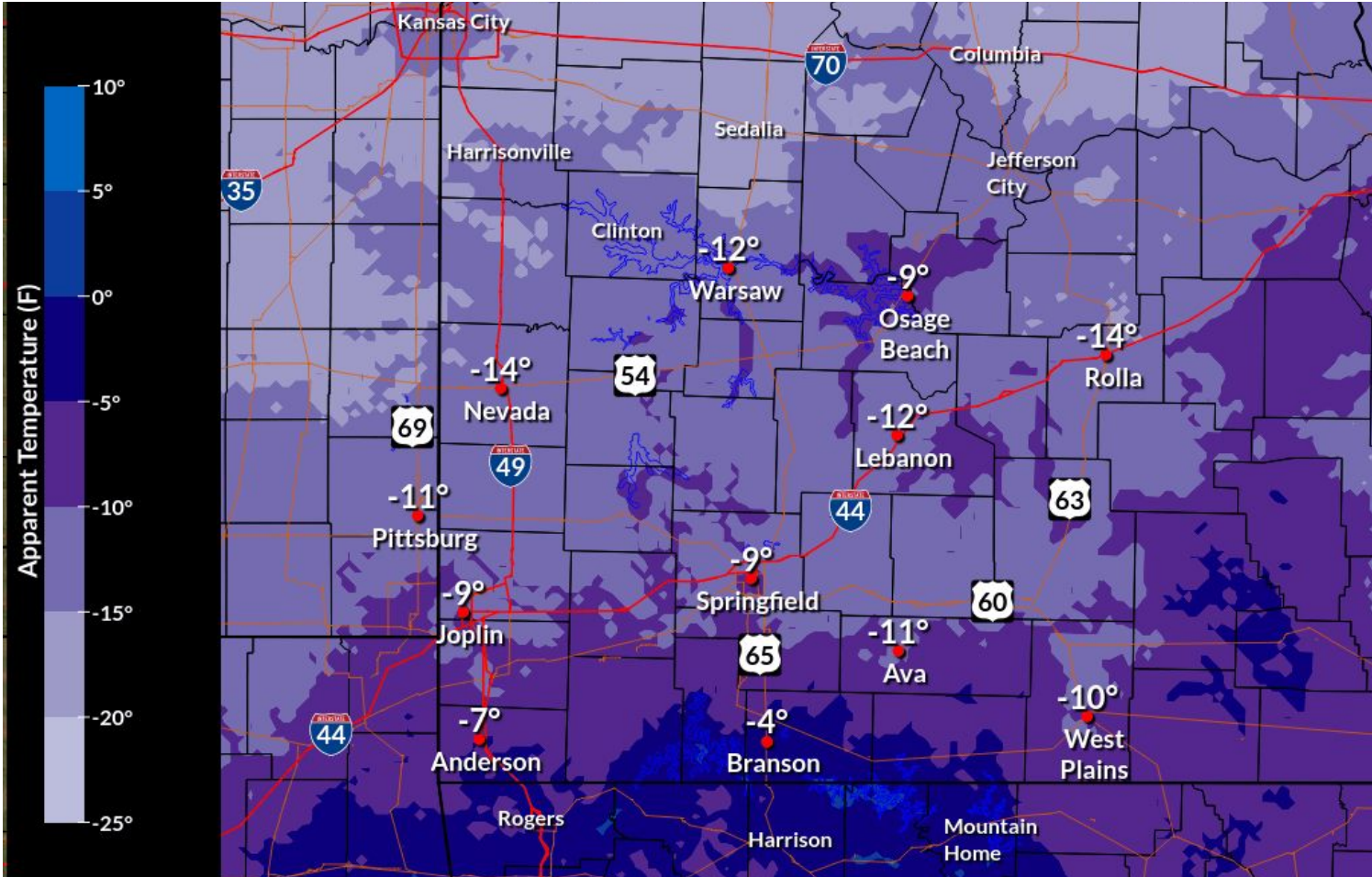
Forecast Low Temps & Wind Chills

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Friday Night



Low Temperatures Friday Night



Minimum Wind Chill Friday Night

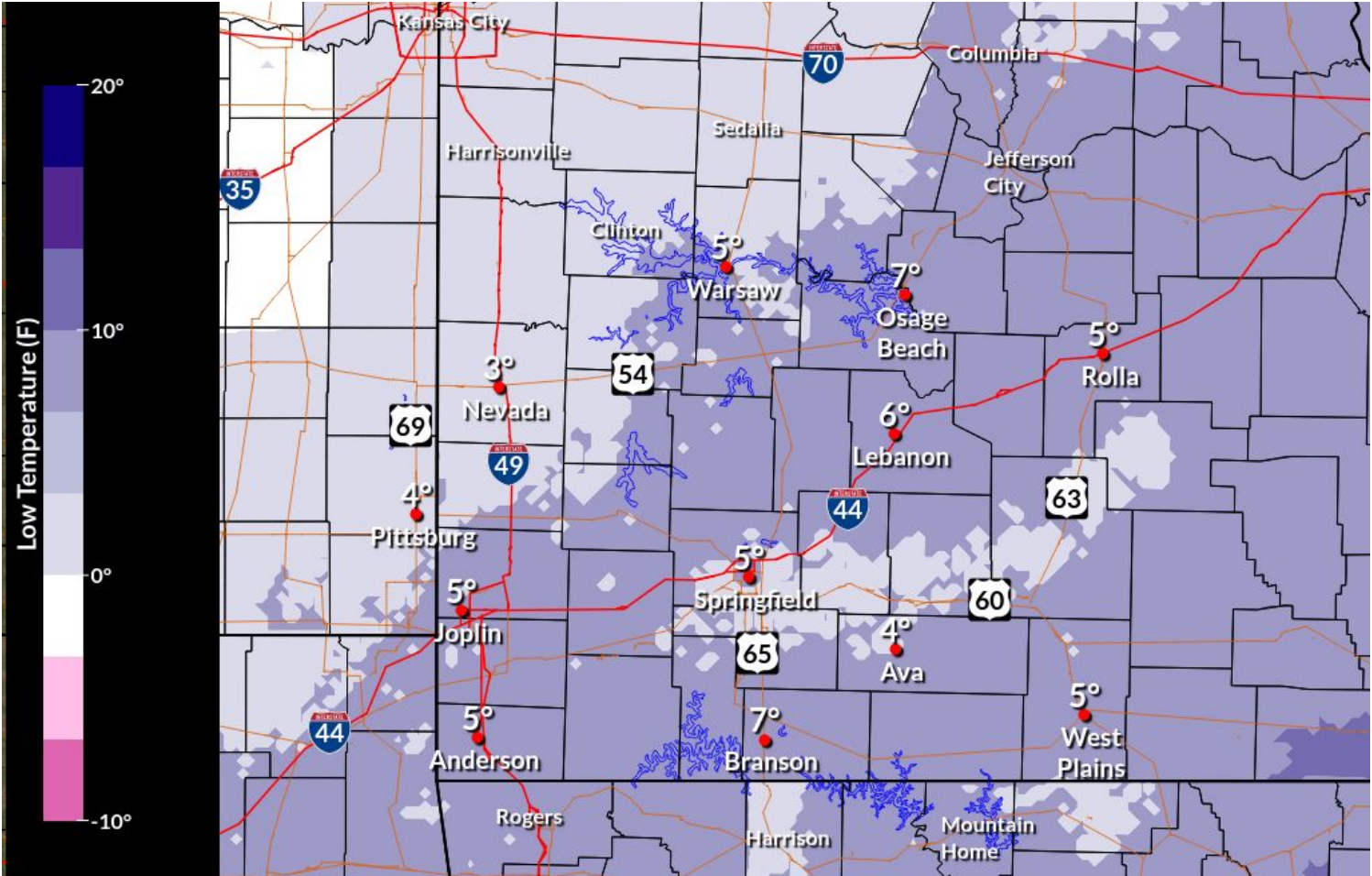




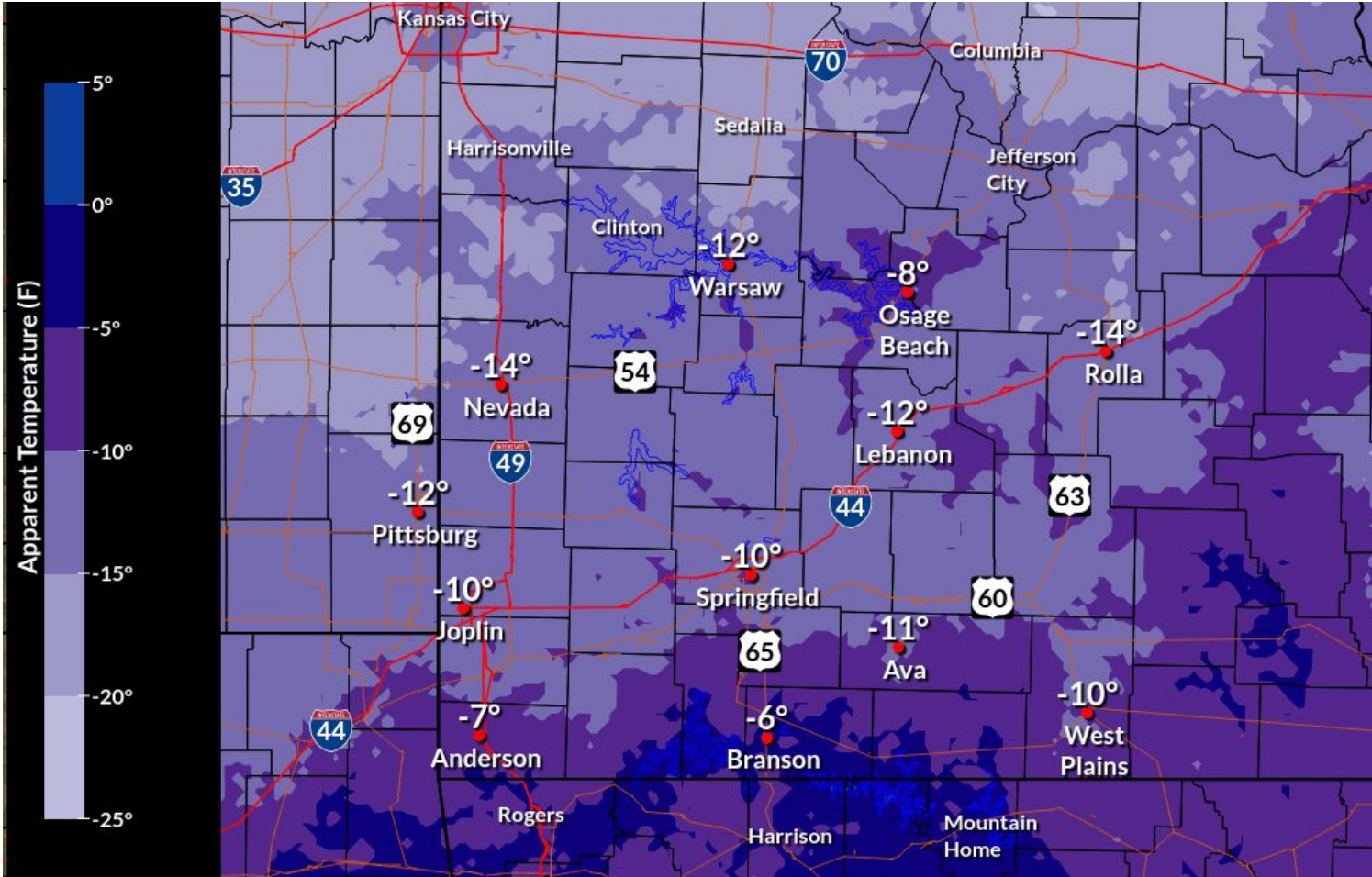
Forecast Low Temps & Wind Chills

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Saturday Night



Low Temperatures Saturday Night



Minimum Wind Chill Saturday Night

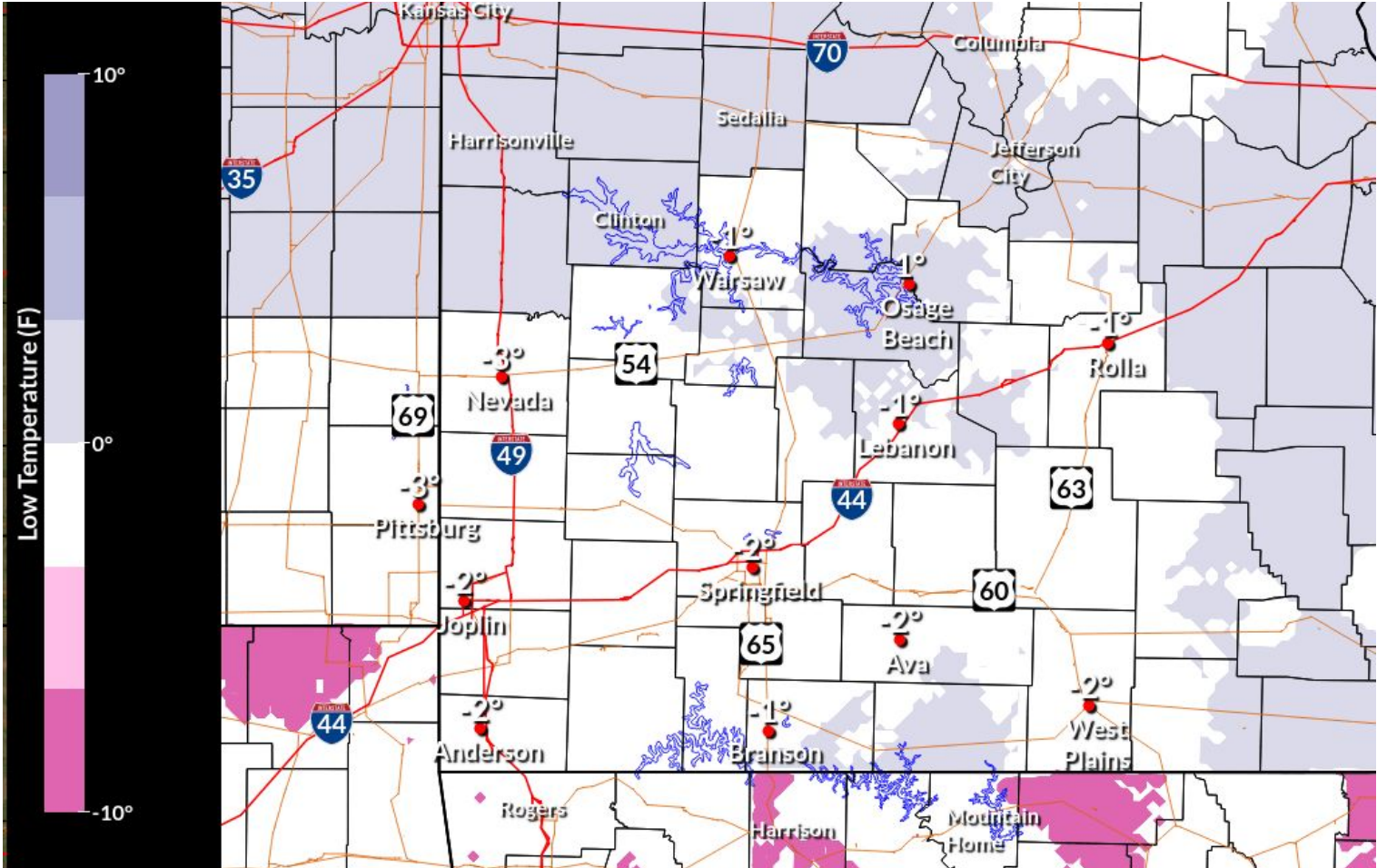




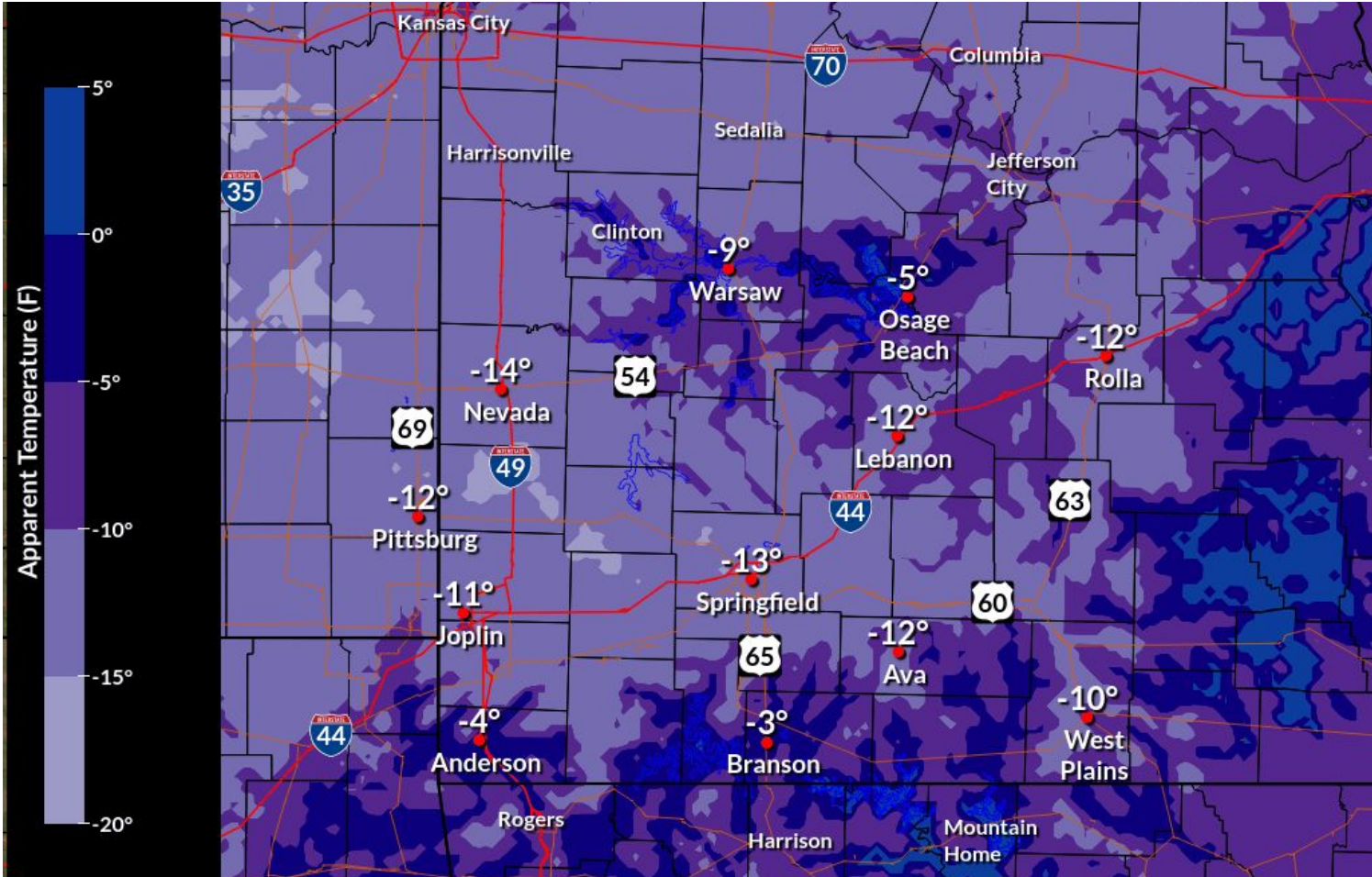
Forecast Low Temps & Wind Chills

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Sunday Night



Low Temperatures Sunday Night



Minimum Wind Chill Sunday Night





Timing of Snow

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- Snow chances increase after 6 PM Friday evening, last through the day Saturday, and decrease by Sunday morning.
- Snow will be the primary precipitation type for the entire area.
- If the system tracks farther north than currently forecast, then some mixed precipitation could be possible across extreme southern Missouri. Confidence in this occurring low.

	1/23 Fri			1/24 Sat				1/25 Sun			
	6am	12pm	6pm	12am	6am	12pm	6pm	12am	6am	12pm	6pm
Warsaw	5%	15%	50%	65%	75%	75%	70%	40%	15%	5%	5%
Osage Beach	0%	10%	45%	60%	75%	75%	70%	40%	15%	5%	0%
Rolla	5%	10%	35%	60%	75%	75%	70%	40%	20%	5%	0%
Nevada	5%	25%	65%	80%	85%	85%	70%	35%	15%	5%	5%
Fort Leonard Wood	5%	10%	45%	65%	80%	75%	70%	40%	20%	5%	0%
Lebanon	5%	15%	50%	70%	80%	80%	75%	45%	20%	5%	0%
Pittsburg, KS	5%	30%	70%	80%	85%	85%	65%	30%	15%	5%	0%
Springfield	10%	20%	45%	60%	75%	75%	55%	30%	15%	5%	0%
Mountain Grove	5%	15%	55%	70%	85%	80%	70%	40%	25%	5%	0%
Joplin	5%	25%	70%	80%	90%	90%	65%	30%	15%	5%	0%
Monett	5%	25%	70%	85%	90%	85%	70%	40%	20%	5%	0%
West Plains	5%	15%	50%	75%	85%	85%	75%	50%	25%	10%	0%
Branson	5%	20%	70%	85%	90%	85%	70%	40%	20%	5%	0%

Created: 11 am CST Wed 1/21/2026. Shows most impactful weather for the period beginning at the time shown. Weather symbols display where Probability of Precipitation ≥ 0%.

- Wintry Mix + - Snow +

Created: 11 am CST Wed 1/21/2026 |
(Sorted geographically from North to South)

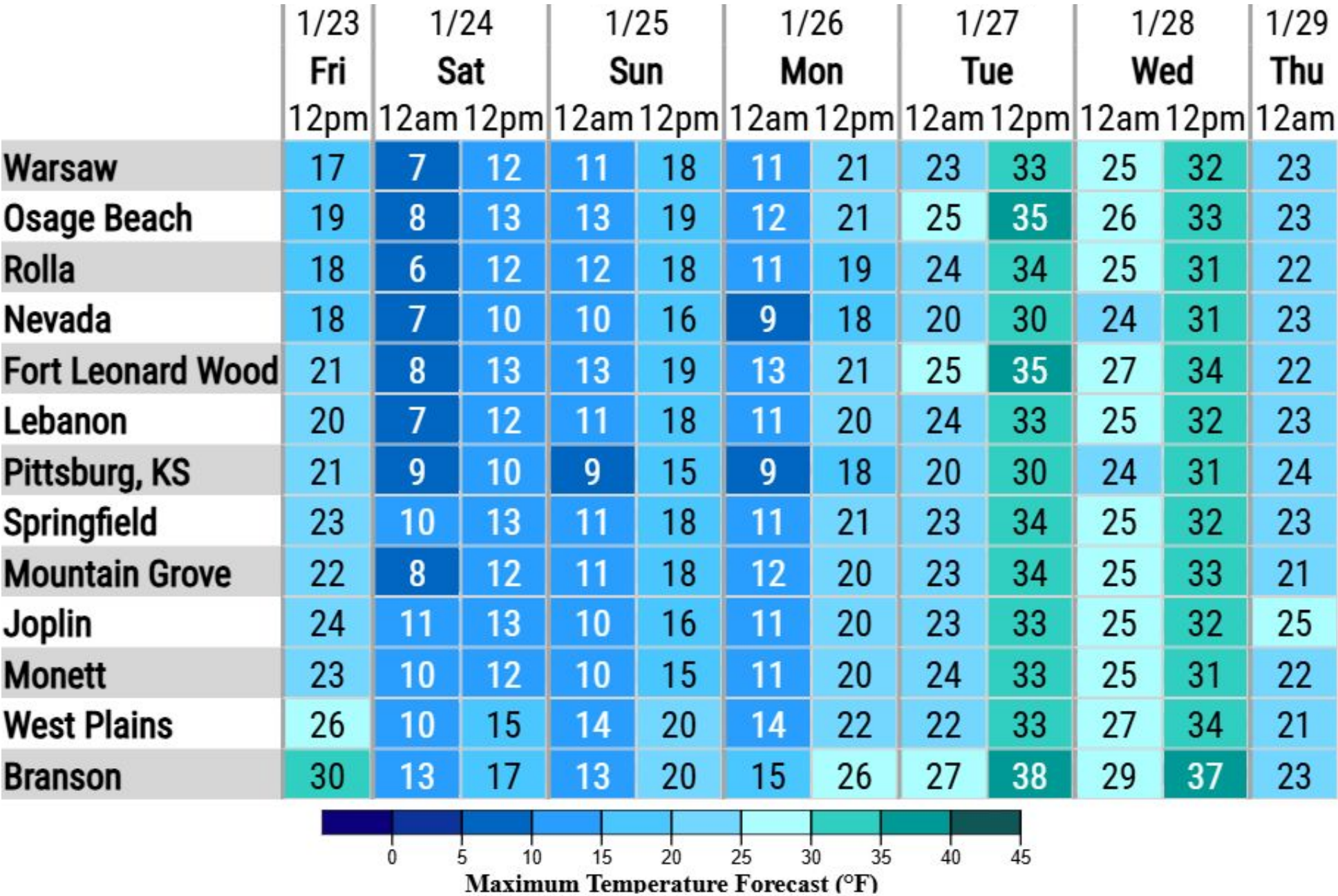




Timing of Temperatures

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- Temperatures will remain below freezing through at least Monday.
- High temperatures near freezing are forecast on Tuesday and Wednesday.
- Little melting of the snow will occur as a result.





Confidence Levels

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Location



Timing



Amounts



Travel Impacts



Confidence Details

- There is increasing confidence for accumulating snow across much of the area this weekend. This will result in travel impacts across the area.
- The highest amounts are currently expected to be focused across extreme southeast KS into southern MO.
- High confidence that dangerous cold weather accompanies this system.

Remaining Unknowns

- Snowfall amounts will likely vary from south to north and depend on the exact track of the system.
- Exact (hourly) onset timing will also vary across the forecast area. Hi-resolution models will have a better handle on this over the next 24 to 48 hours.





Prepare for Cold and Potential Snow

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Keep Up with the Forecast

For Additional Information

- [NWS Springfield Webpage](#)
- [NWS Springfield Probabilistic Snowfall](#)
- [NWS Cold-Related Products and Criteria](#)
- [IDSS Point Forecasts](#)
- [Graphical Hazardous Weather Outlook](#)
- [MODOT Travel Map](#)
- [KDOT Travel Map](#)
- [Missouri Warming Shelters](#)
- [Winter Weather Safety](#)
- [Winter Weather Reference Sheet](#)

WINTER STORM WATCH

A Winter Storm Watch is issued when **heavy snow, sleet, or freezing rain is possible.**

Be prepared to adjust travel plans in case a Warning is issued.

Be Prepared.



weather.gov

WINTER STORM WARNING

A Winter Storm Warning is issued when **heavy snow, sleet, or freezing rain is expected.**

Travel will become dangerous. Delay or adjust travel plans until conditions improve.

Take Action!

Follow @NWSSpringfield



National Weather Service
Springfield, MO



National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce