



# 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.

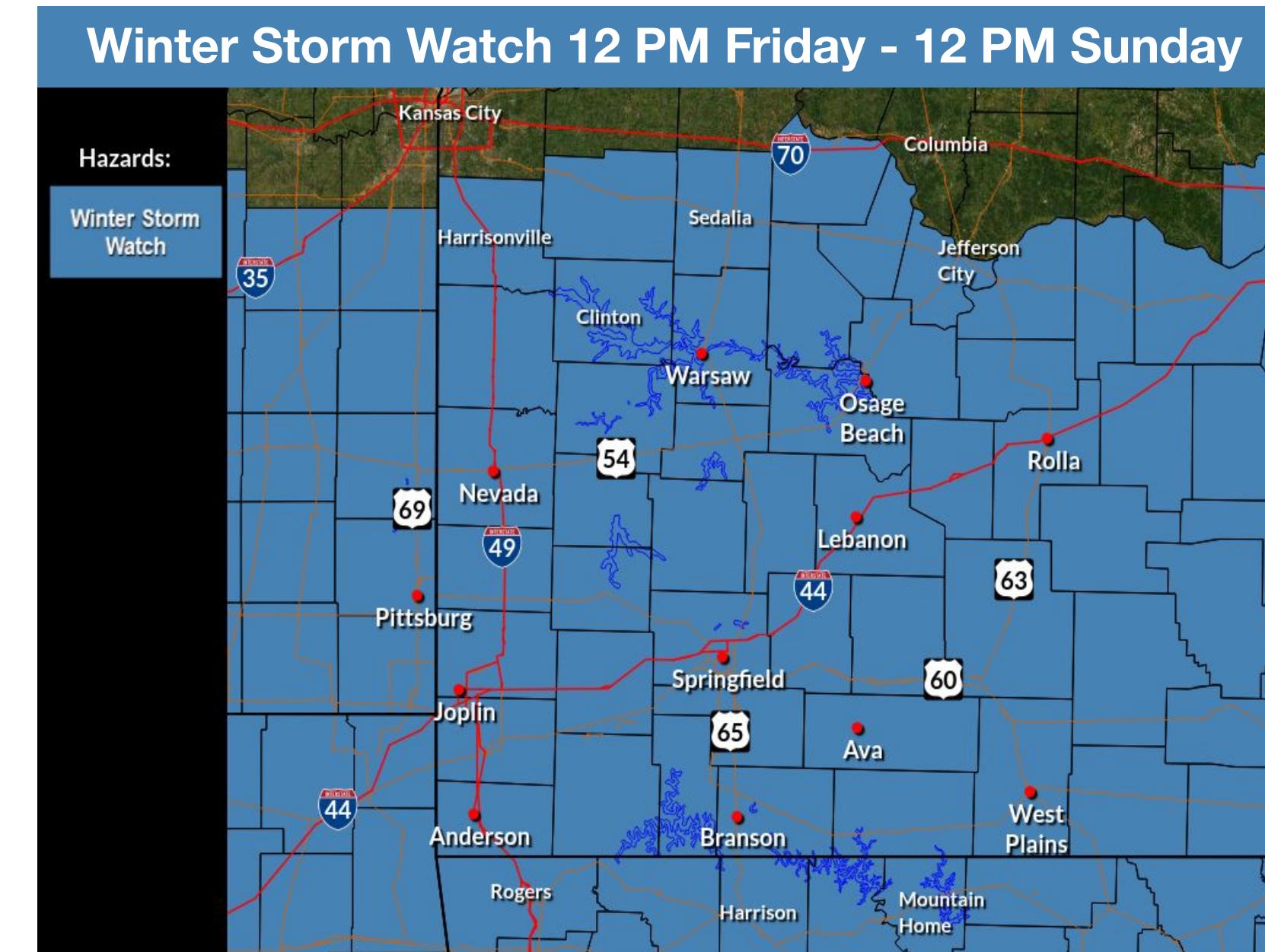


## Important Updates

- 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

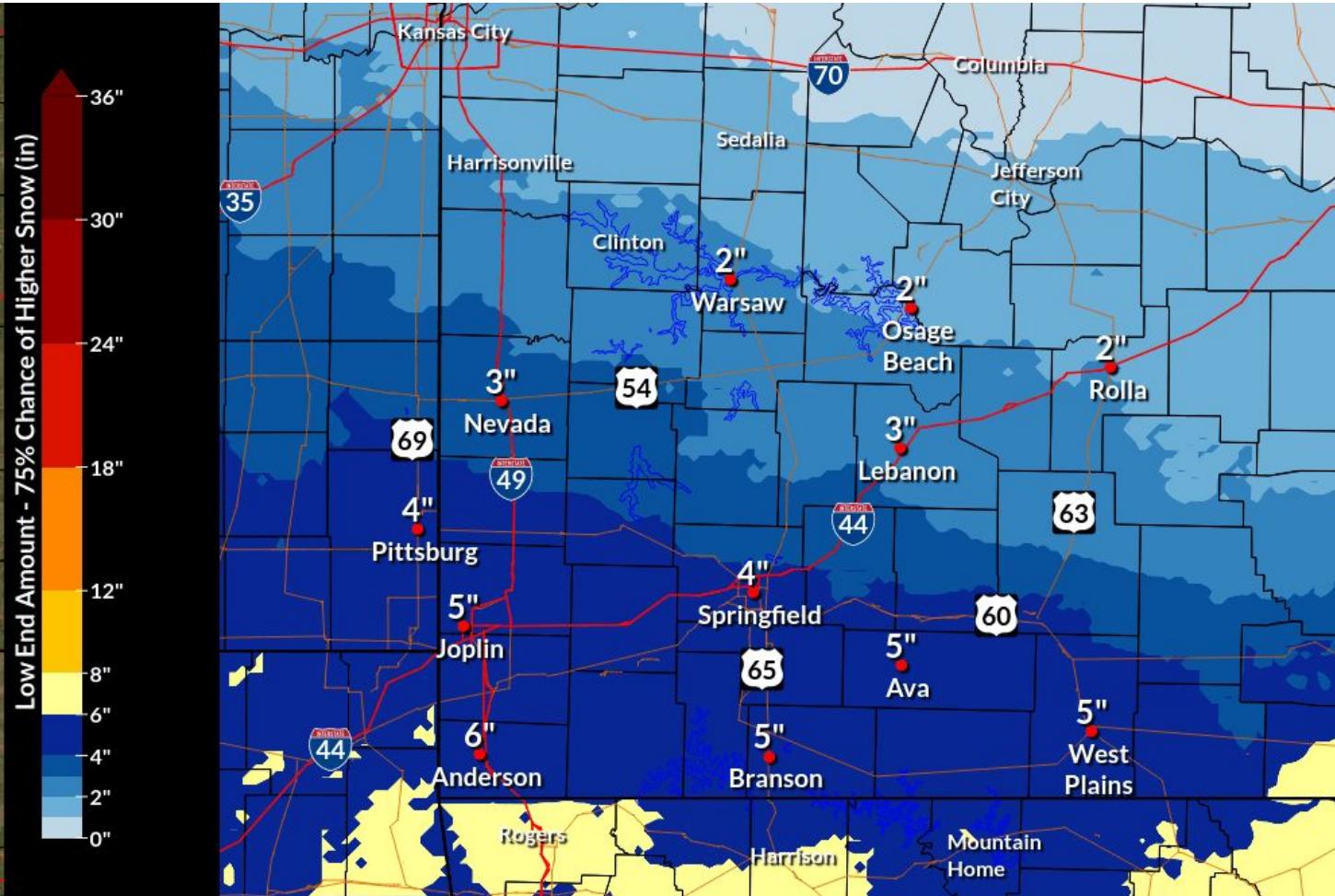




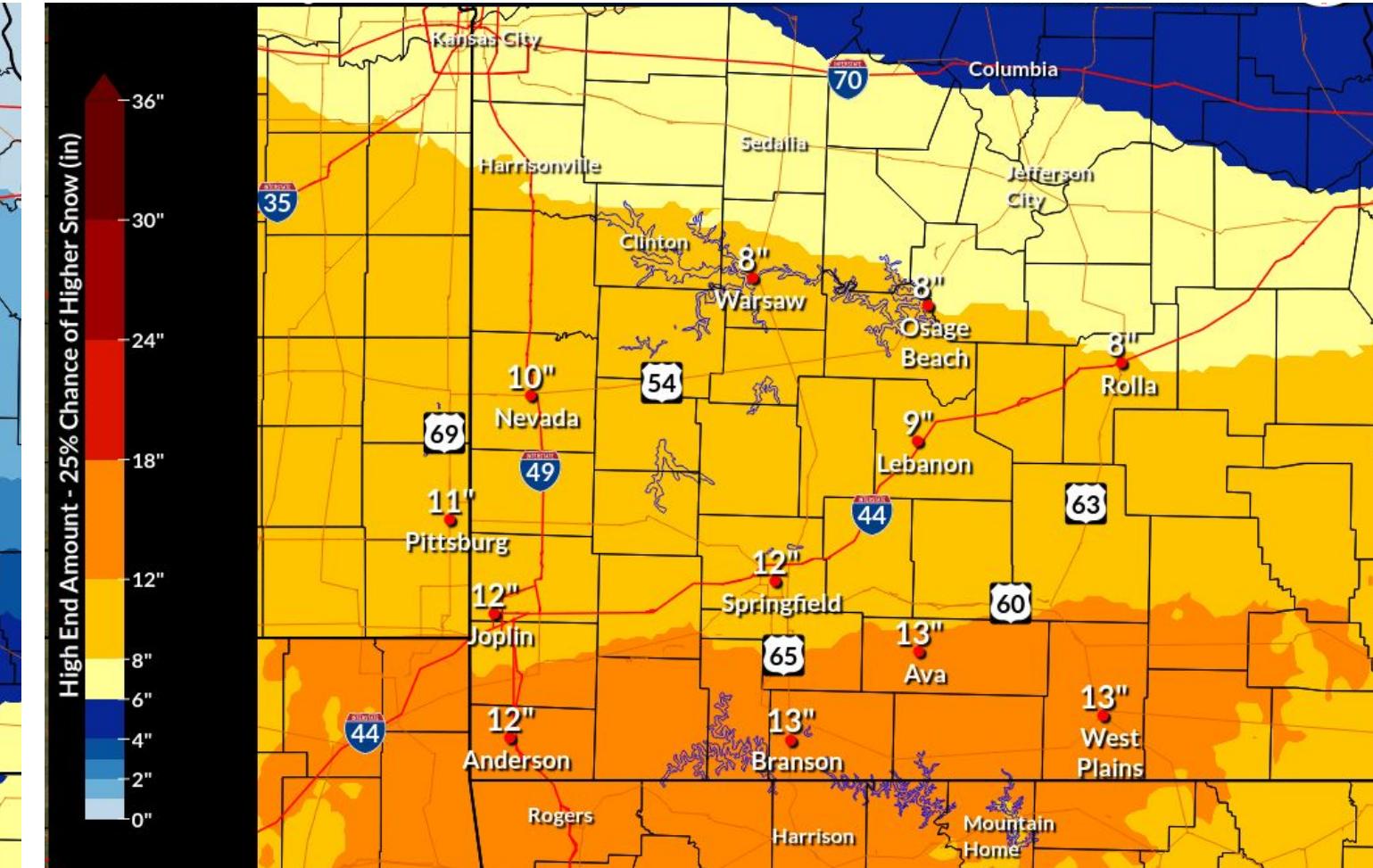
# High End and Low End Snowfall Amounts

January 21, 2026  
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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)**



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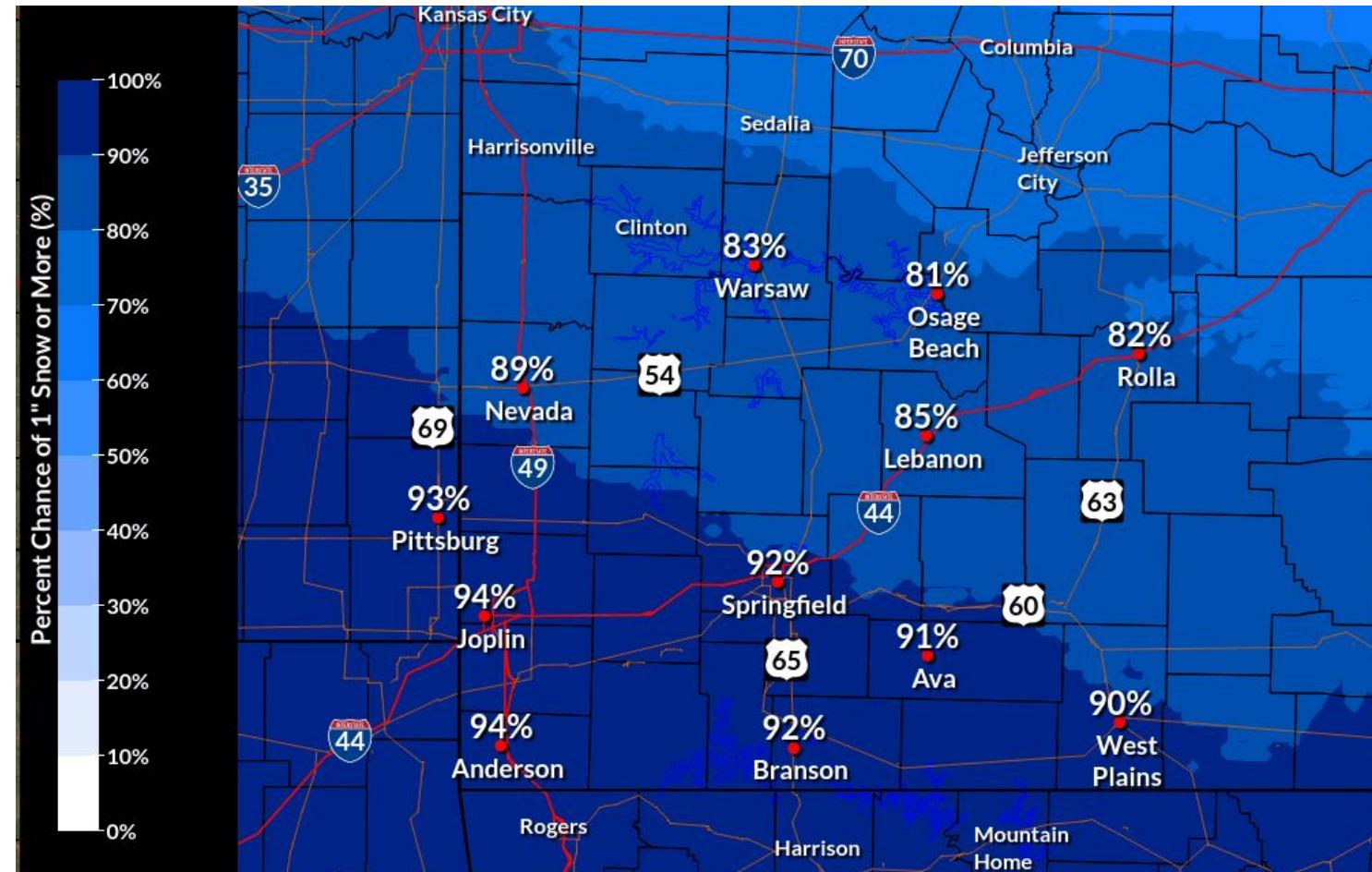
National Weather Service  
Springfield, MO



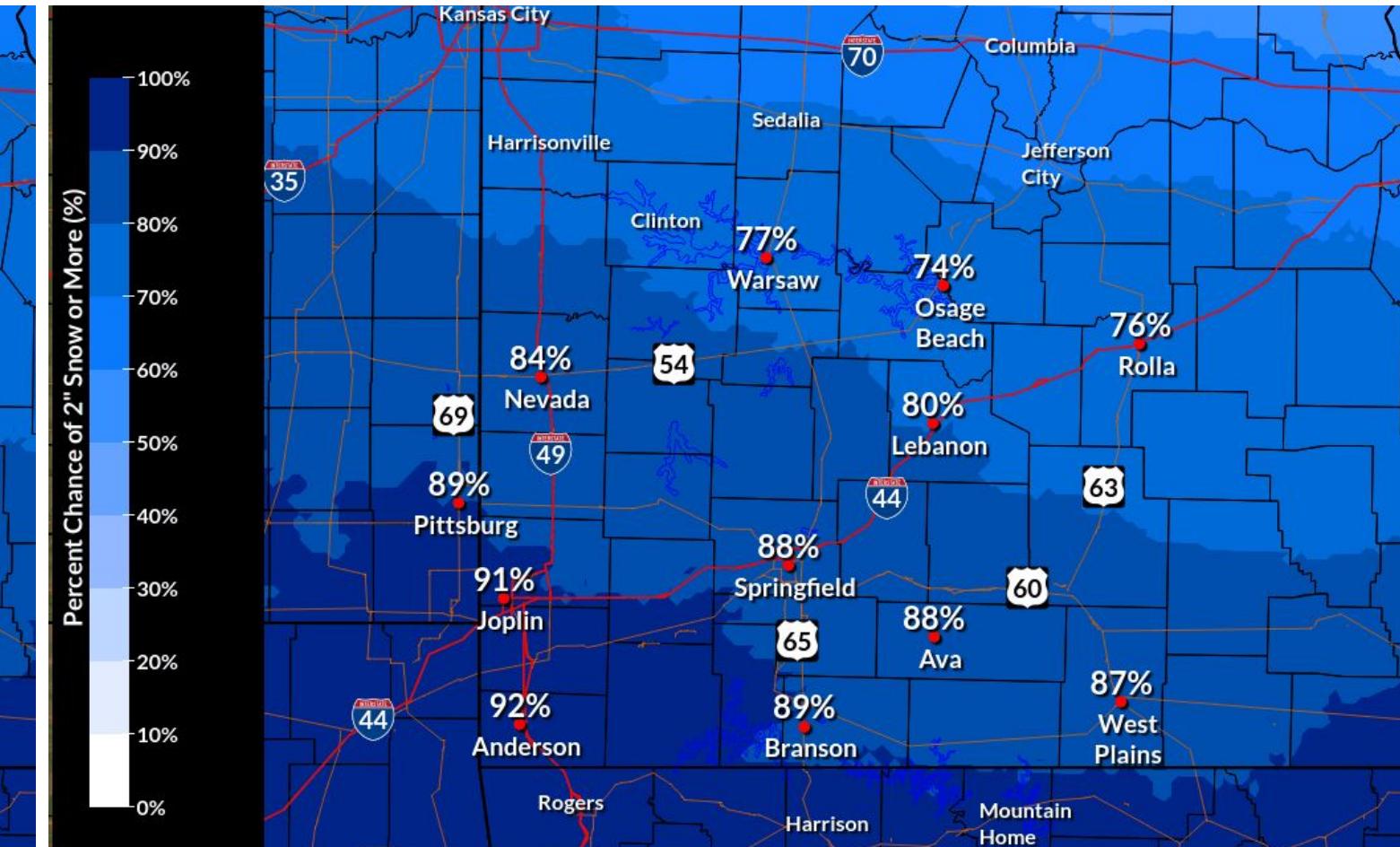
# Probabilistic Snowfall

Through Sunday Morning

January 21, 2026  
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Probability of > 1.0" of snowfall



Probability of > 2.0" of snowfall



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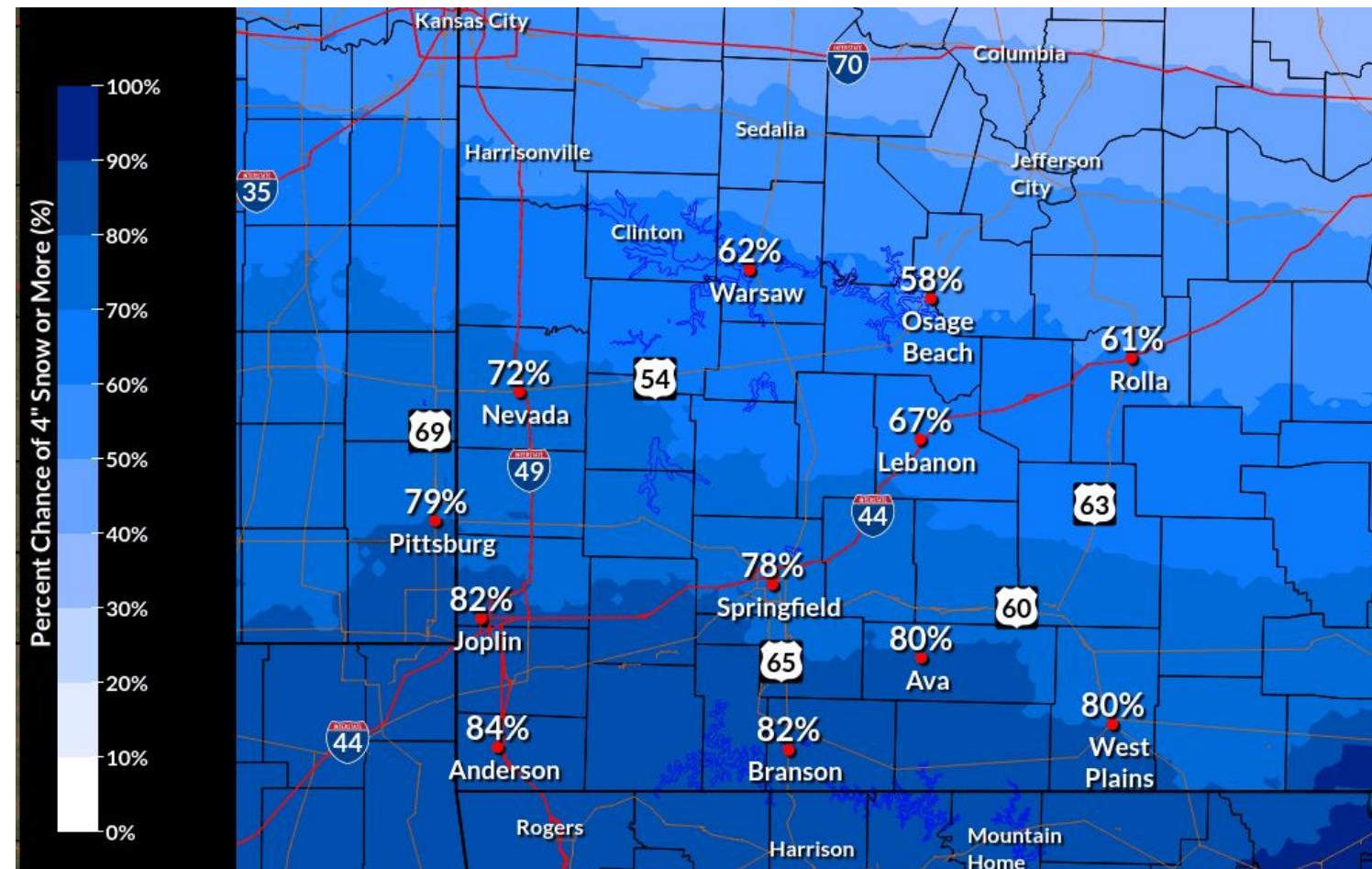
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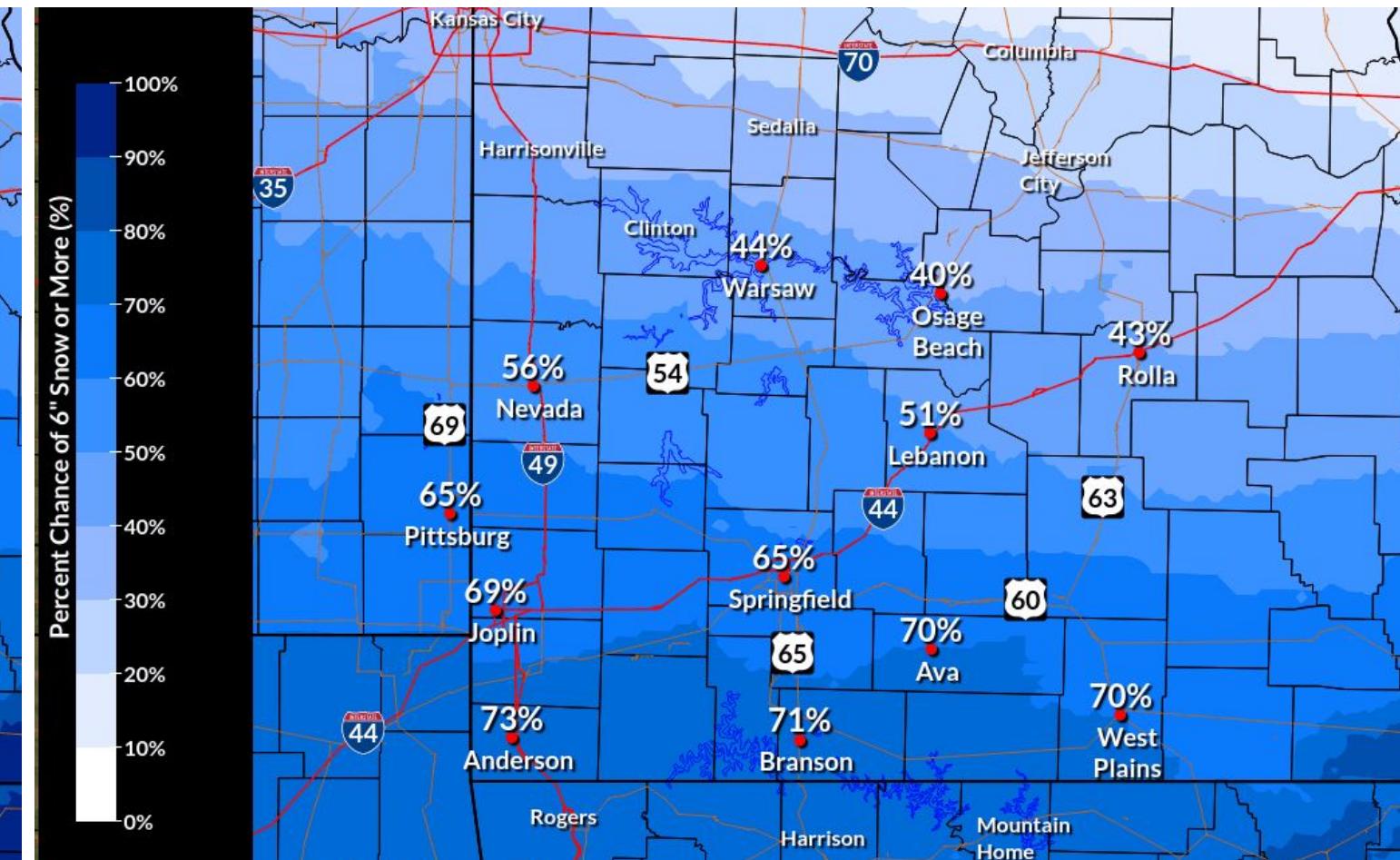
# Probabilistic Snowfall

Through Sunday Morning

January 21, 2026  
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Probability of > 4.0" of snowfall



Probability of > 6.0" of snowfall



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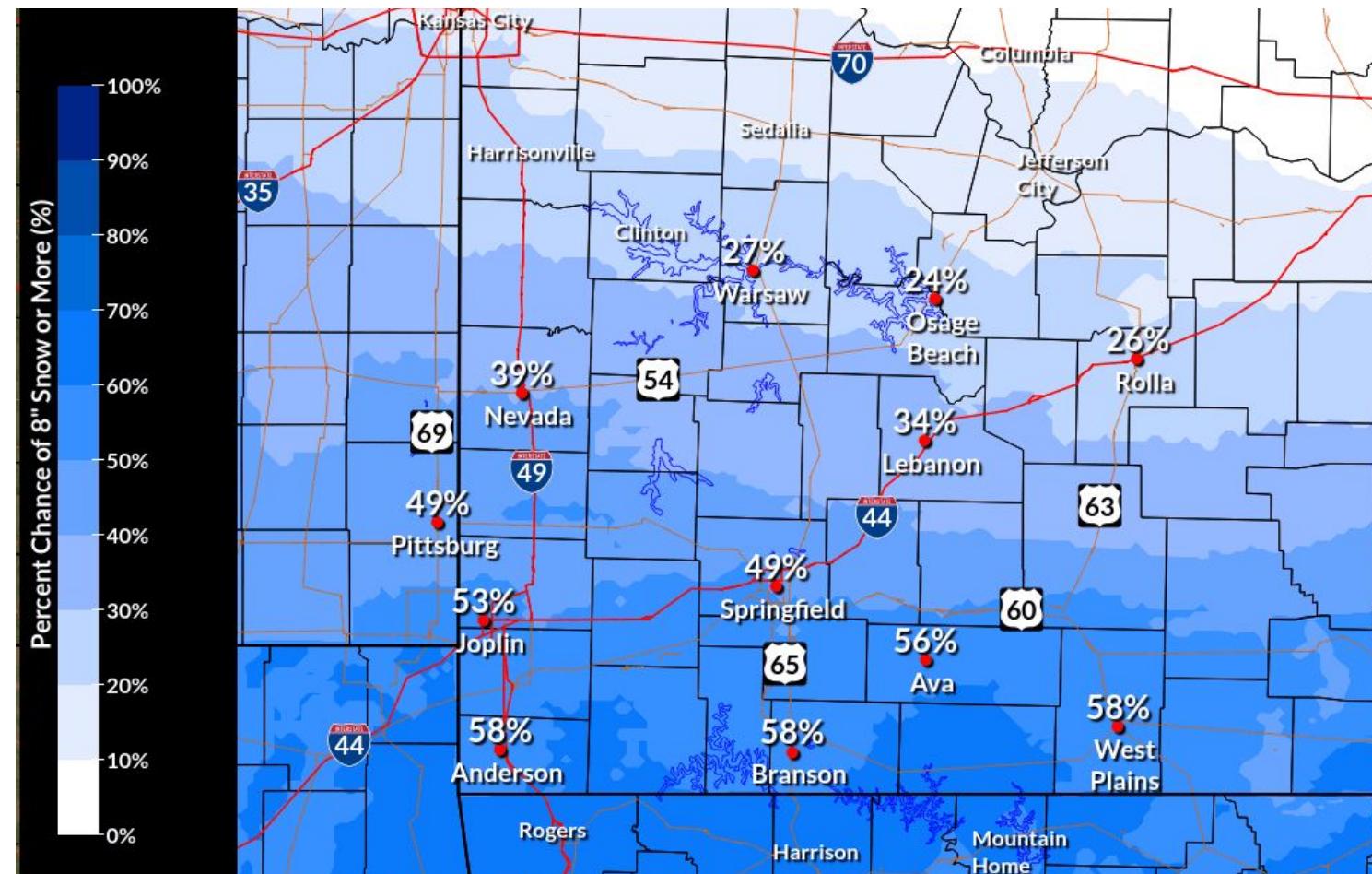
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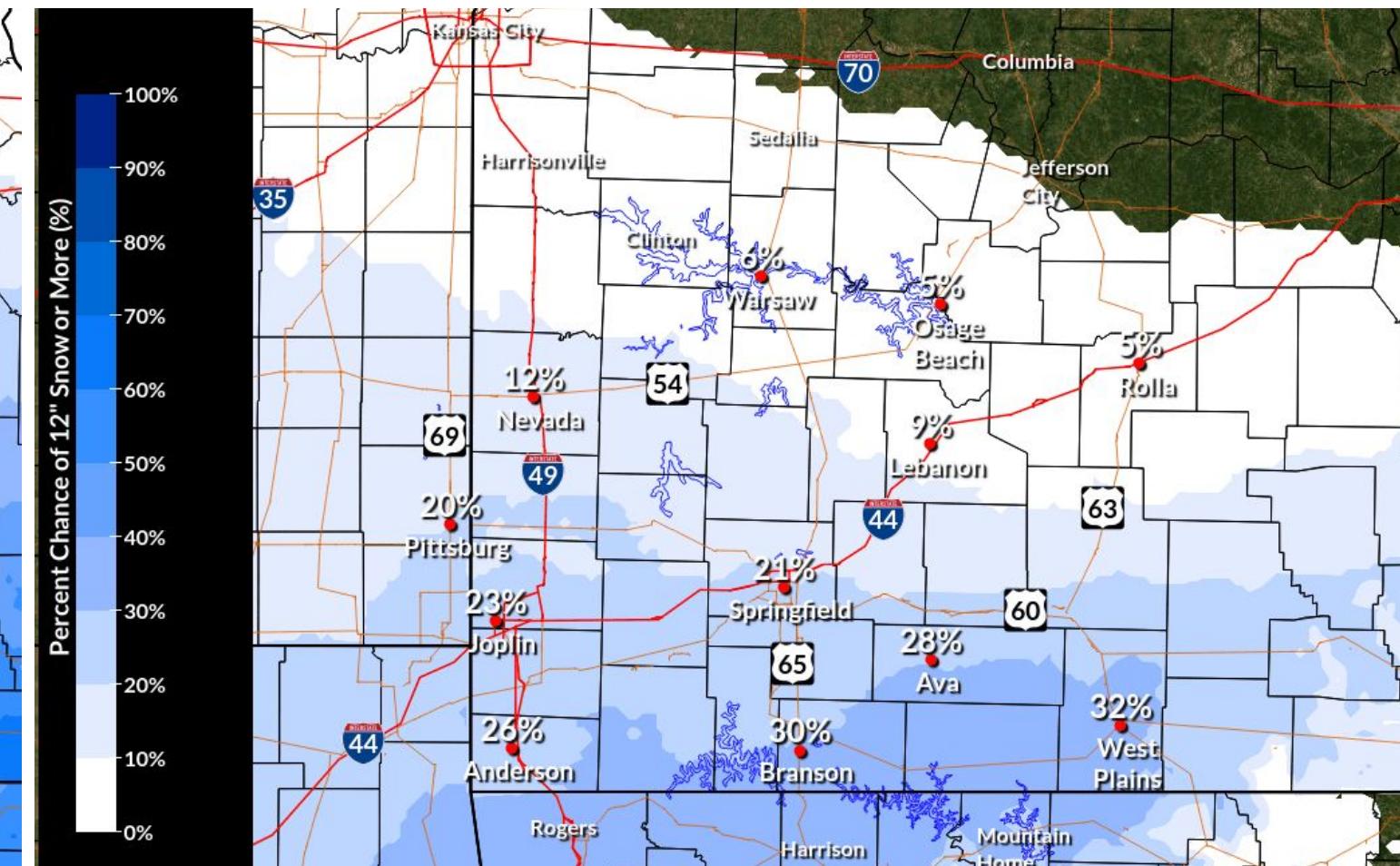
# Probabilistic Snowfall

Through Sunday Morning

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Probability of > 8.0" of snowfall



Probability of > 12.0" of snowfall



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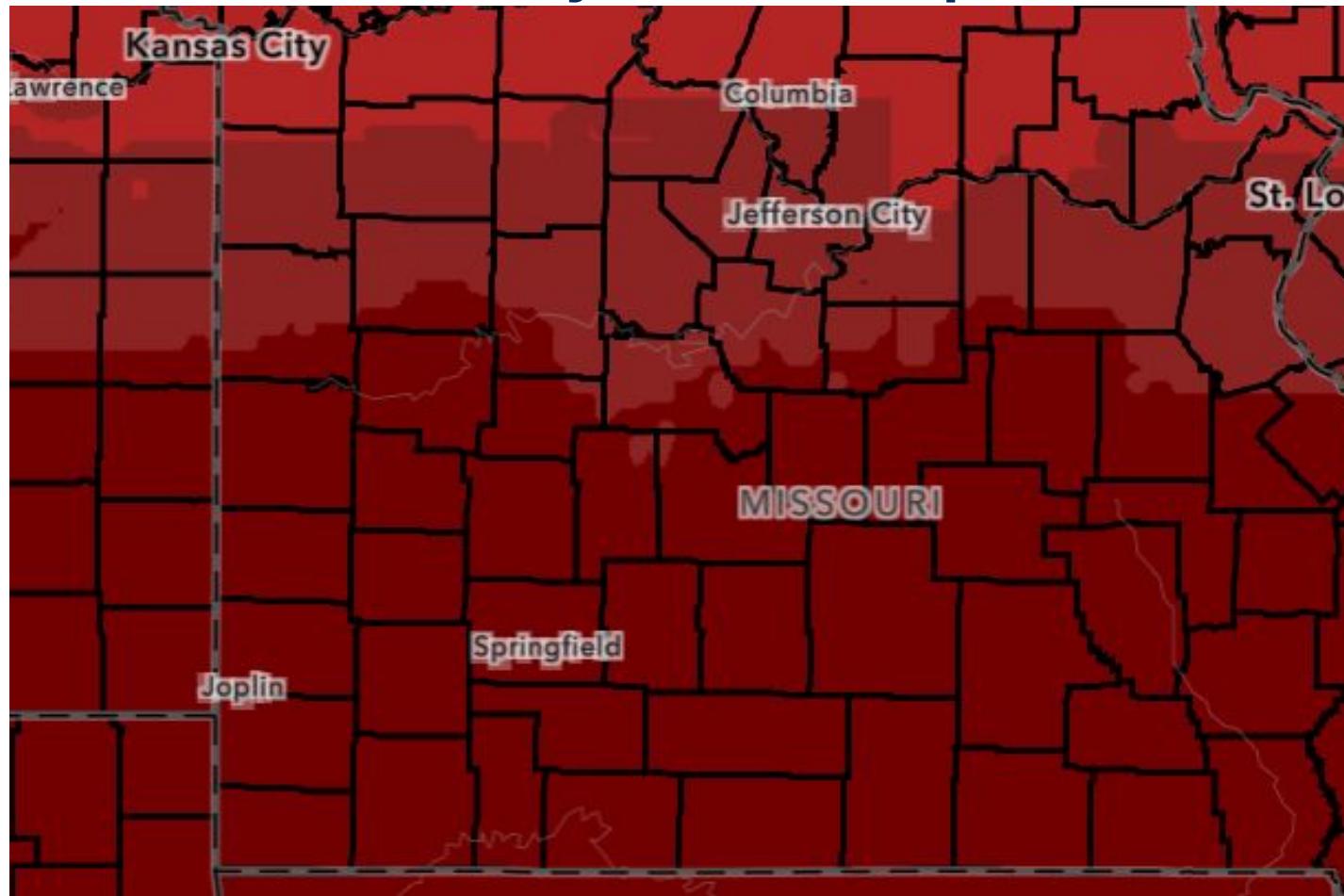


# Probabilistic Winter Storm Severity Index

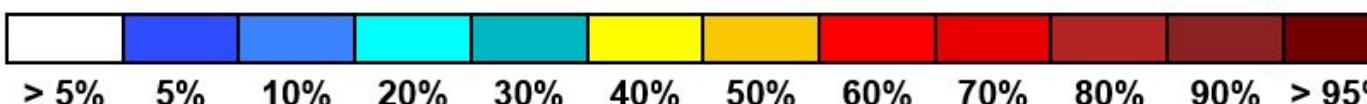
January 21, 2026  
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Valid 6 AM Saturday - 6 AM Sunday

## Probability of Minor Impacts

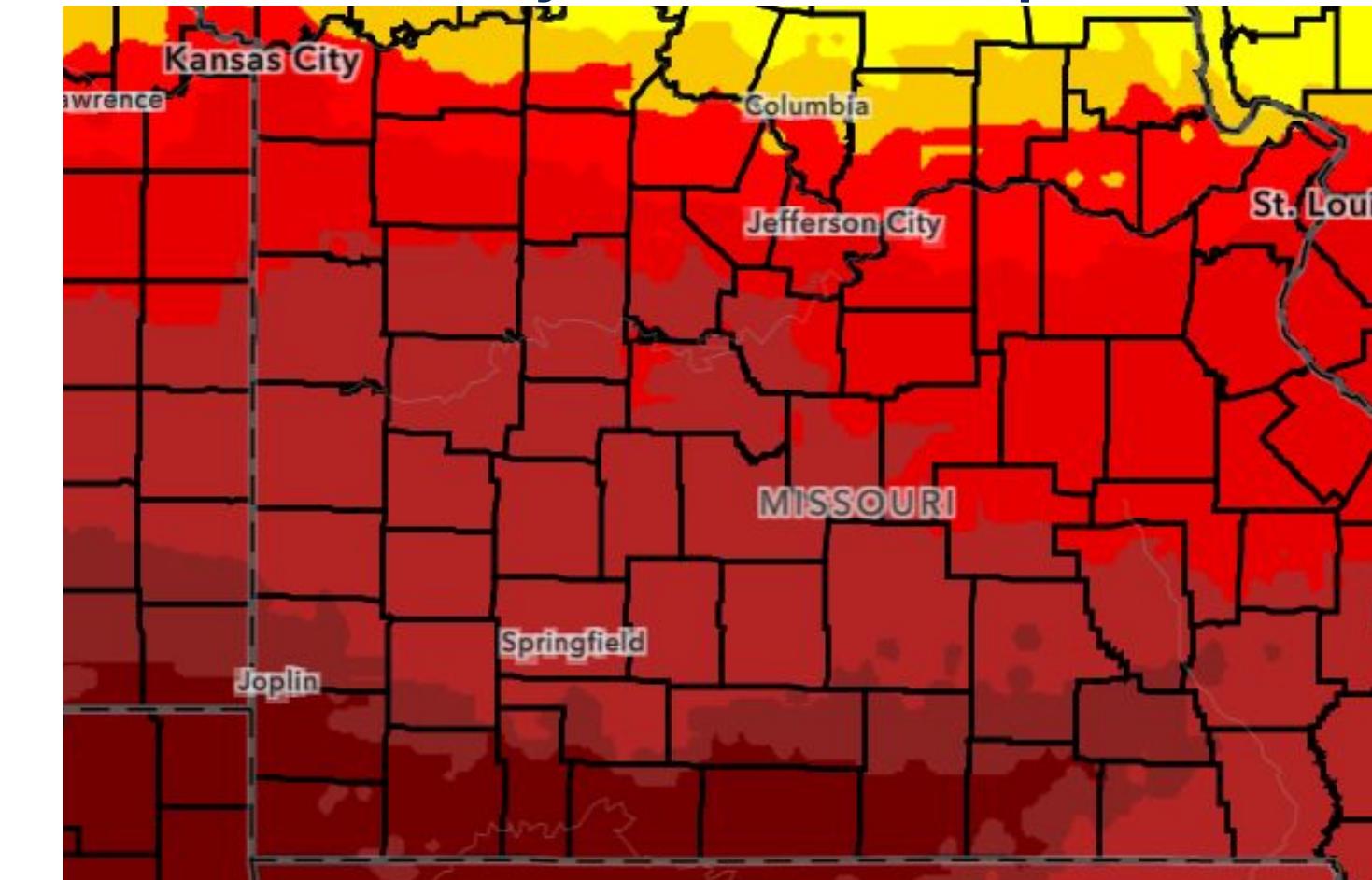


Likelihood of Impact

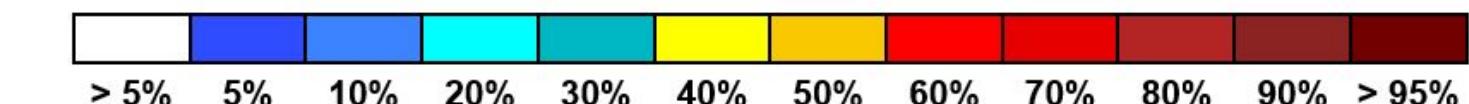


> 5% 5% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% > 95%

## Probability of Moderate Impacts



Likelihood of Impact



> 5% 5% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% > 95%

[Probabilistic WSSI](#)



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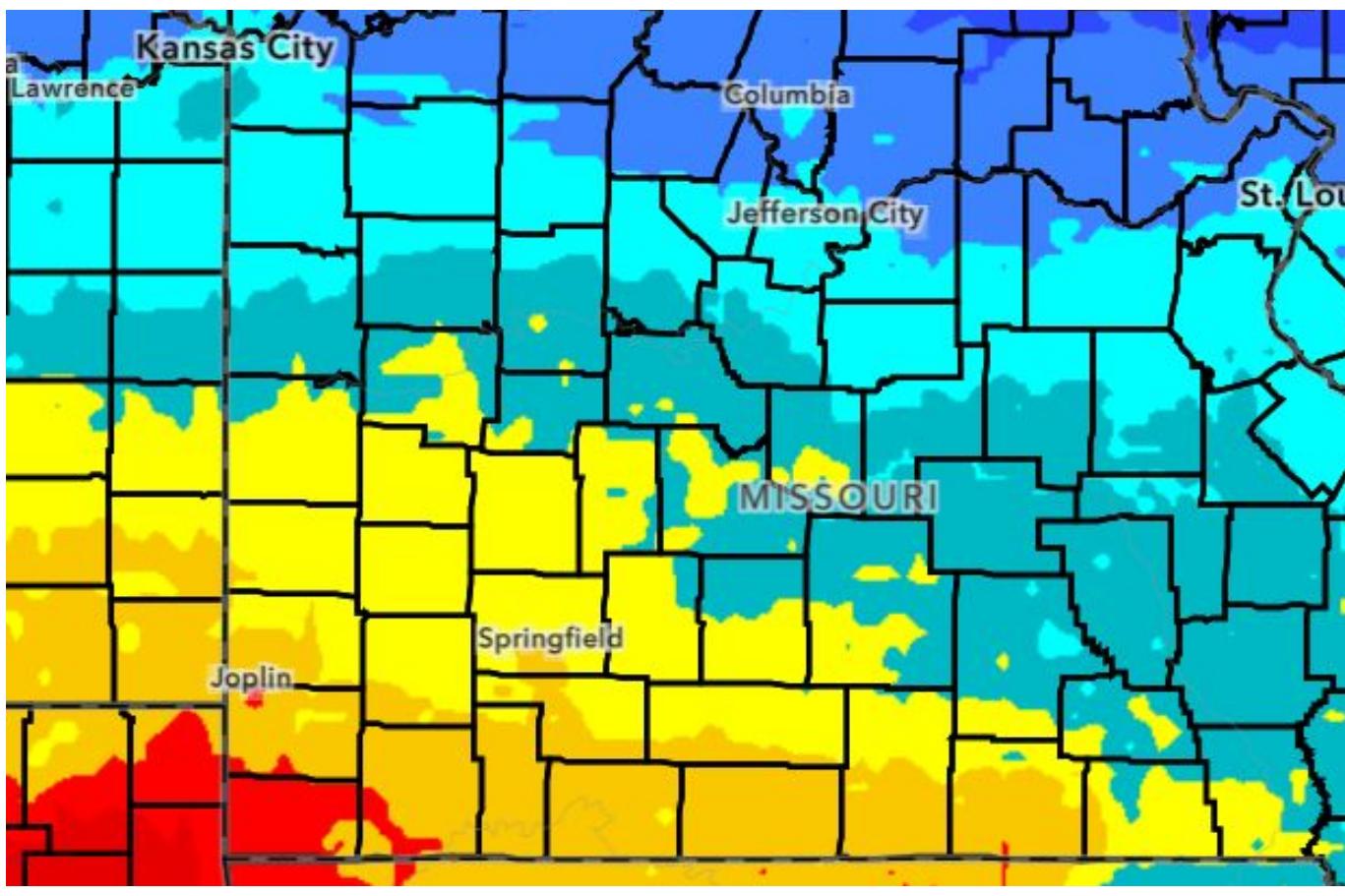


# Probabilistic Winter Storm Severity Index

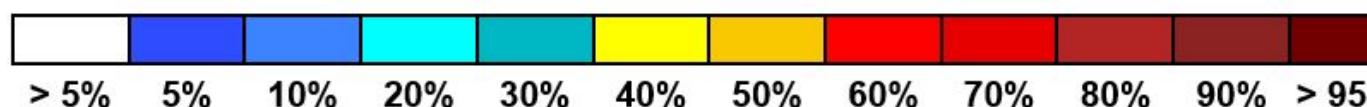
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Valid 6 AM Saturday - 6 AM Sunday

## Probability of Major Impacts



### Likelihood of Impact



> 5% 5% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% > 95%

[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.



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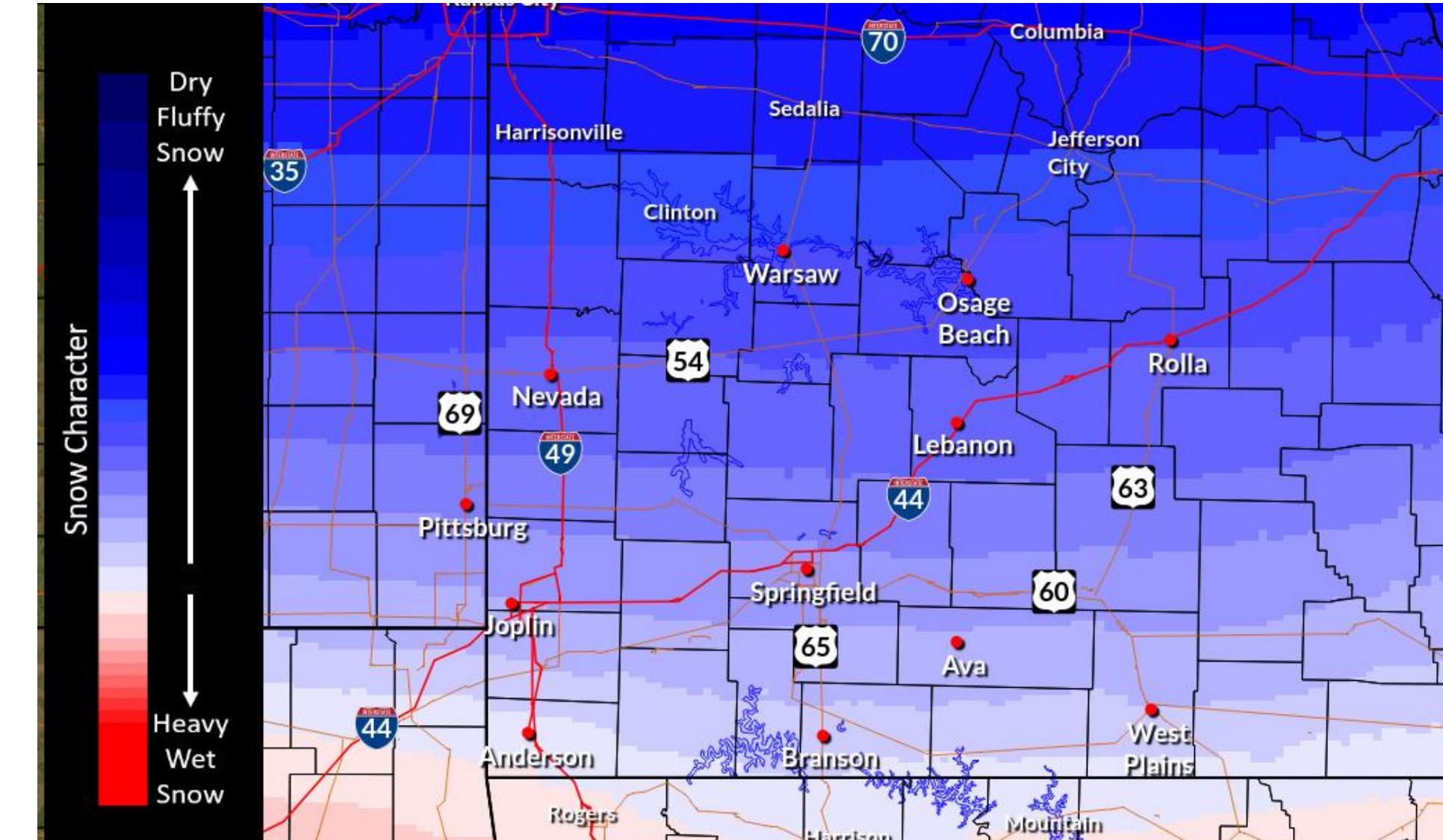
# Snow Character

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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.



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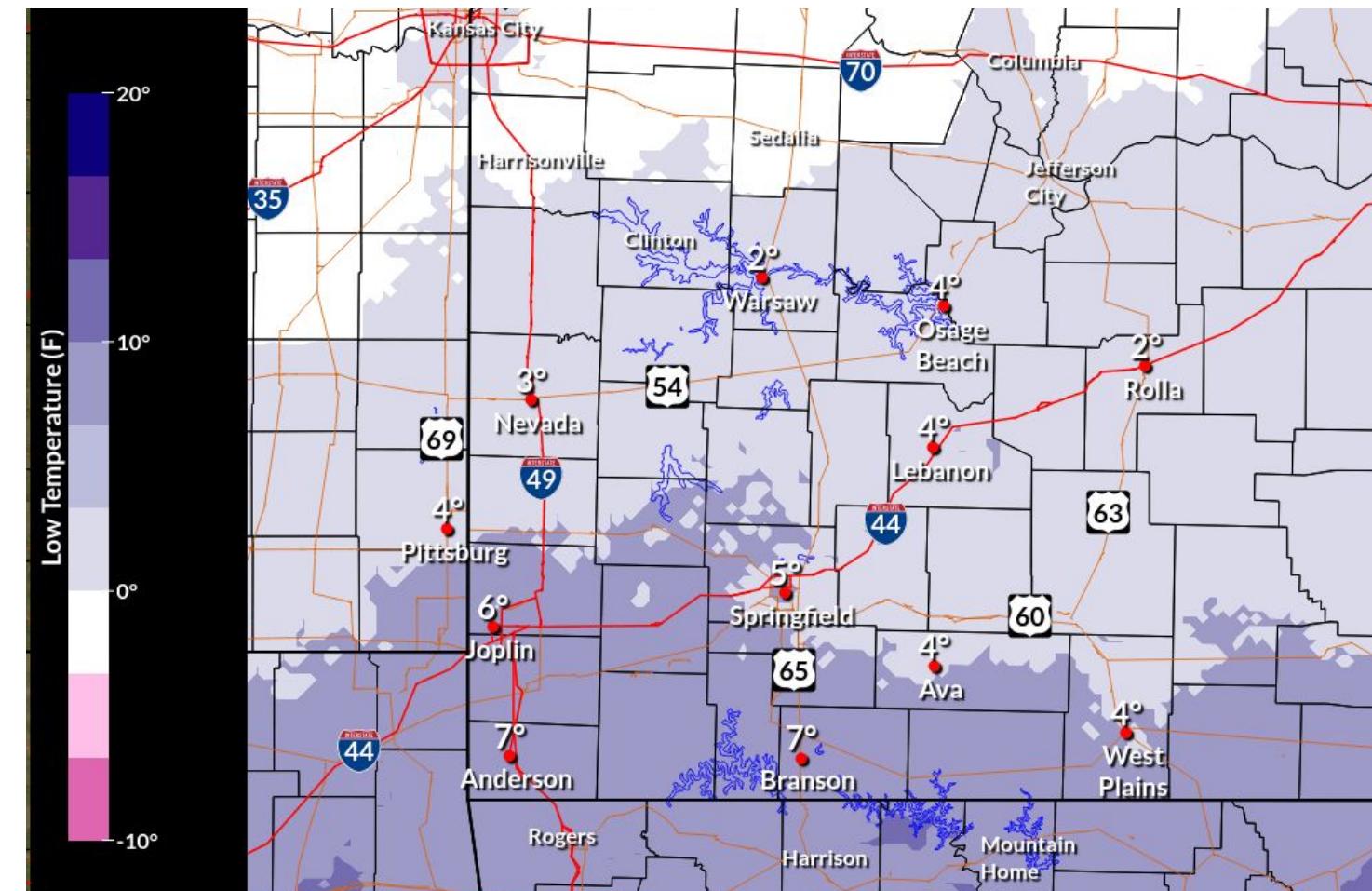
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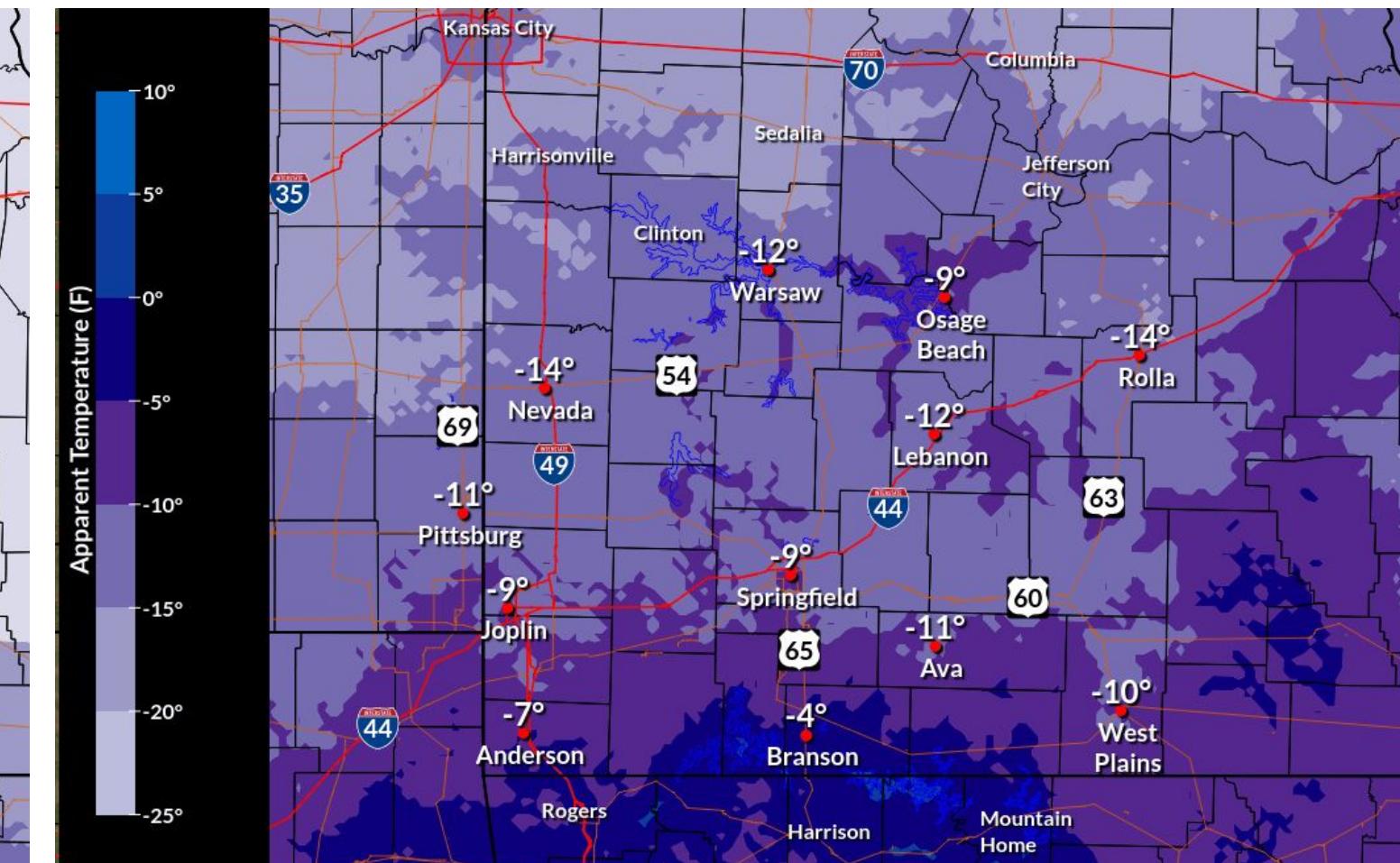
# Forecast Low Temps & Wind Chills

January 21, 2026  
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Friday Night



Low Temperatures Friday Night



Minimum Wind Chill Friday Night



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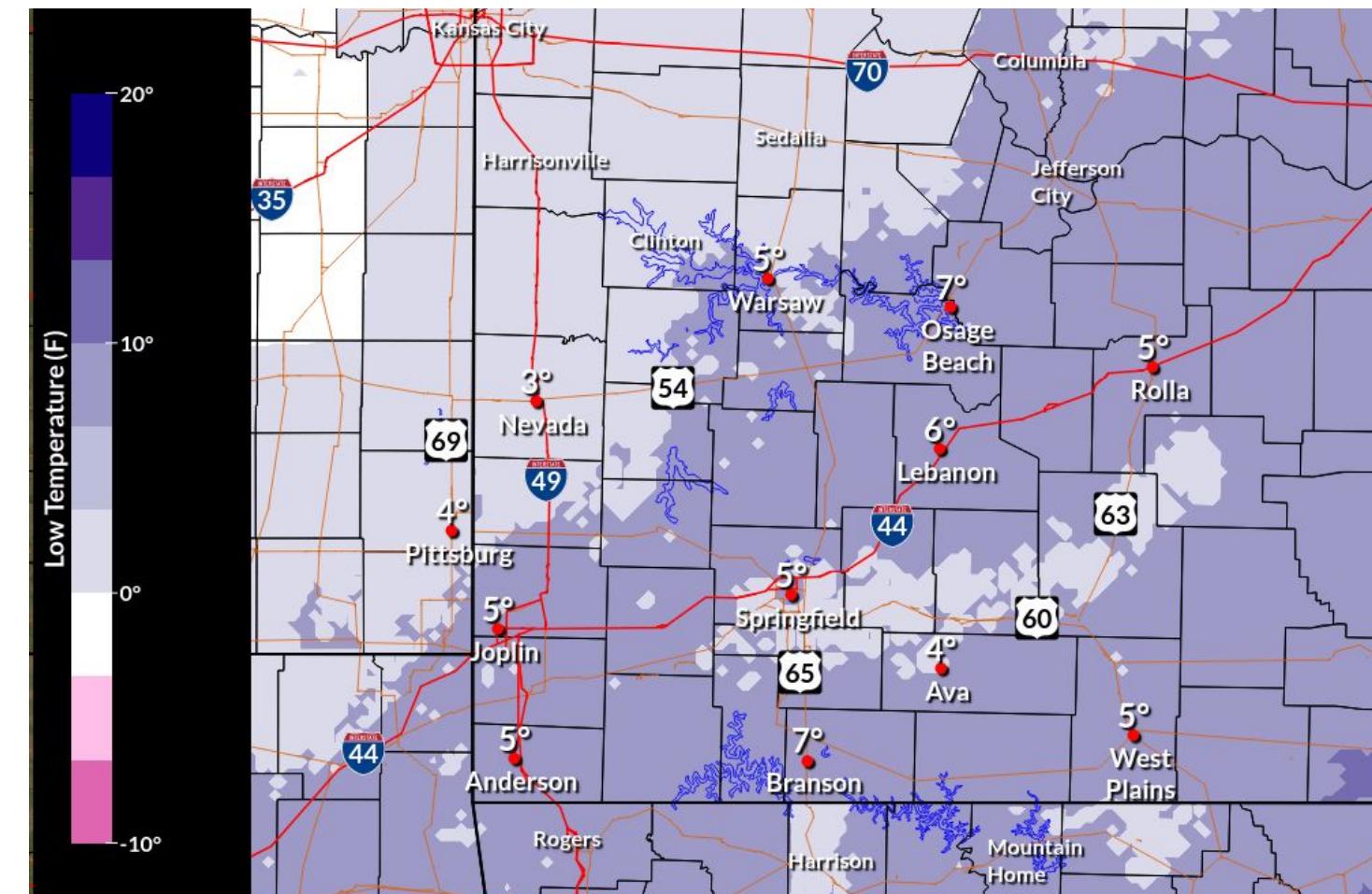
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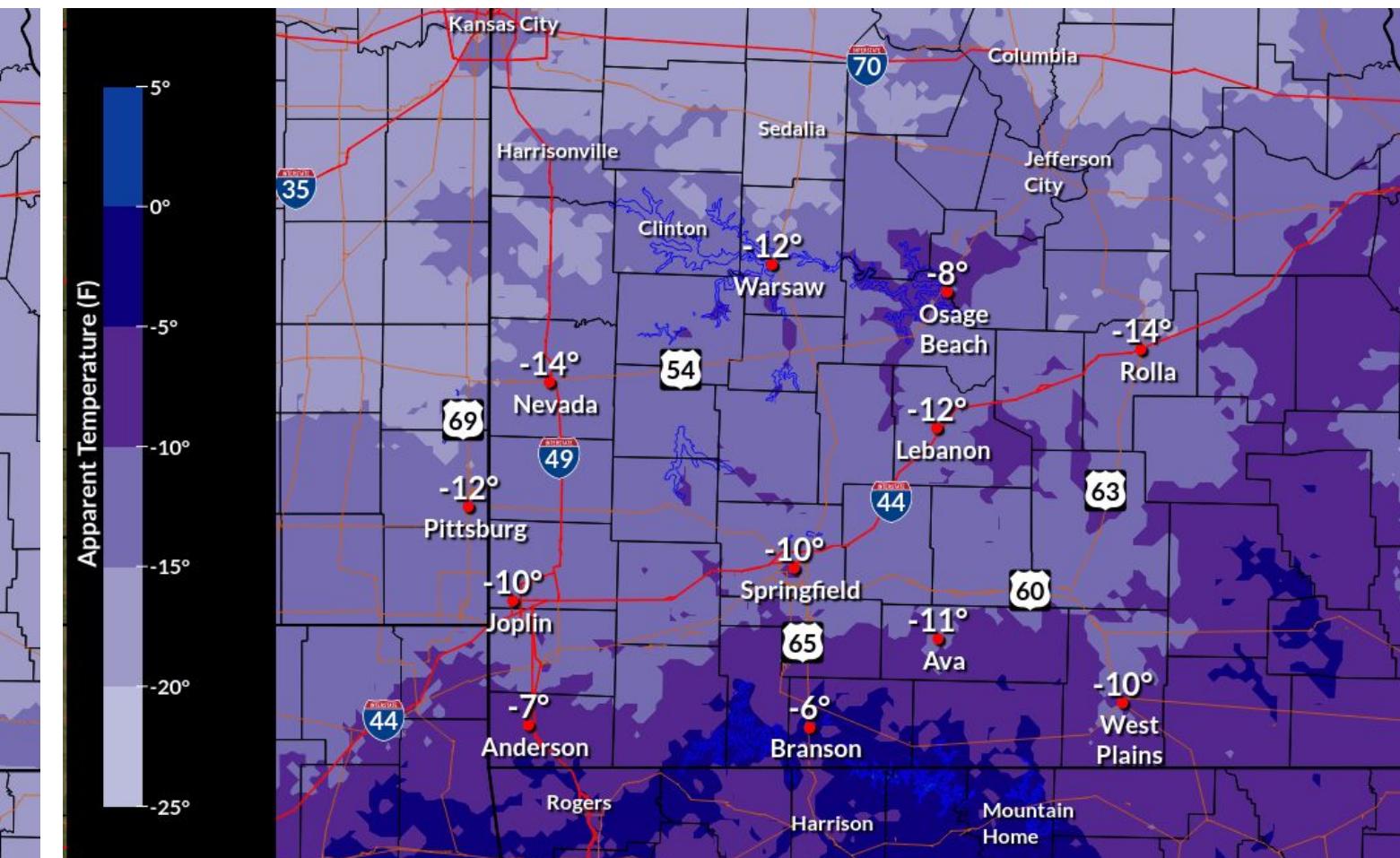
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Saturday Night



Low Temperatures Saturday Night



Minimum Wind Chill Saturday Night



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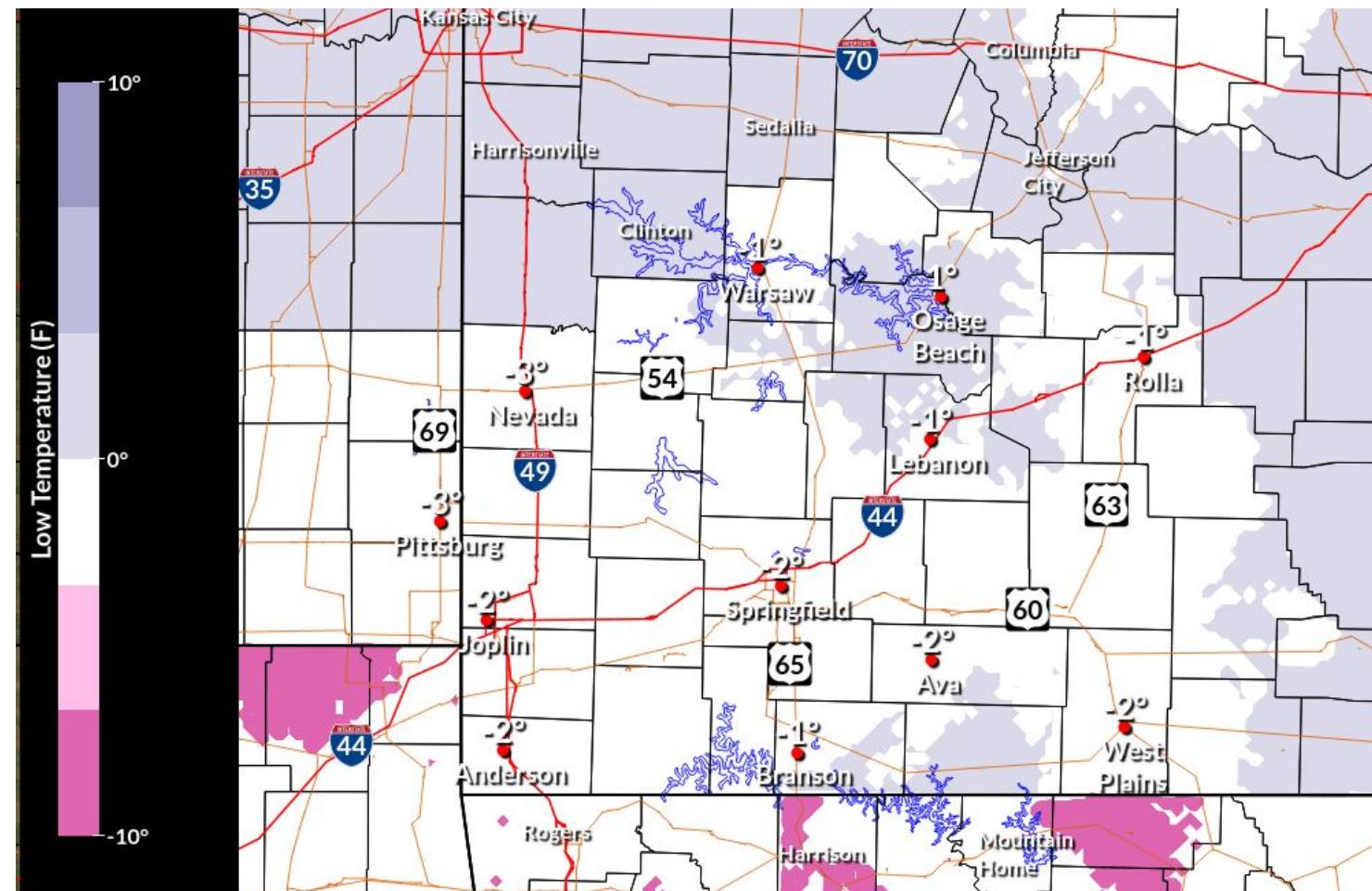
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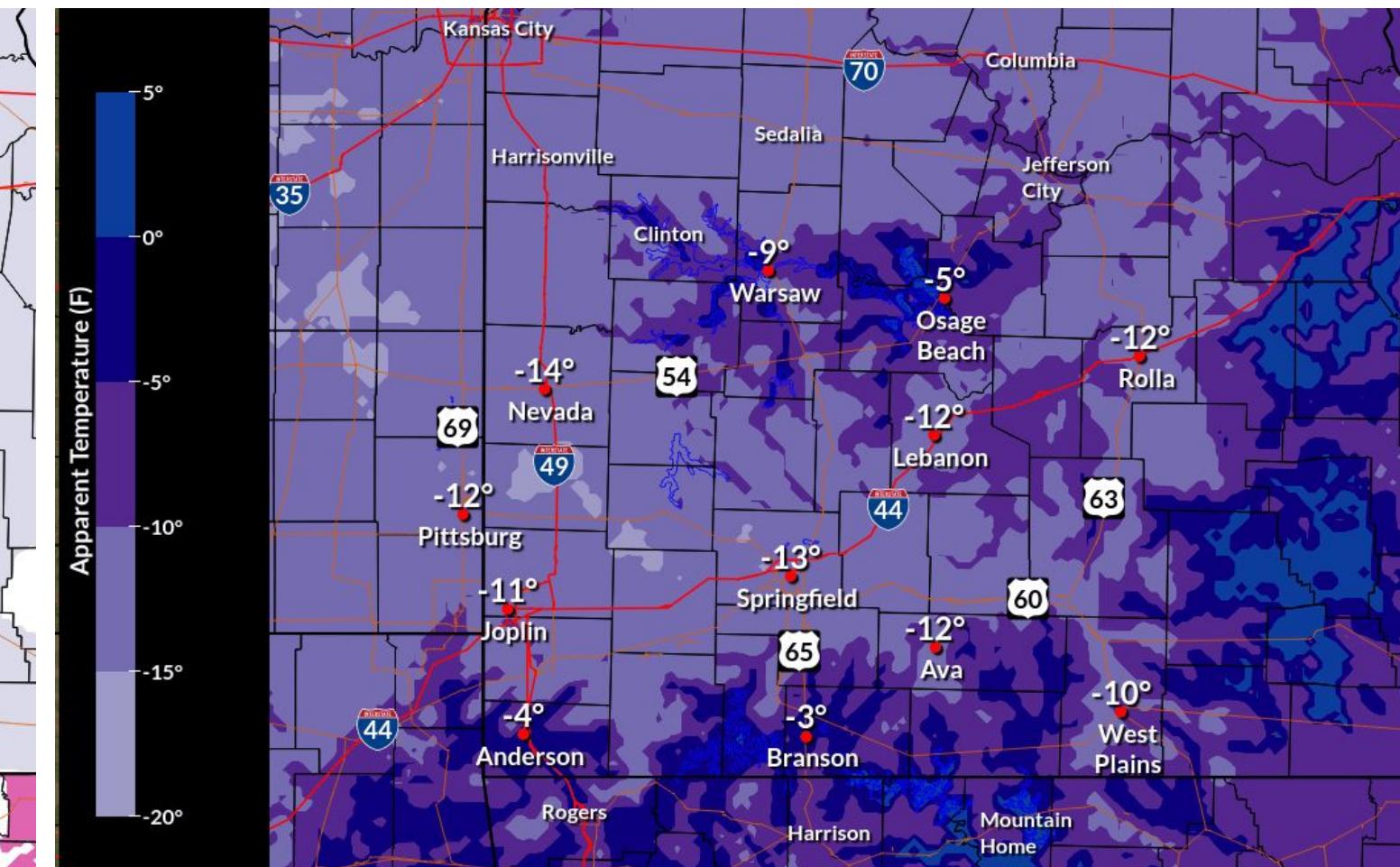
# Forecast Low Temps & Wind Chills

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Sunday Night



Low Temperatures Sunday Night



Minimum Wind Chill Sunday Night



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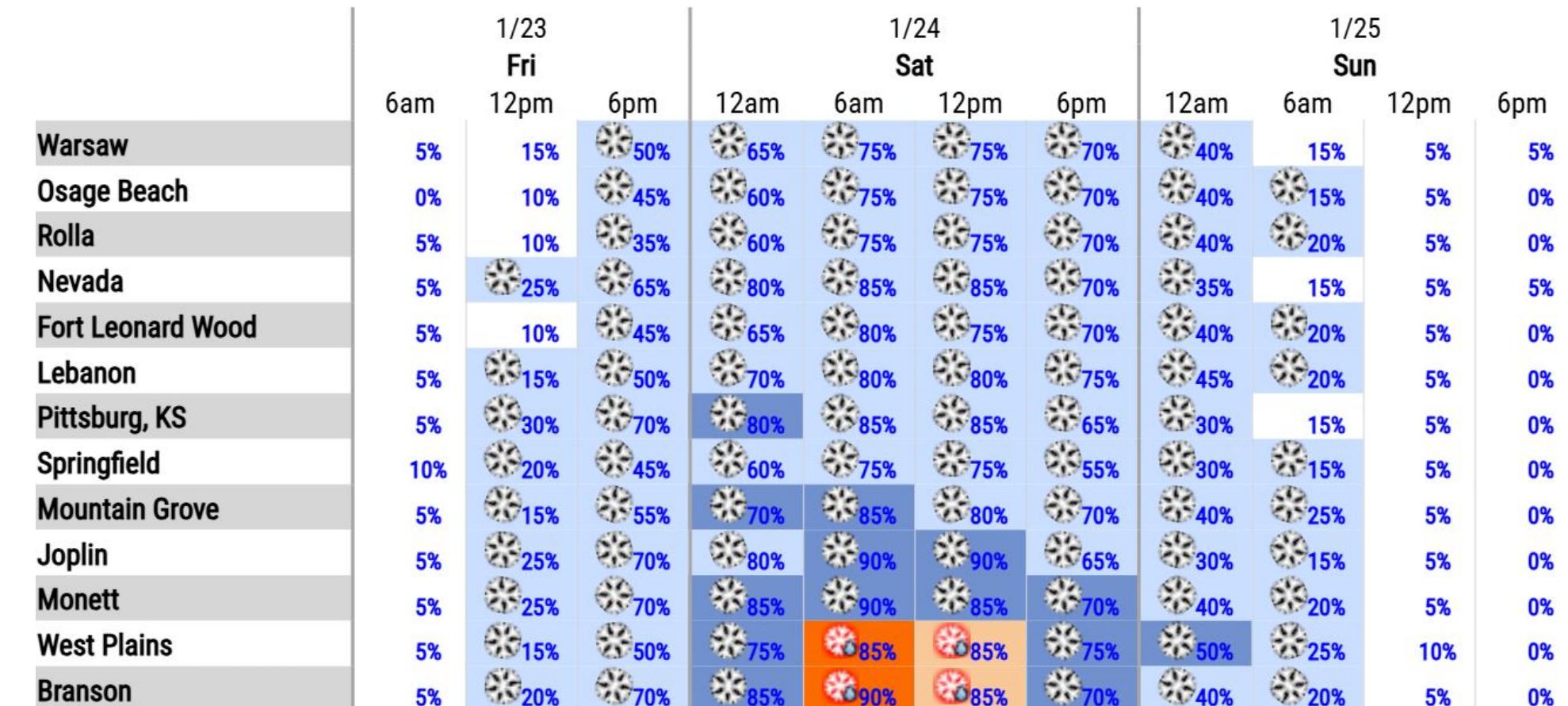
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# Timing of Snow

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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.



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  $\geq 0\%$ .

- Wintry Mix + - Snow +

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



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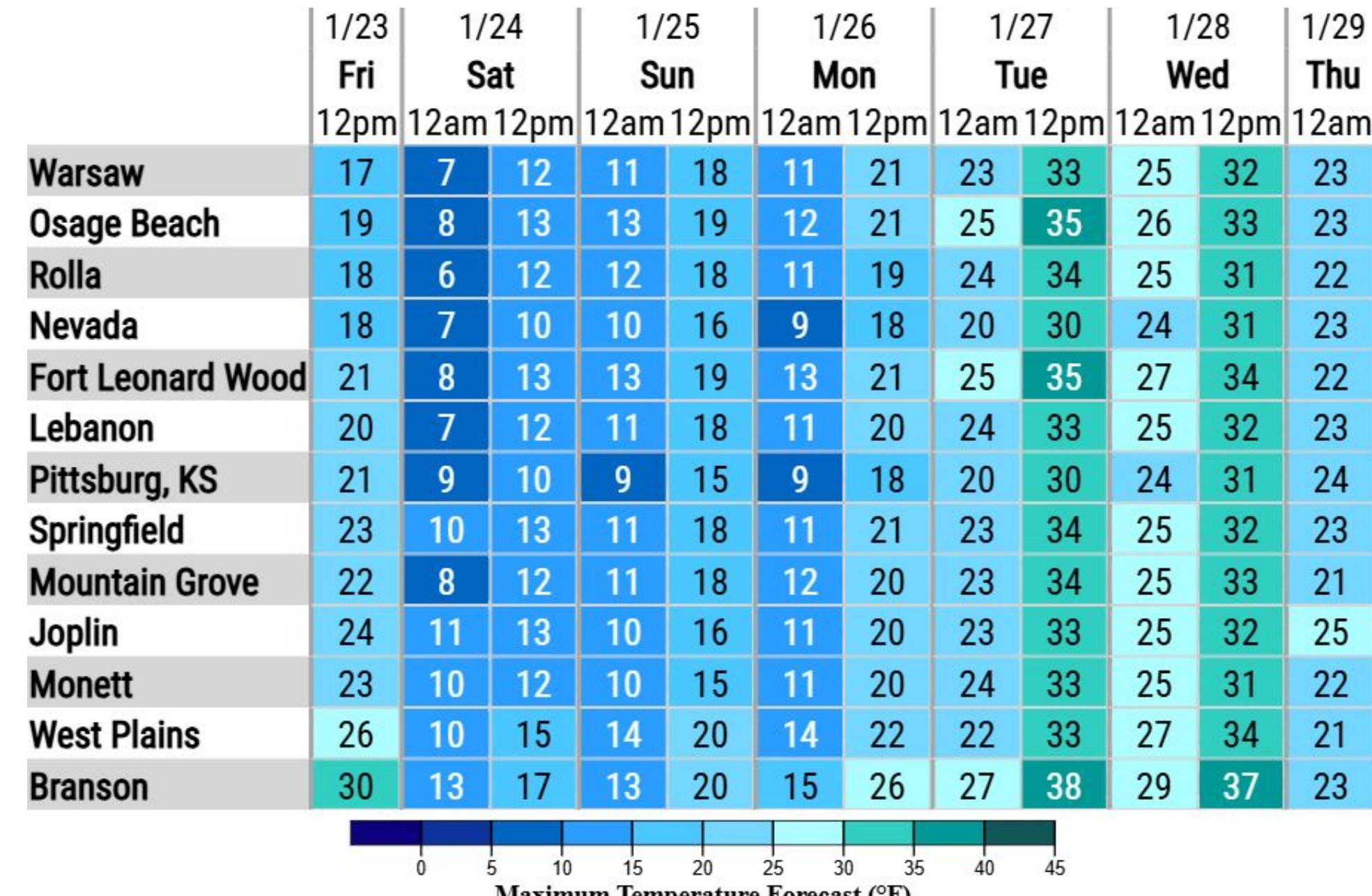
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# Timing of Temperatures

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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.



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# National Weather Service Springfield, MO



# 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](#)



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