



# Winter Storm & Bitter Cold This Weekend

January 21, 2026  
6:05 AM

Confidence continues to increase in moderate to major impacts in the Ozarks this weekend

## Key Messages

- A large storm system will bring a variety of winter weather impacts to portions of the Southern Plains and Ohio River Valley Friday through this weekend, though considerable uncertainty does still remain regarding details.
- A Winter Storm Watch has been issued for far southern portions of Kansas and Missouri, where there is a >50% chance of 5" of snow or more and a 50-60% chance of major impacts.
- Bitter cold will accompany this system, bringing single digit lows & below-zero wind chills through at least Tuesday.

NEW

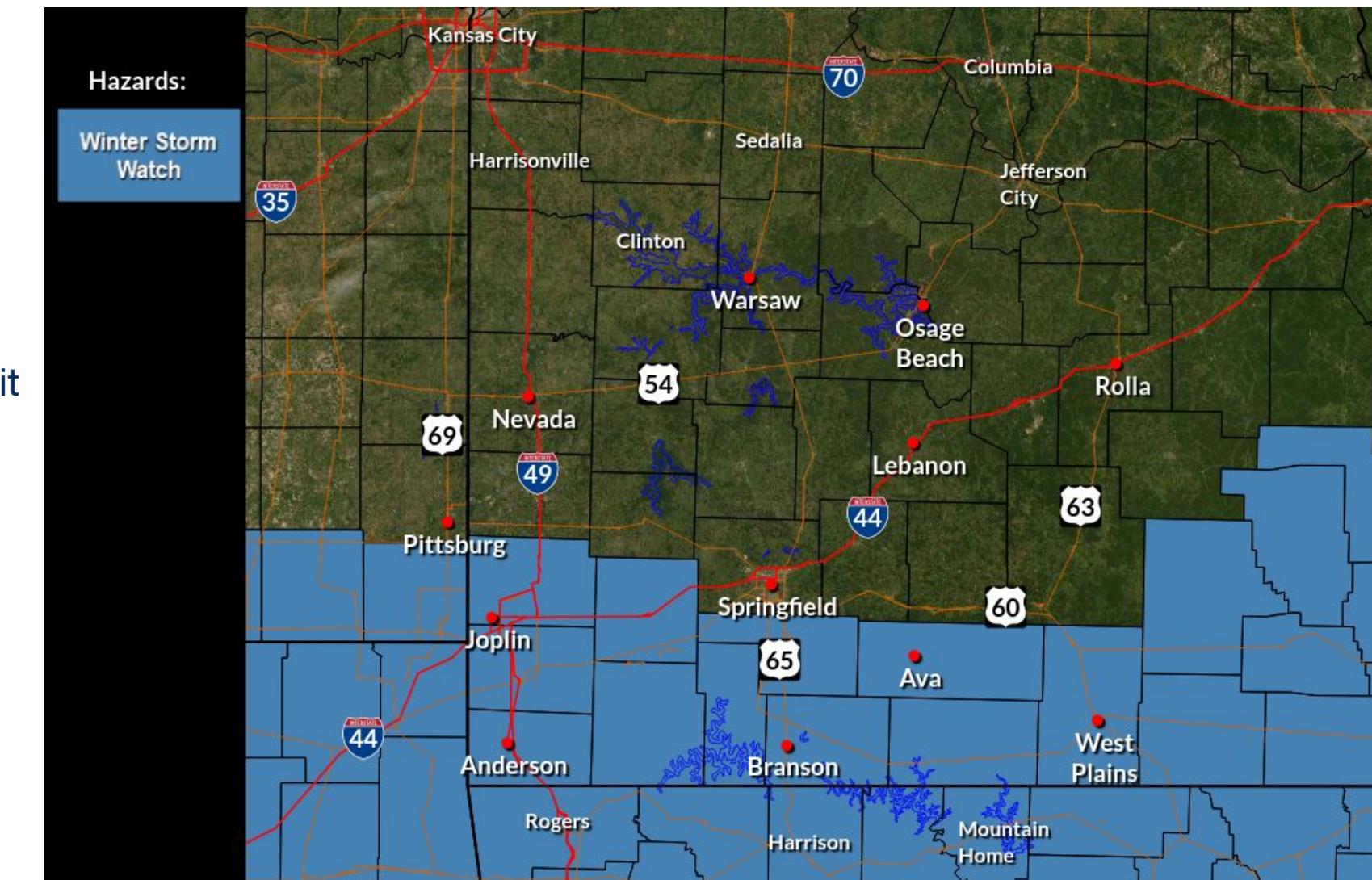
## Important Updates

- Winter Storm Watch issued for portions of southern Kansas and Missouri from 12 PM Friday - 6 AM Sunday
- Confidence increasing in snowfall amounts and potential for moderate to major impacts

## Next Scheduled Briefing

- By 4 PM Wednesday

## Winter Storm Watch 12 PM Friday - 6 AM Sunday



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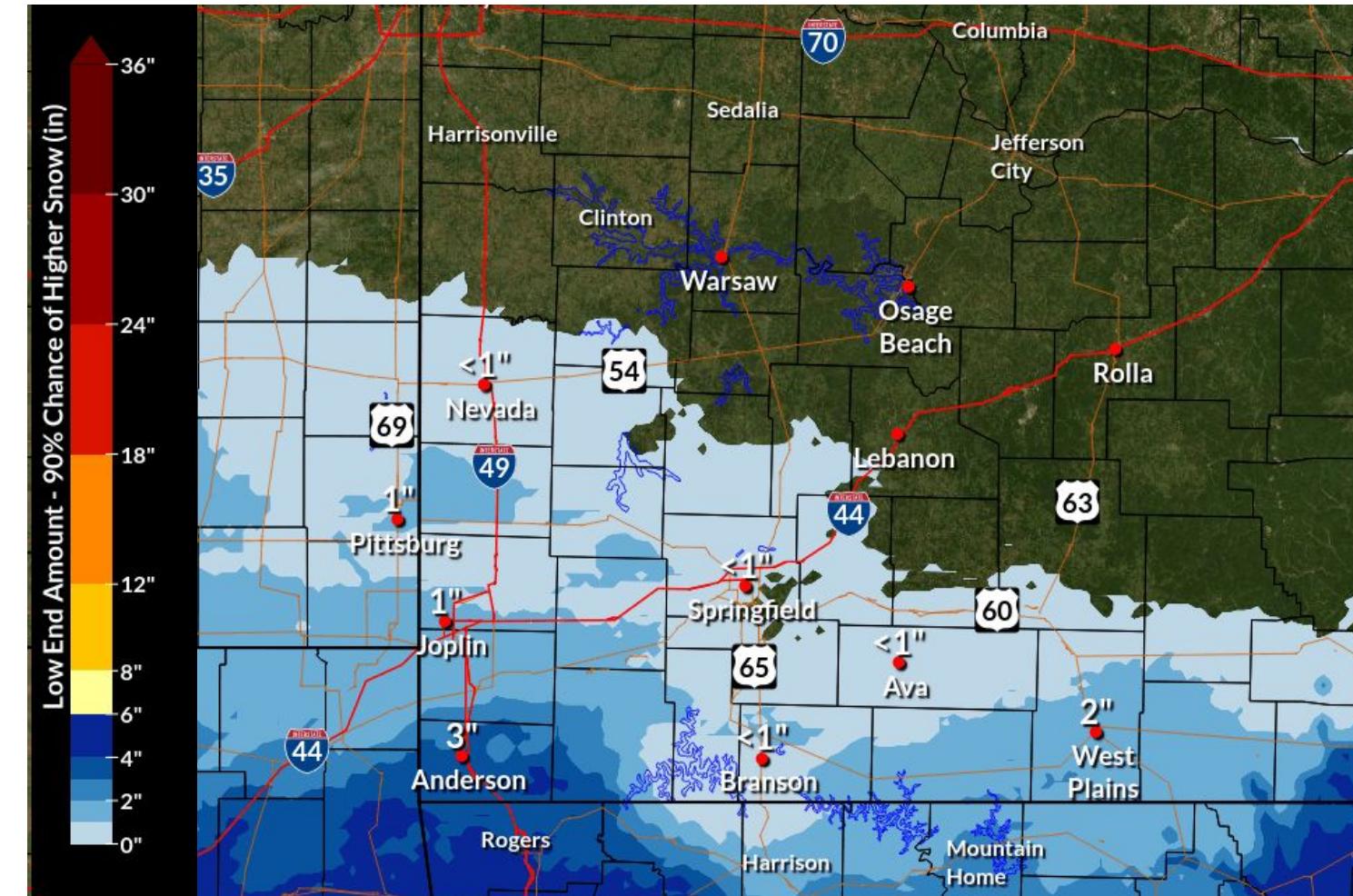
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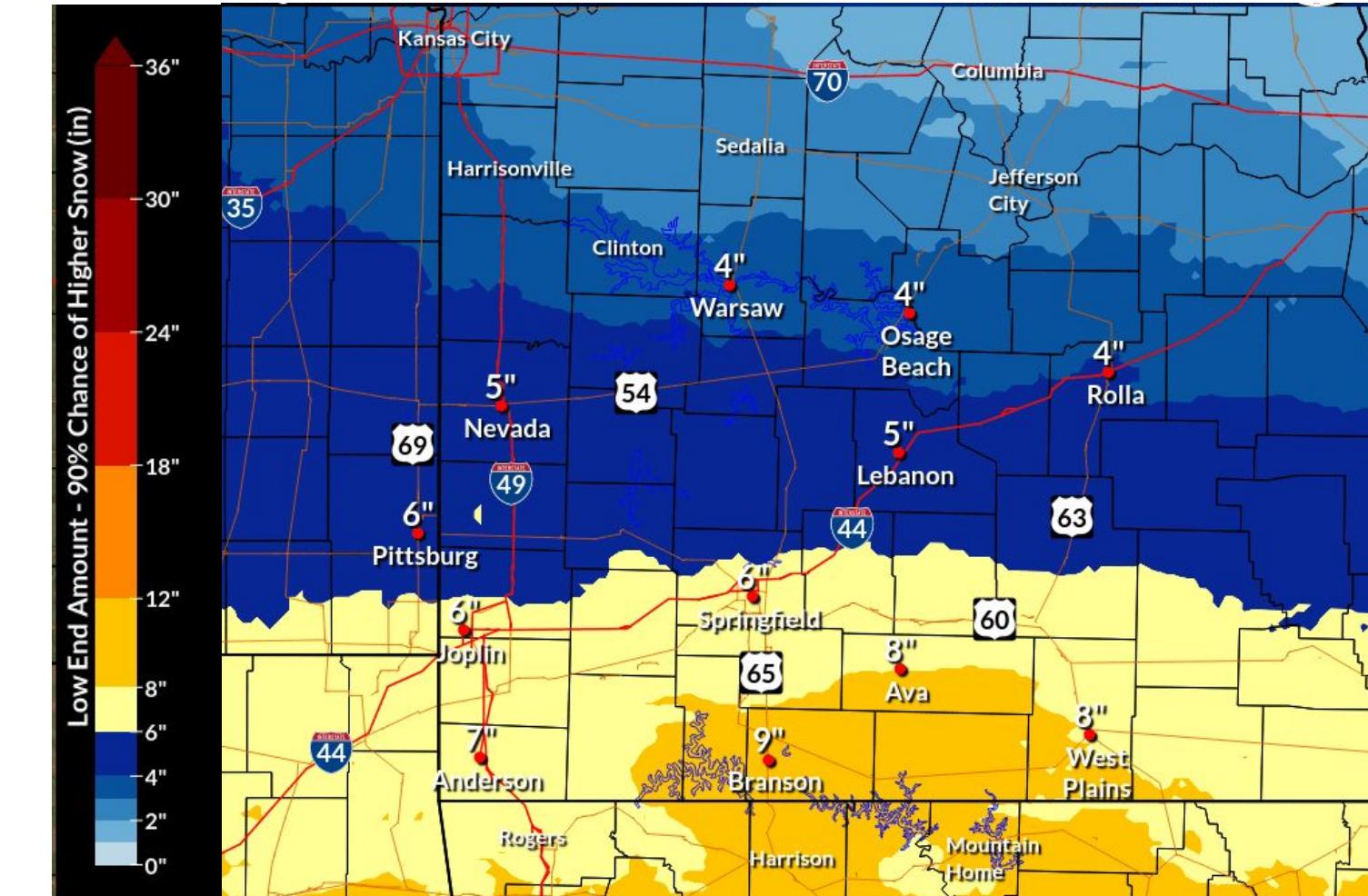
# High End and Low End Snowfall Amounts

January 21, 2026  
6:05 AM

Friday Afternoon Through Sunday Morning



**Low End Snow Amounts**  
**(90% Chance of Greater Than This Amount)**



**High End Snow Amounts**  
**(10% Chance of Greater Than This Amount)**



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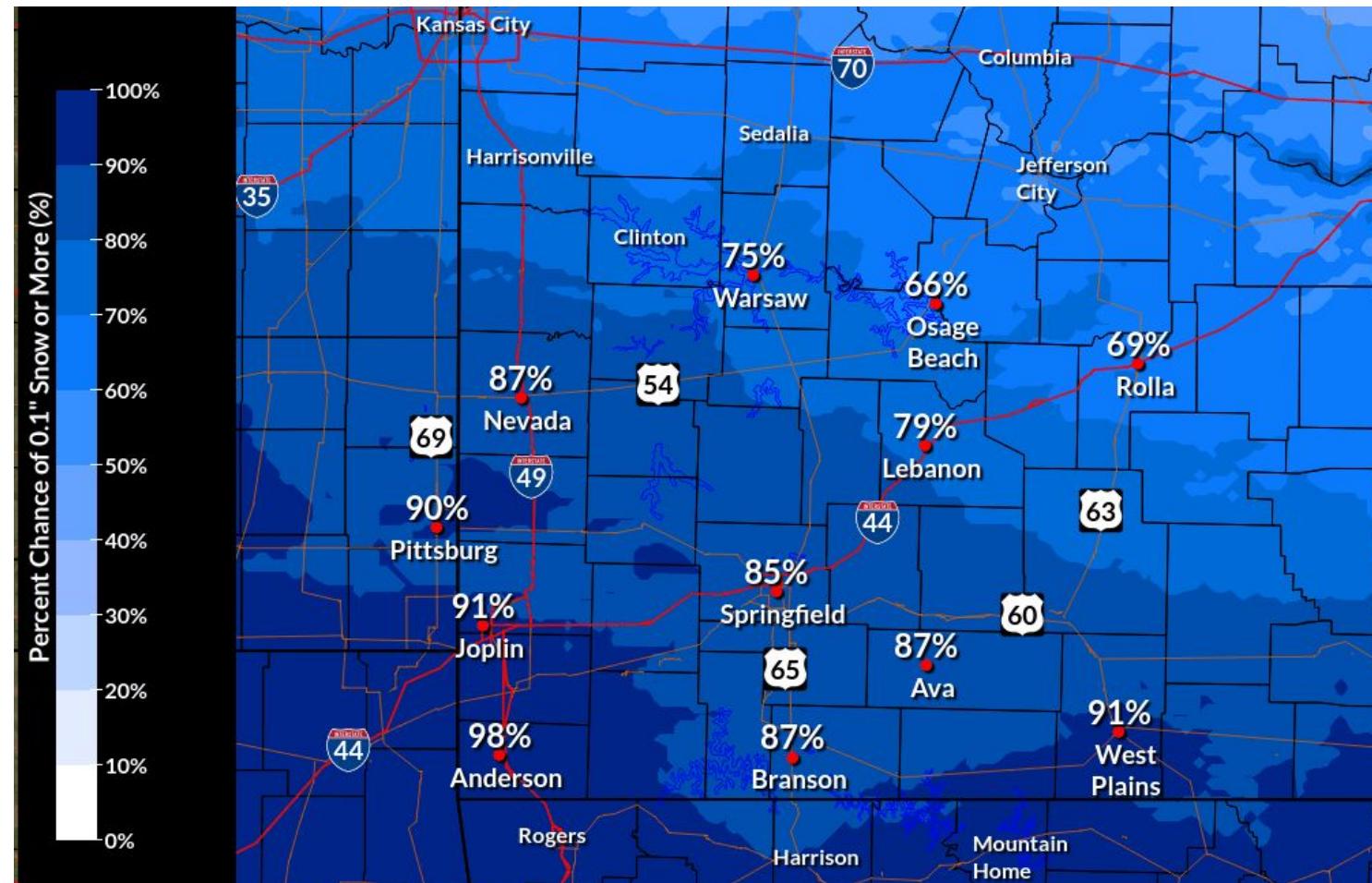
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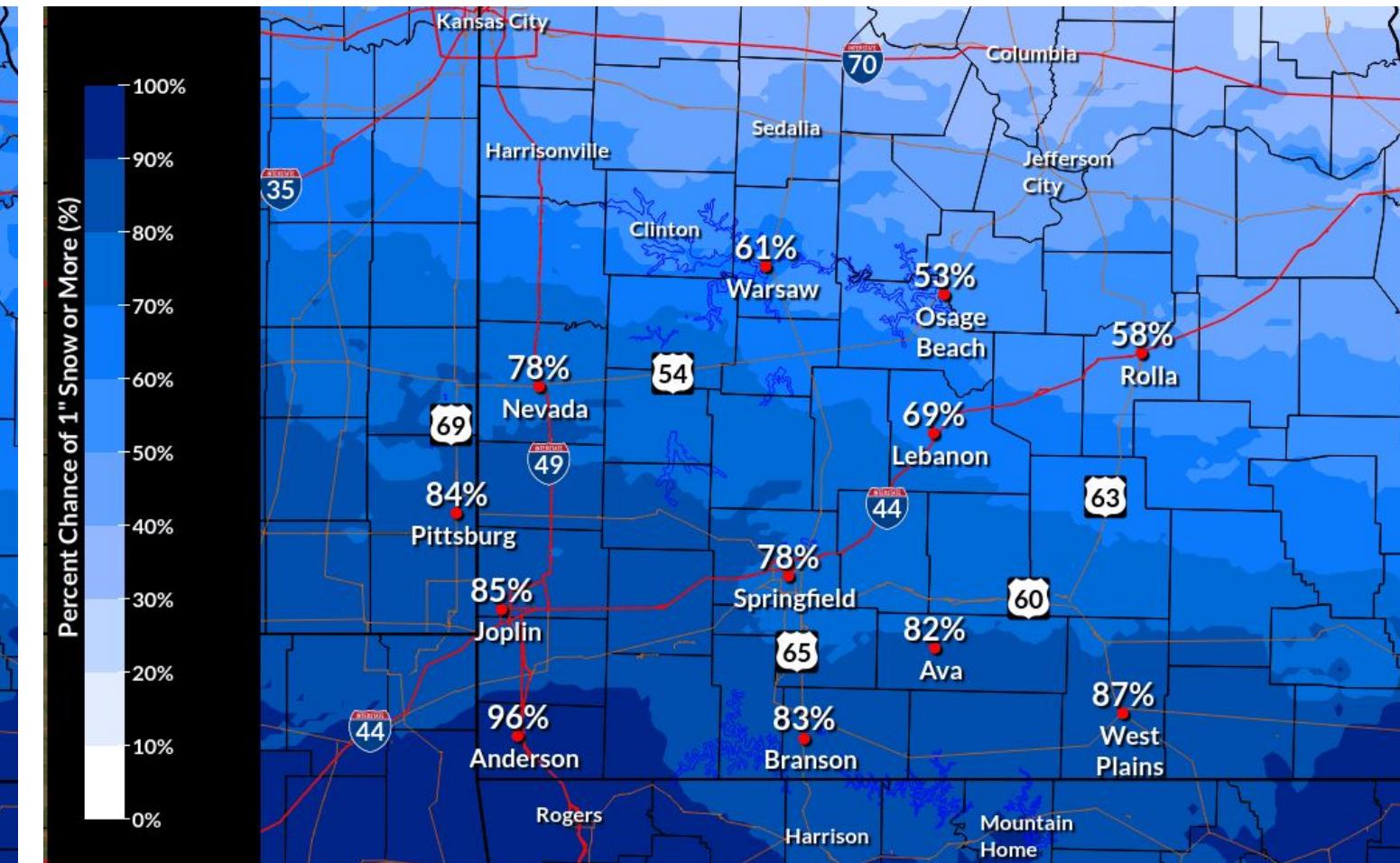
# Probabilistic Snowfall

Through Sunday Morning

January 21, 2026  
6:05 AM



Probability of > 0.1" of snowfall



Probability of > 1.0" of snowfall



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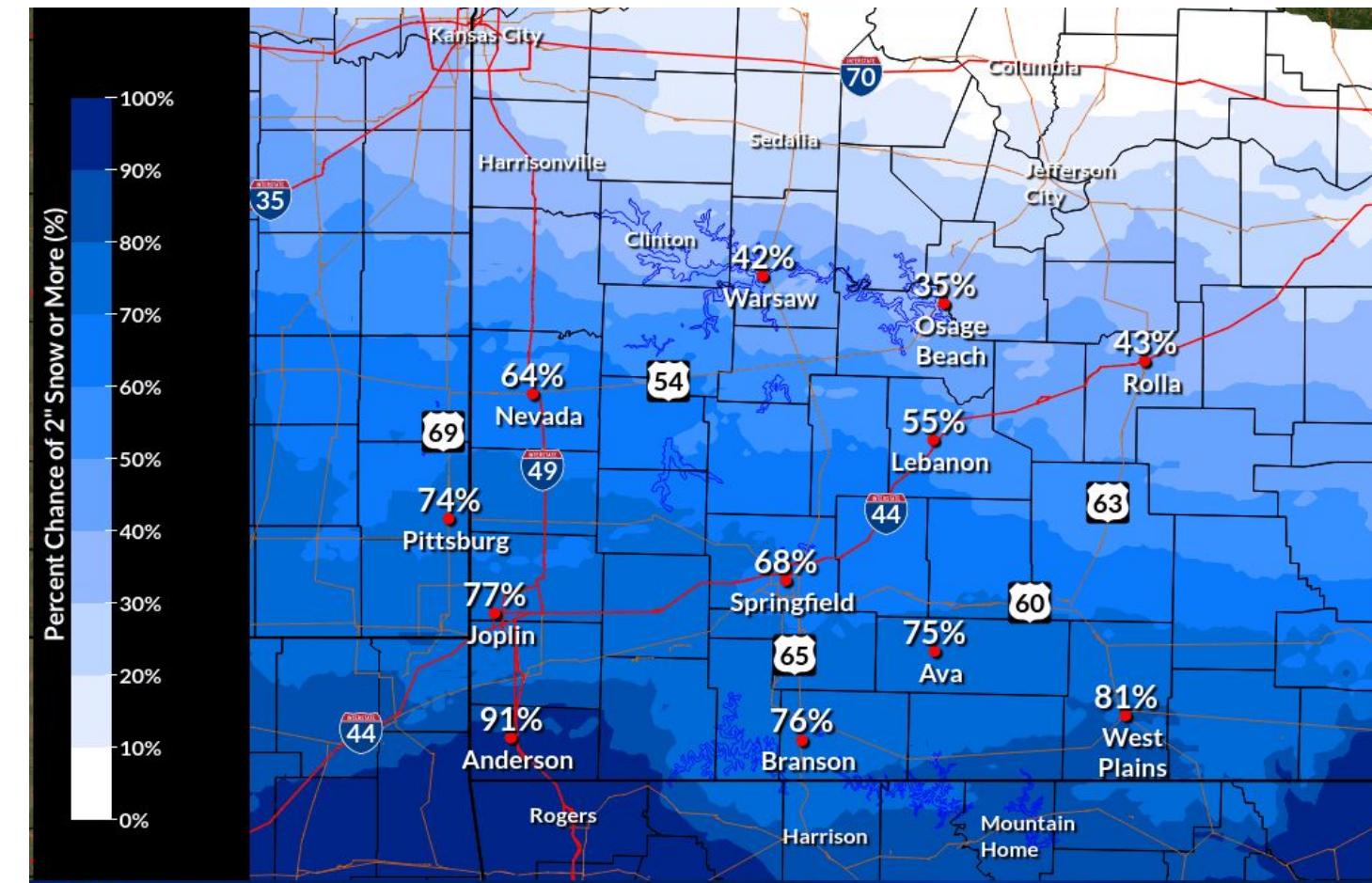
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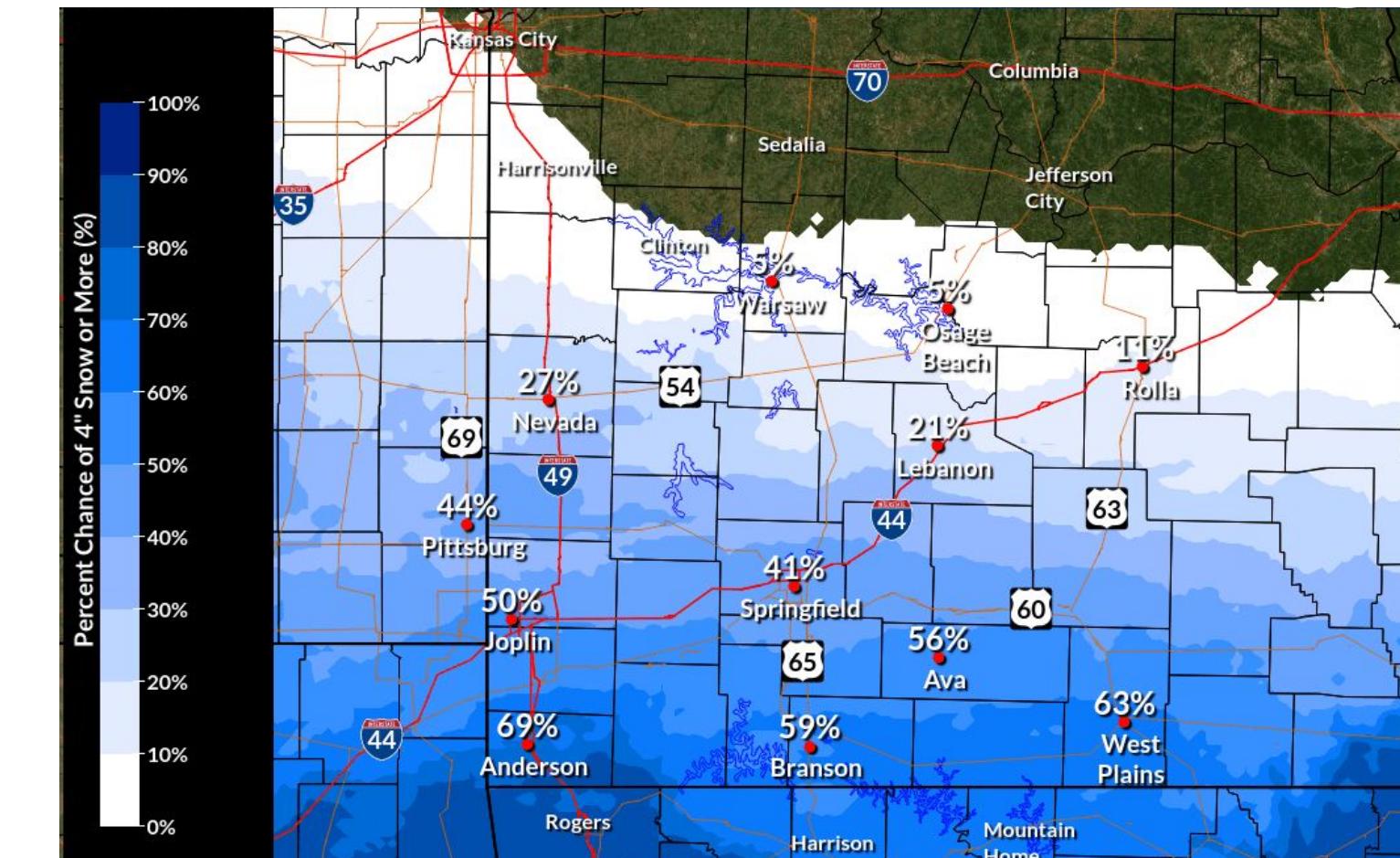
# Probabilistic Snowfall

Through Sunday Morning

January 21, 2026  
6:05 AM



Probability of > 2.0" of snowfall



Probability of > 4.0" of snowfall



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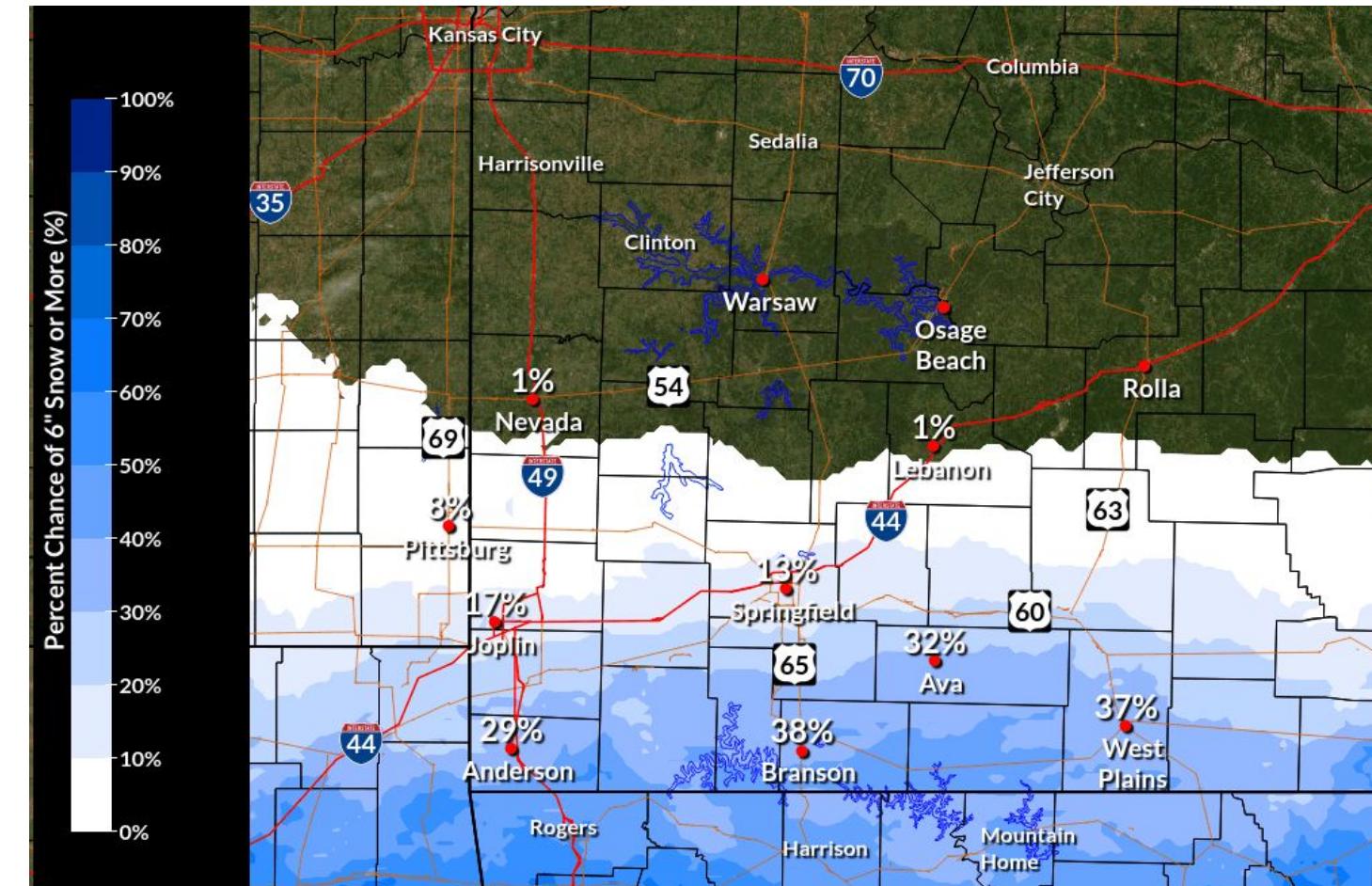
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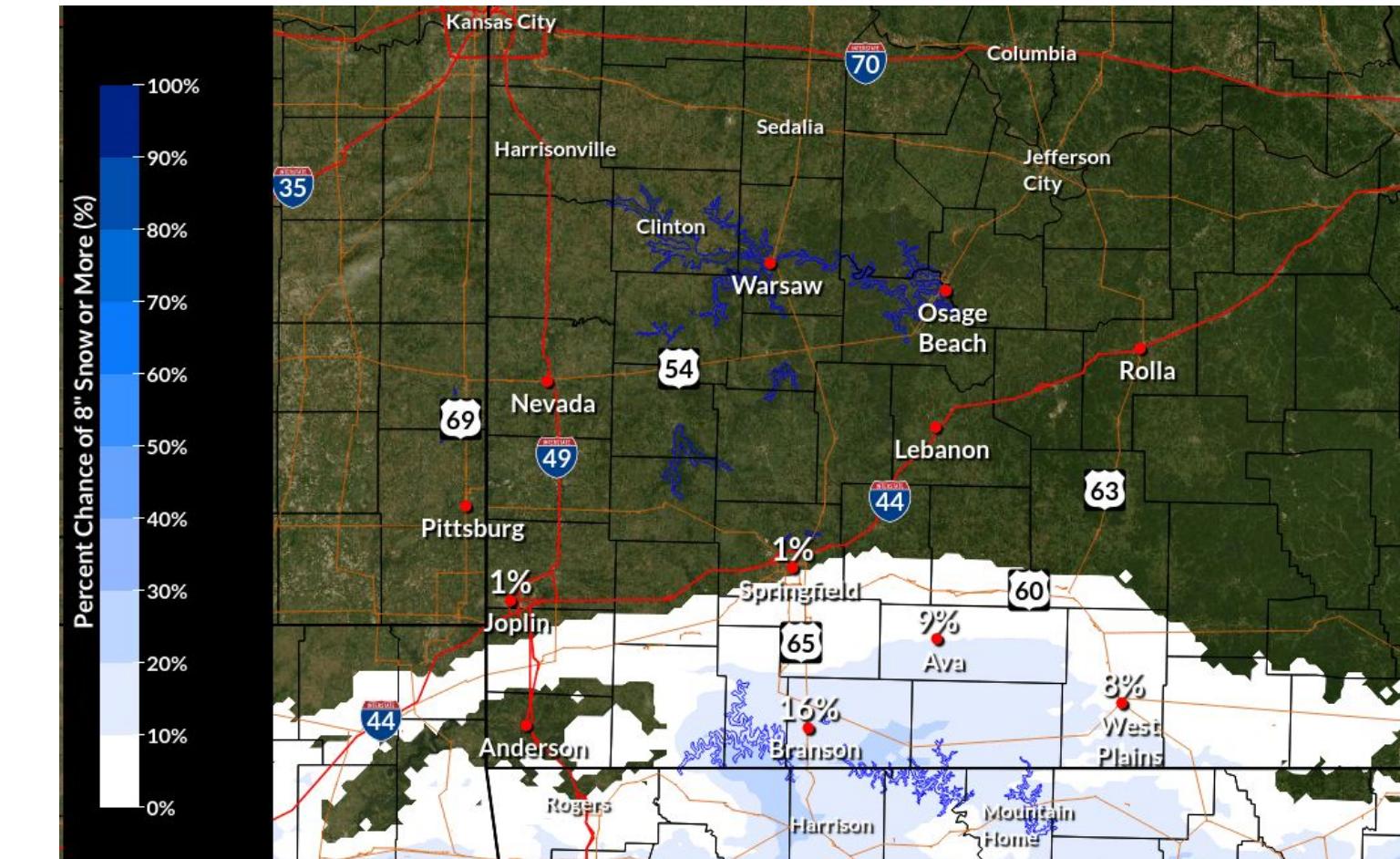
# Probabilistic Snowfall

**January 21, 2026  
6:05 AM**

## Through Sunday Morning



## Probability of > 6.0" of snowfall



## Probability of > 8.0" of snowfall



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# National Weather Service Springfield, MO

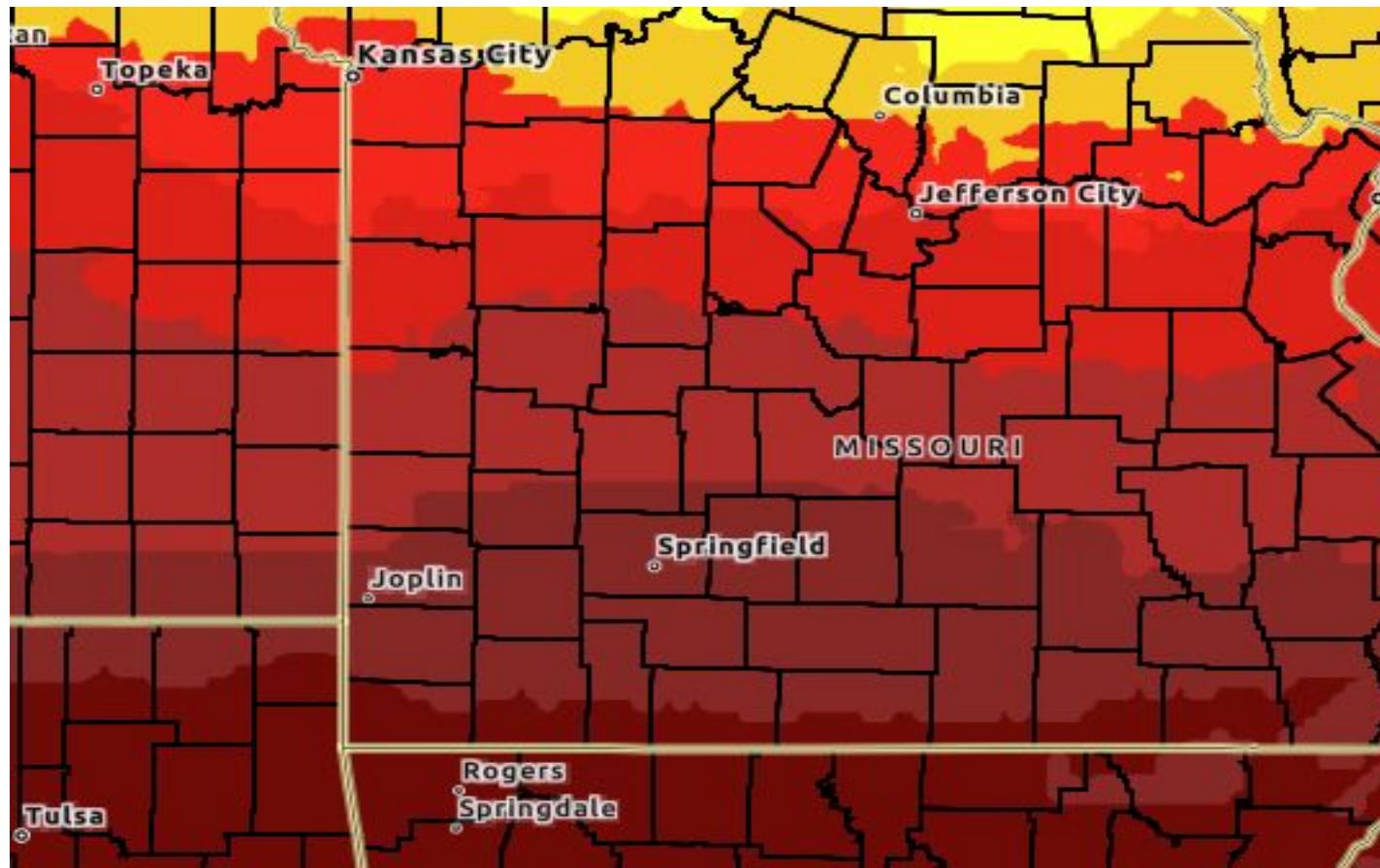


# Probabilistic Winter Storm Severity Index

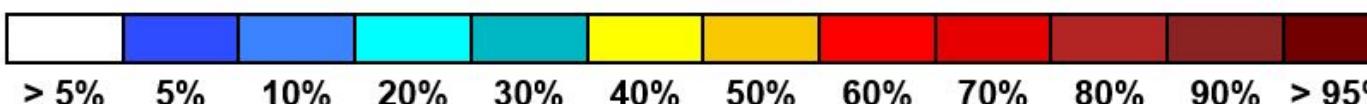
January 21, 2026  
6:05 AM

Valid 6 AM Saturday - 6 AM Sunday

## Probability of Minor Impacts

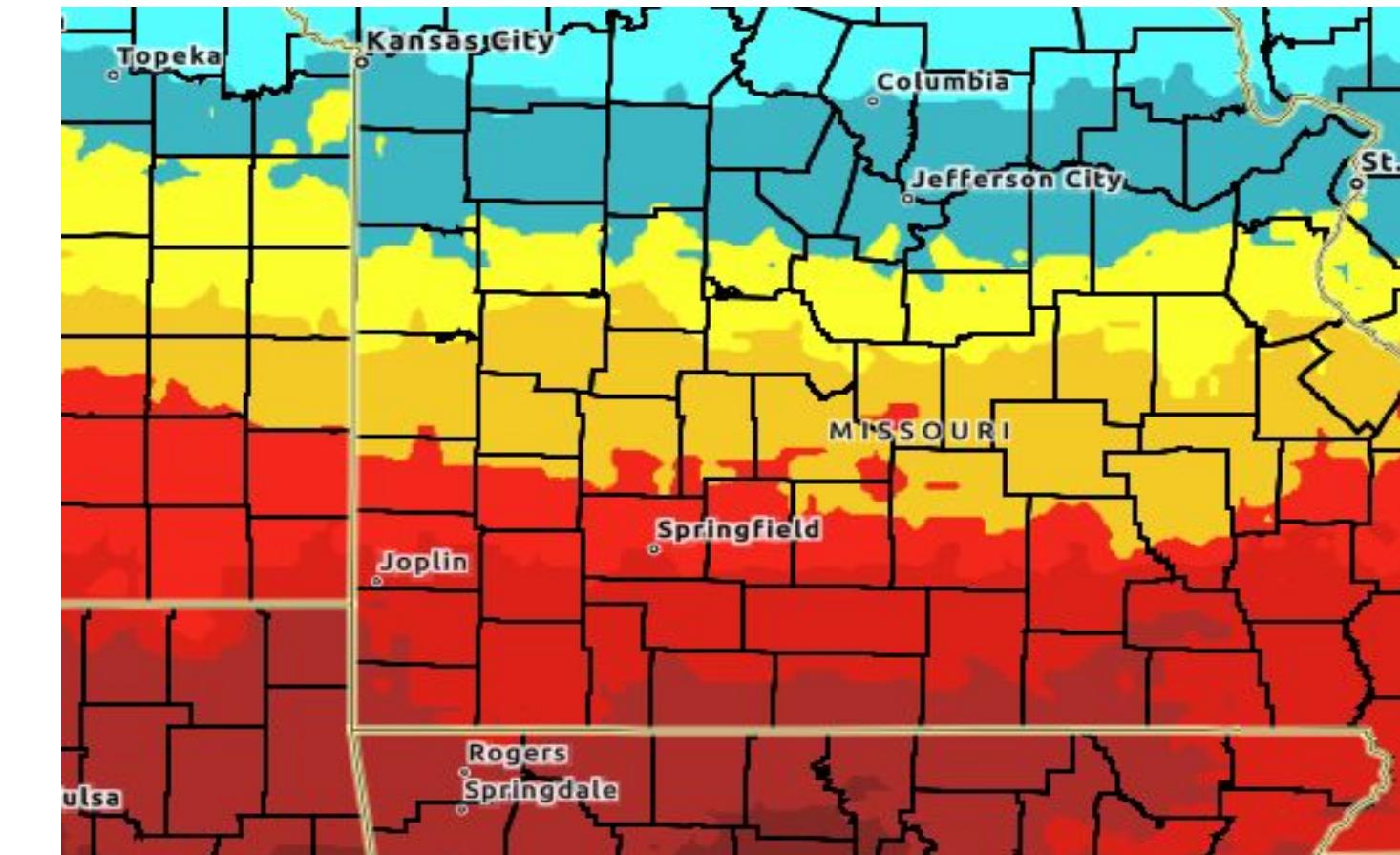


Likelihood of Impact

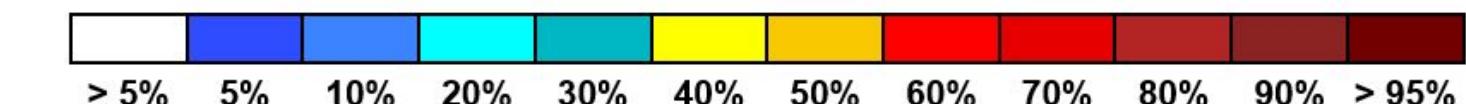


> 5% 5% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% > 95%

## 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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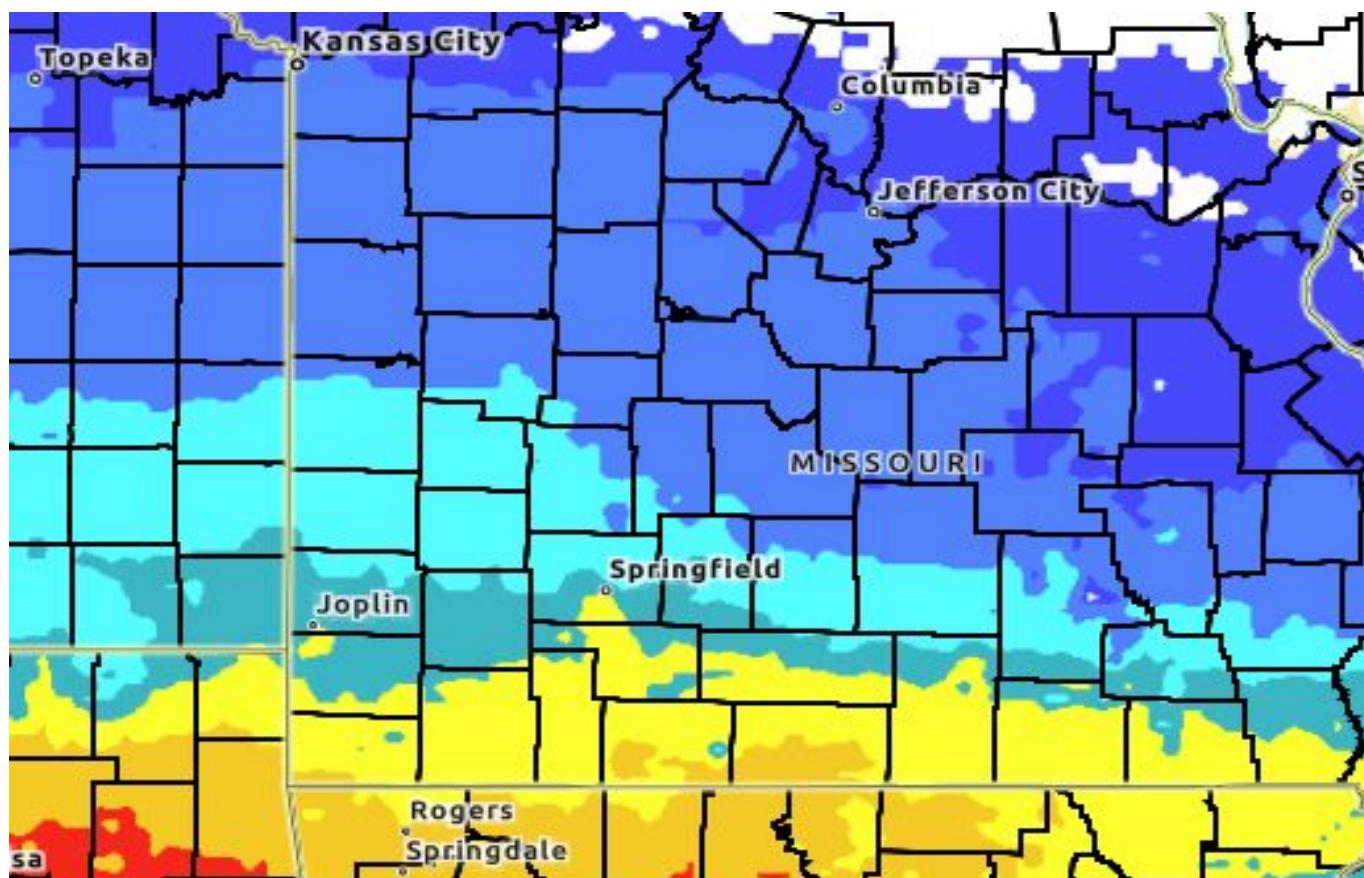


# Probabilistic Winter Storm Severity Index

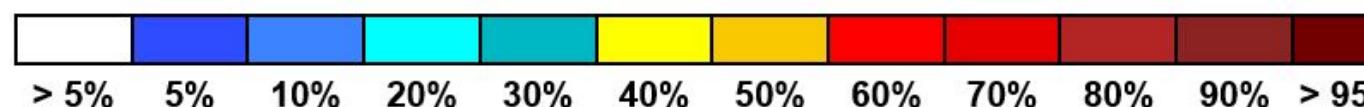
January 21, 2026  
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Valid 6 AM Saturday - 6 AM Sunday

## 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.



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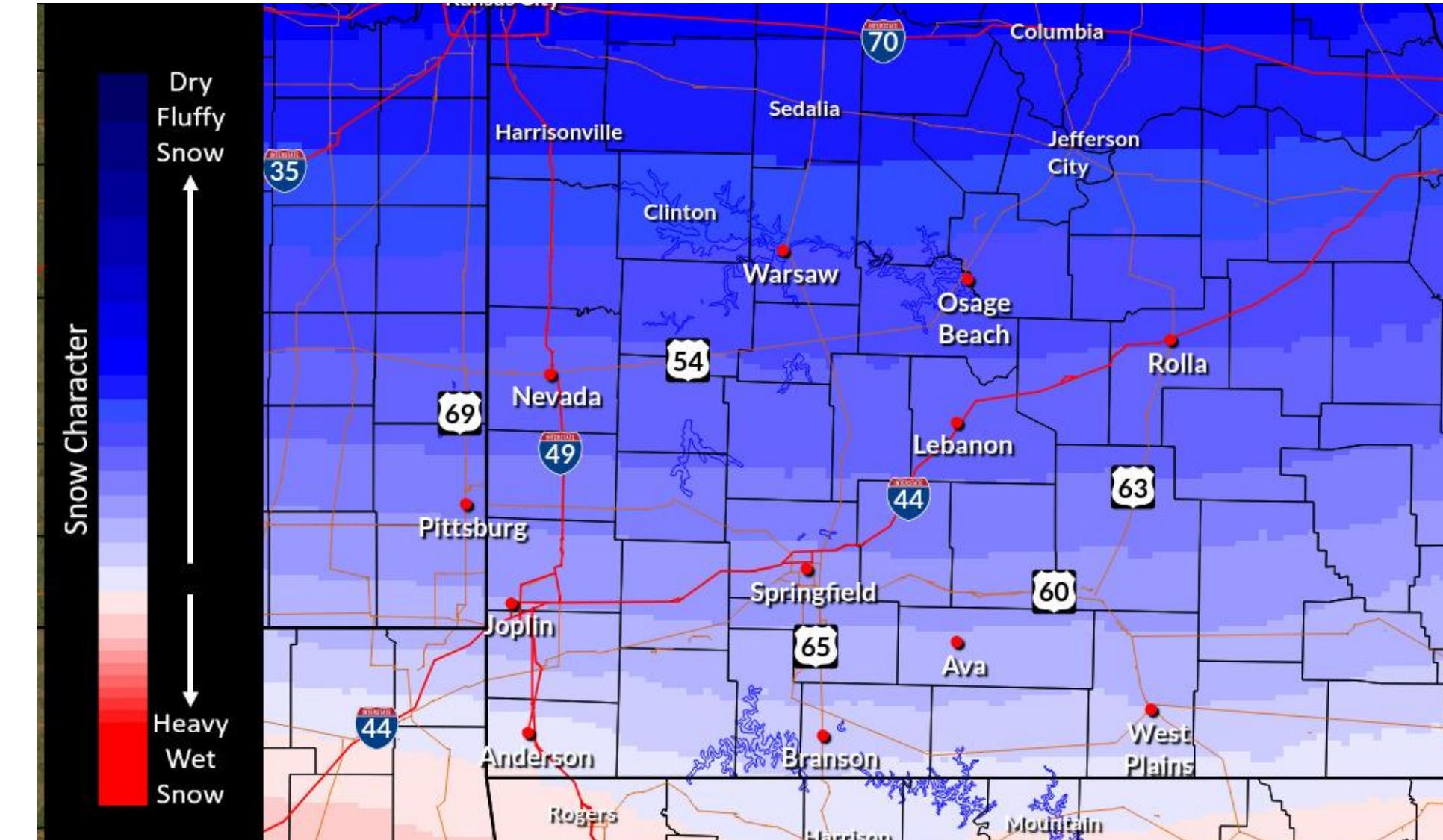
# Snow Character

January 21, 2026  
6:05 AM

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.

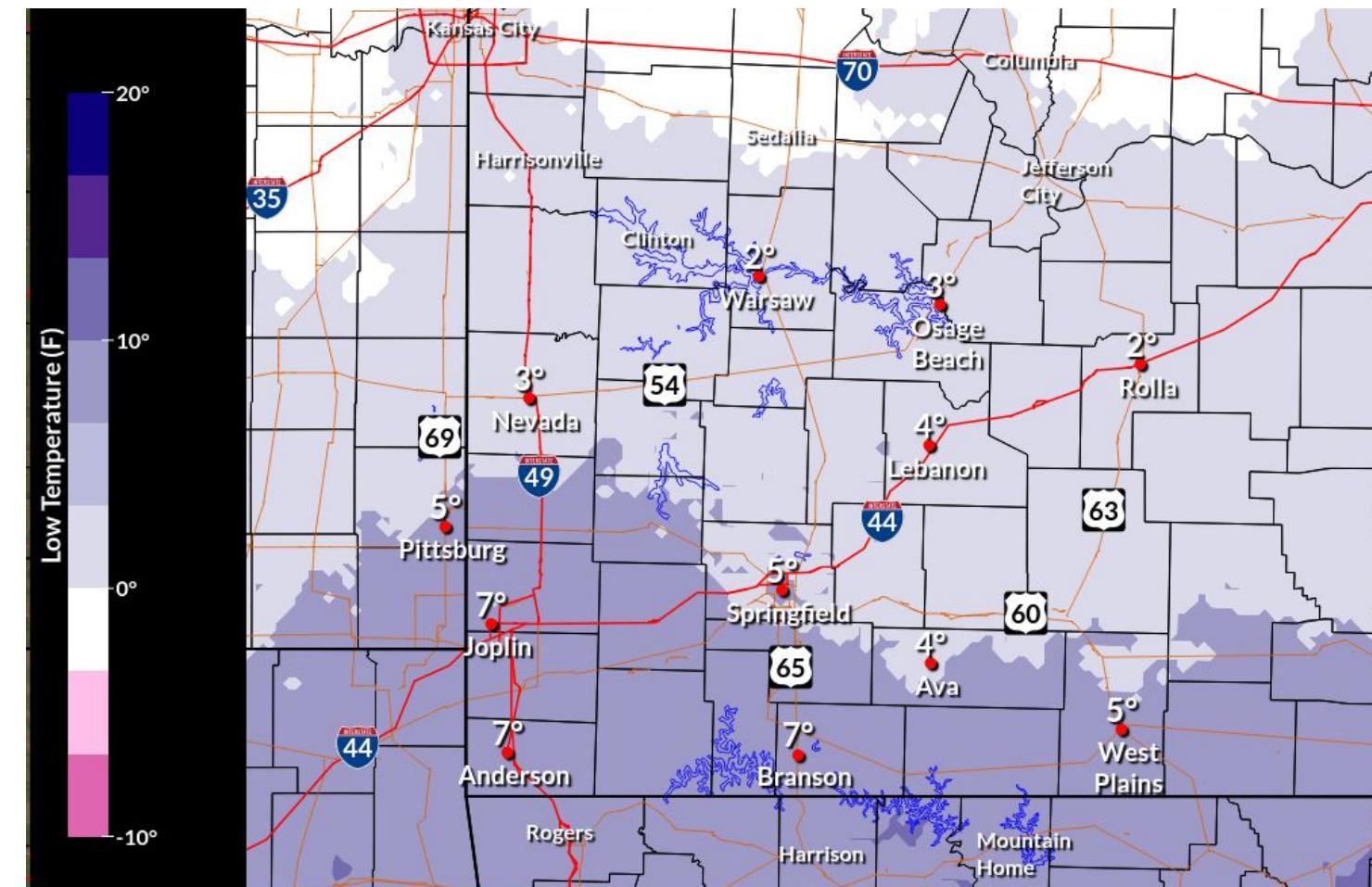




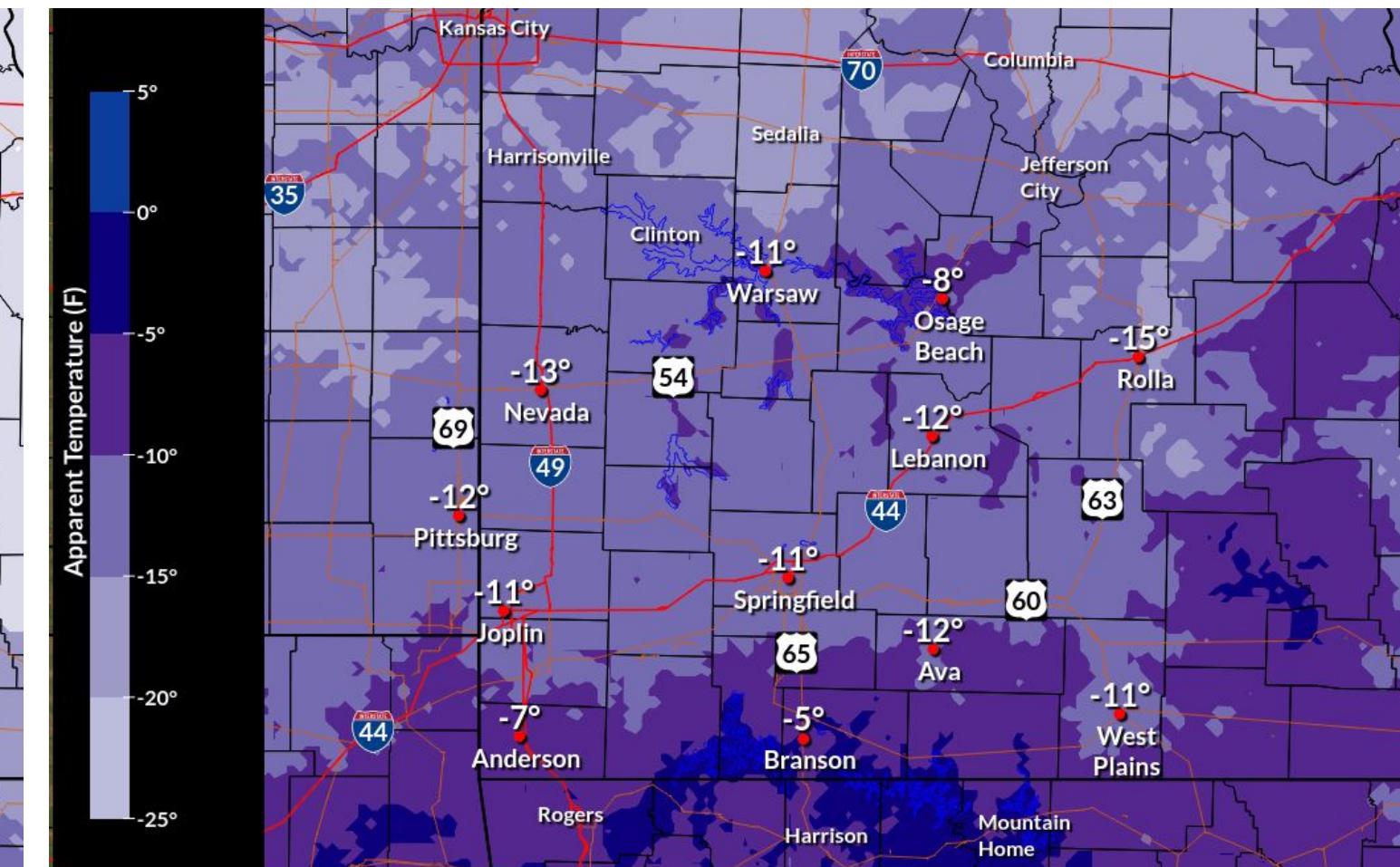
# Forecast Low Temps & Wind Chills

January 21, 2026  
6:05 AM

Friday Night



Low Temperatures Friday Night



Minimum Wind Chill Friday Night



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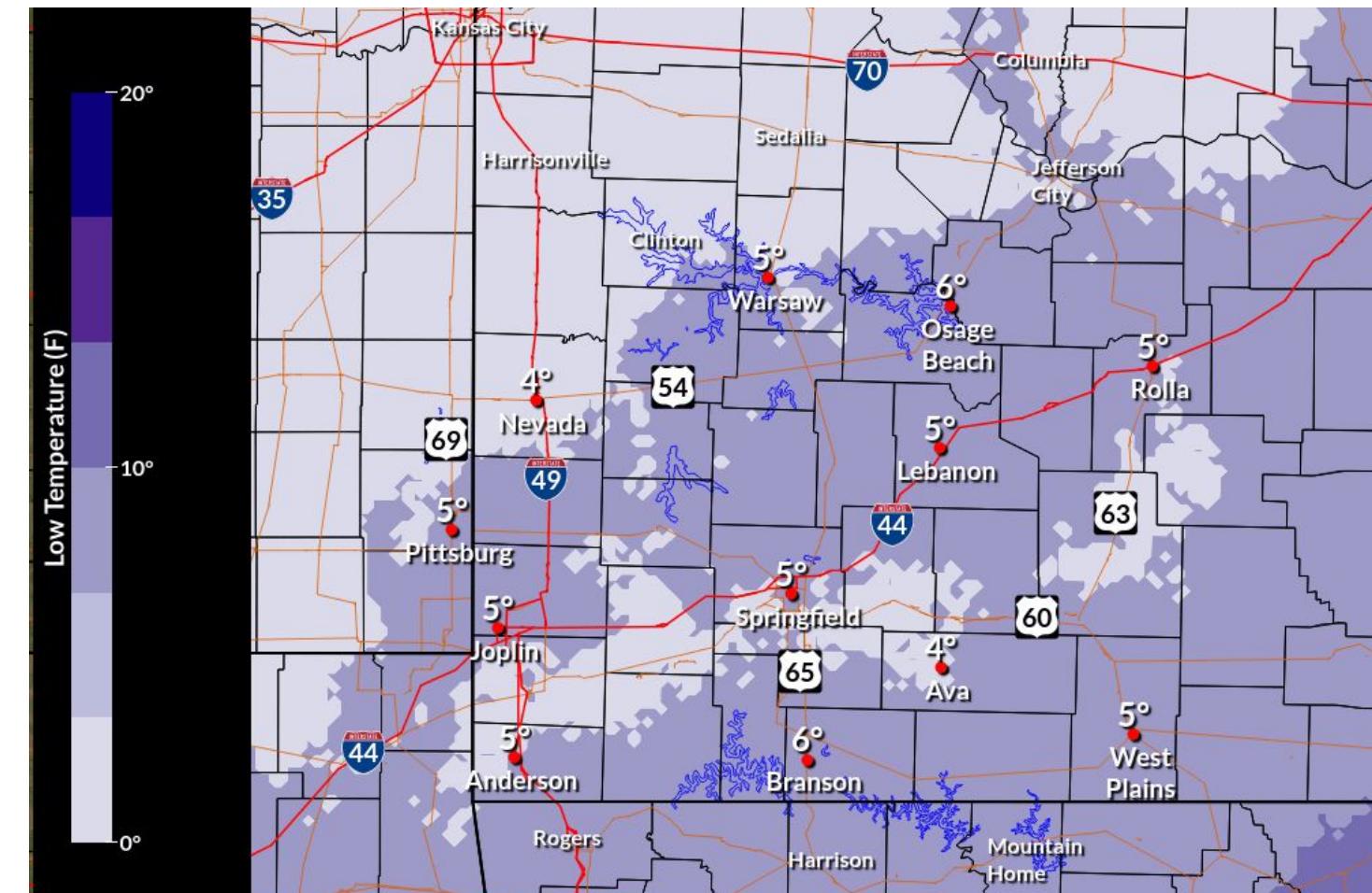
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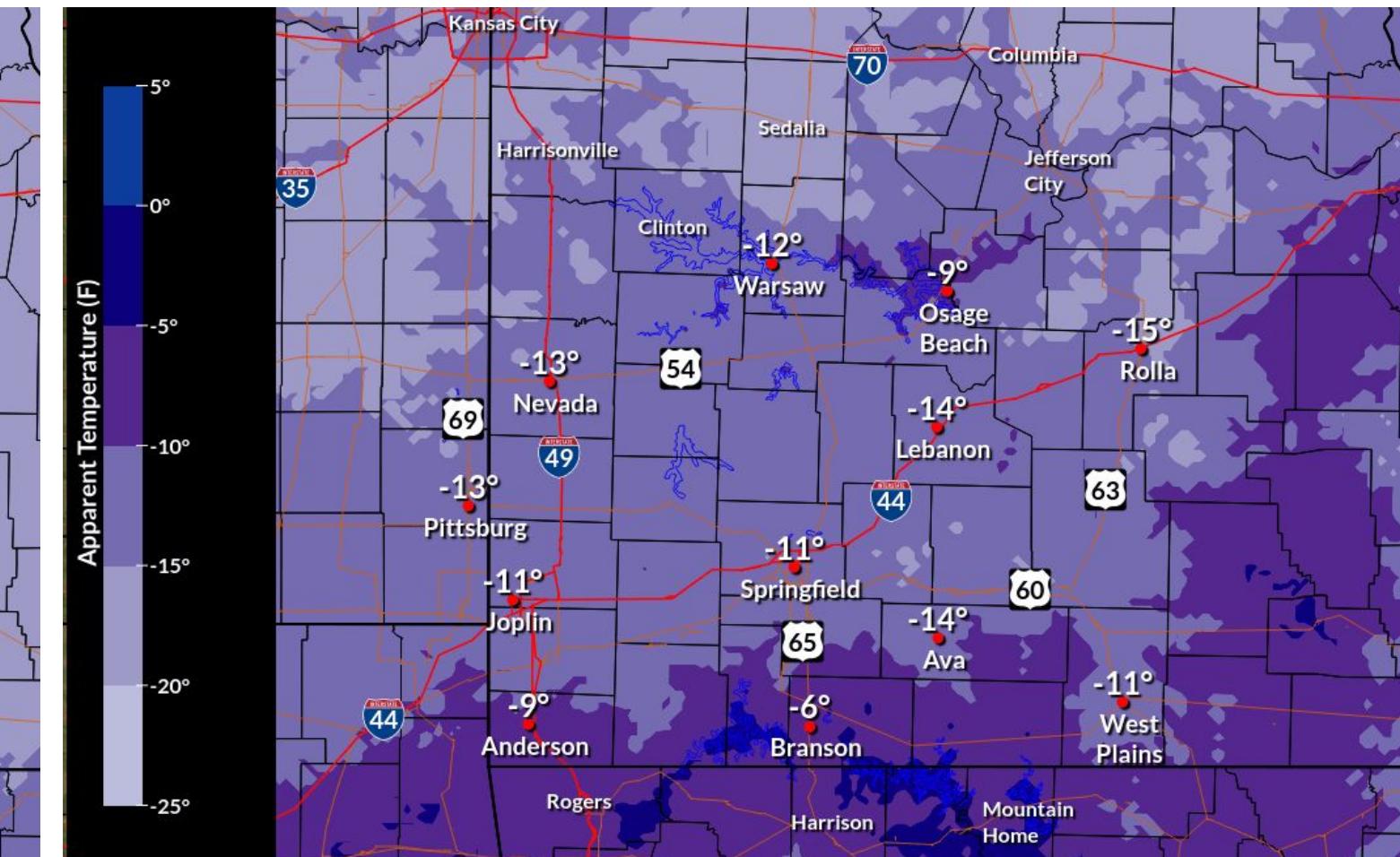
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Saturday Night



Low Temperatures Saturday Night



Minimum Wind Chill Saturday Night



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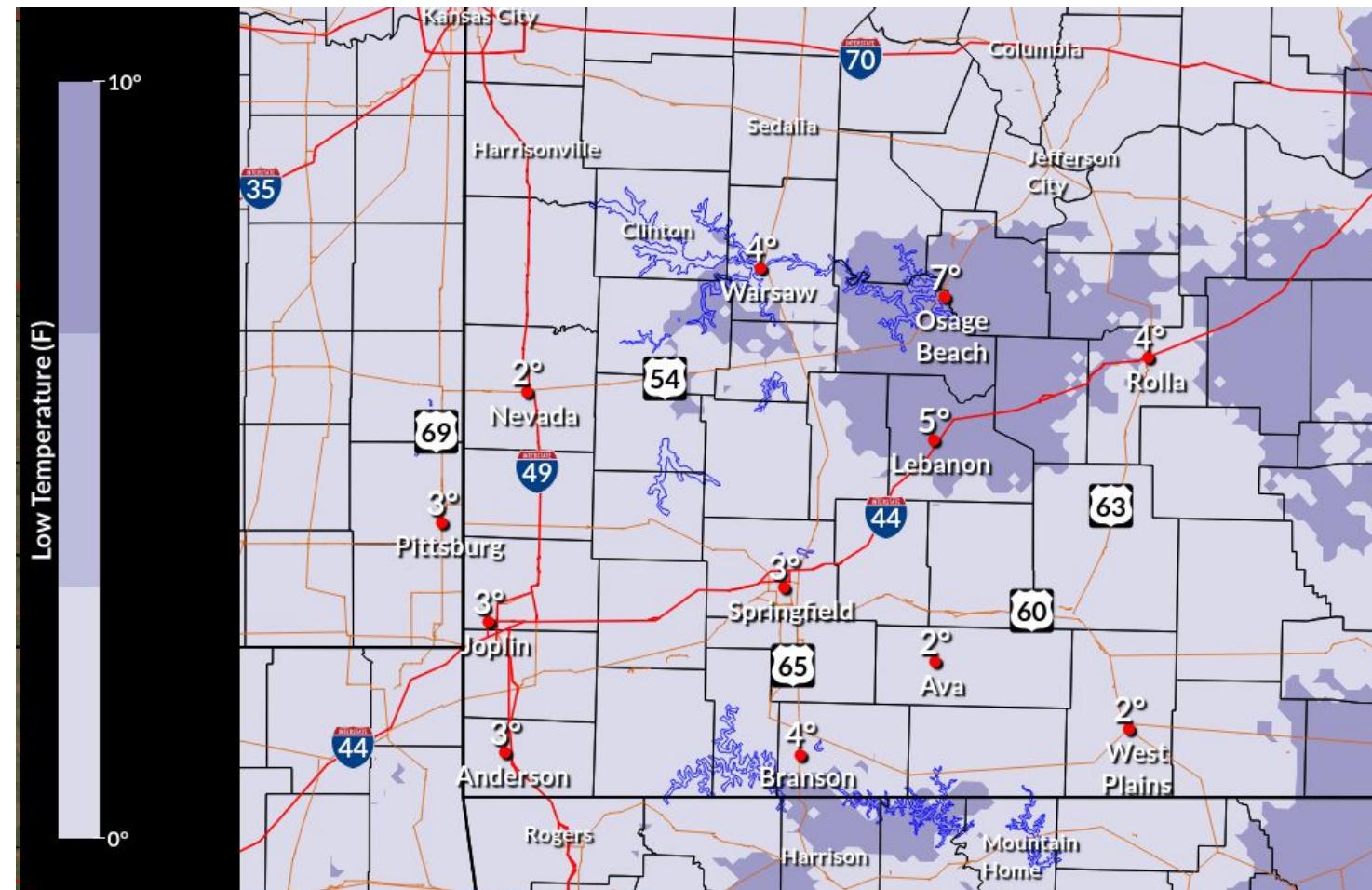
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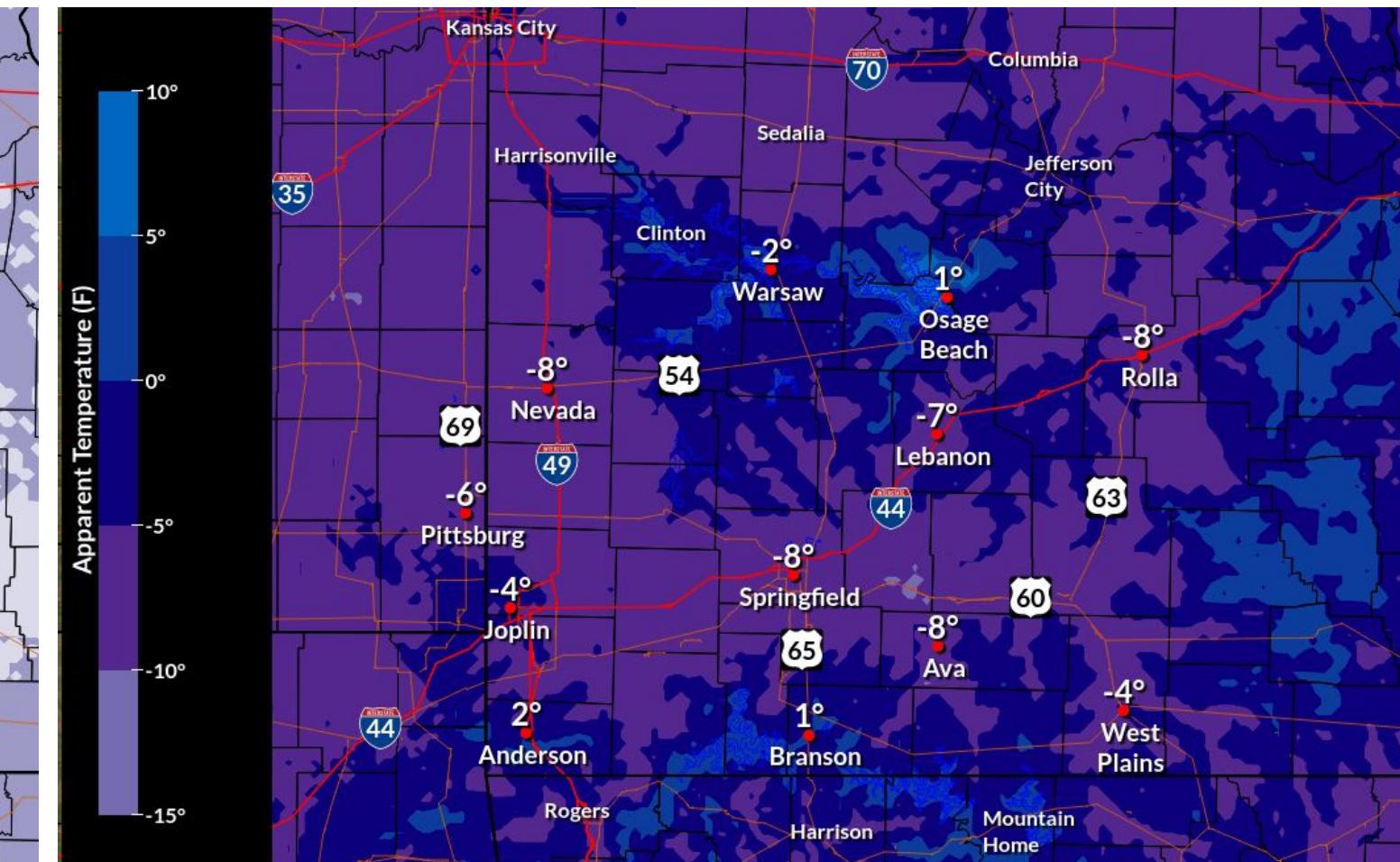
# Forecast Low Temps & Wind Chills

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Sunday Night



Low Temperatures Sunday Night



Minimum Wind Chill Sunday Night



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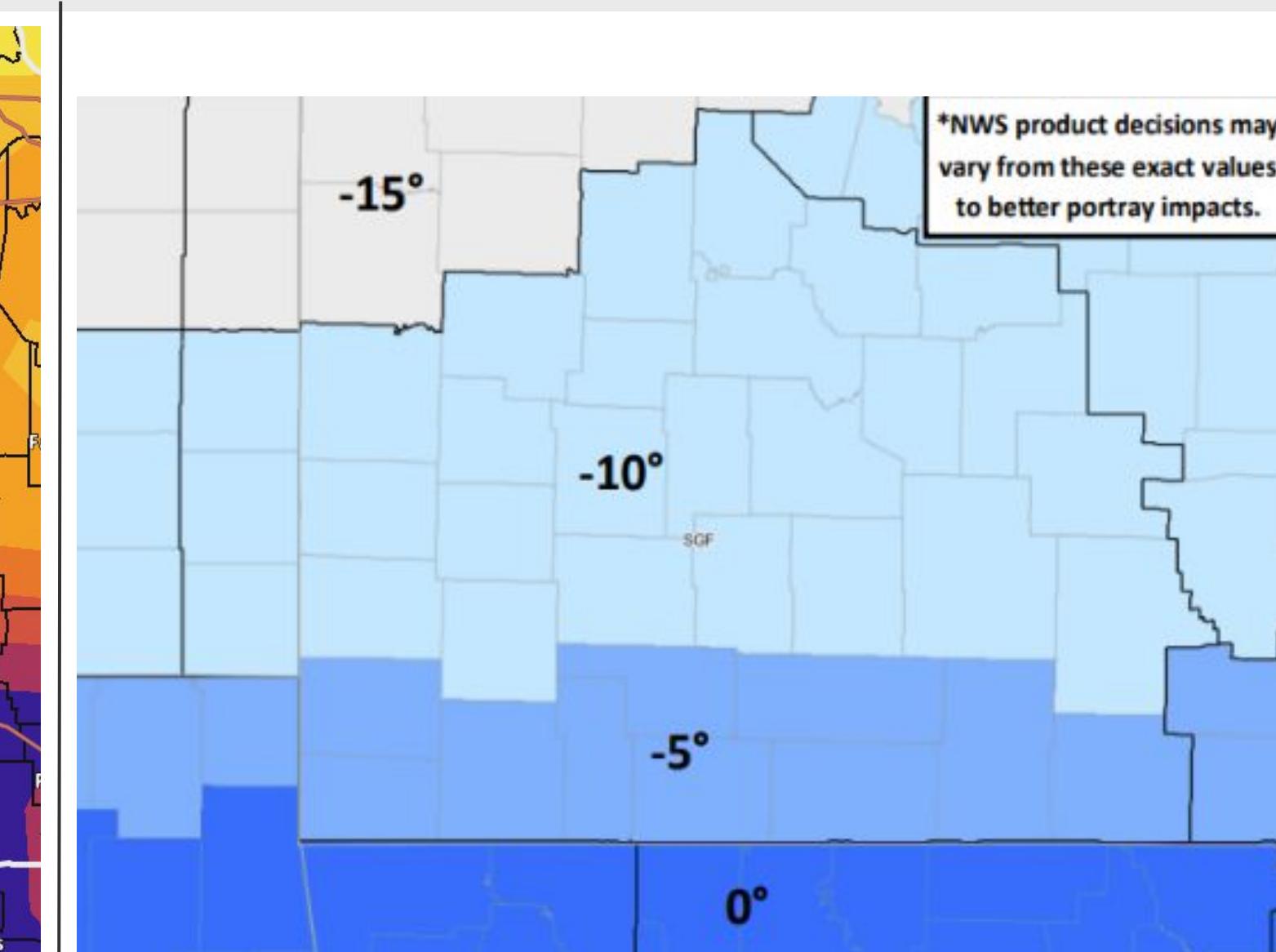
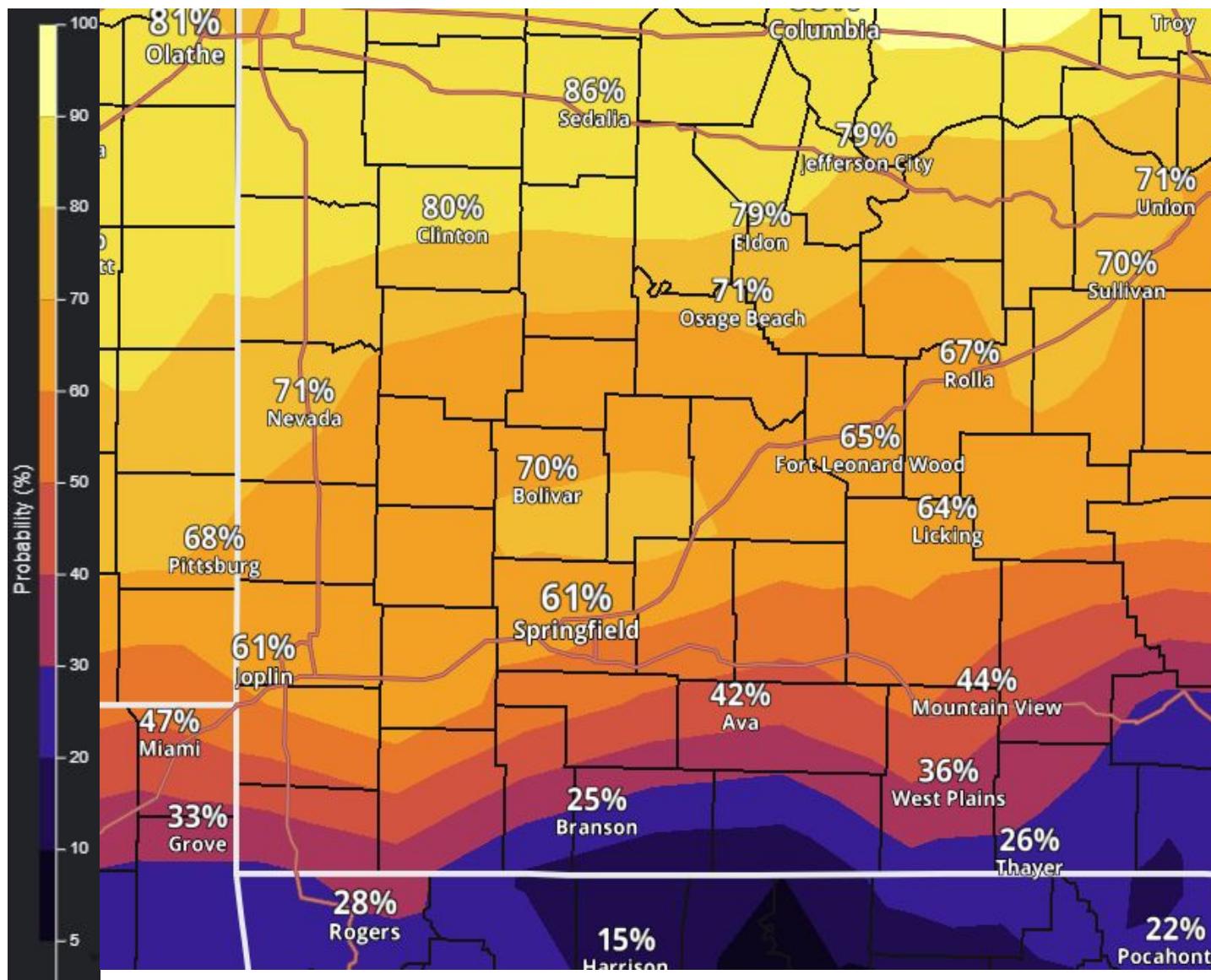
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# Probability of -10° F or Colder Wind Chills

January 21, 2026  
6:05 AM CST

Friday Night into the Weekend



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# Confidence Levels

Confidence overall increasing, but uncertainty still remains

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## Location



## Timing



## Amounts



## Travel Impacts



## Confidence Details

- A sharp gradient in snowfall amounts on the northern edge of the heavy snowfall may cause a several inch difference in totals from the northern to the southern portions of a single county, creating a drastic difference in snow accumulations over a short distance.
- Uncertainty still remains on just how far north the edge of the heavy snowfall (4-5" or more) will get.

## Alternate Scenarios

- A drier atmosphere would delay onset of snow to later into Friday evening.
- A stronger high pressure in the Northern Plains would shift the northern extent of heavy snowfall to be further south, while a weaker high pressure would allow heavy snowfall to push further north.



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# 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](#)
- [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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