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Dana Perino, co-host of the Fox News show "The Five" and a former White House press secretary, addresses The Economic Club of Southwestern Michigan on Monday at Lake Michigan College.

# 'A seismic shift in America'

Fox News' Dana Perino breaks down election at Econ Club

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**BENTON TOWNSHIP** — Fox News commentator Dana Perino was just as surprised as anyone while watching last week's presidential election results unfold.

"Six months ago I wouldn't have believed you" if you told me the results, she said Monday night in her presentation to the Economic Club of Southwestern Michigan at Lake Michigan College.

"It didn't seem possible."

But what some thought impossible just weeks ago became possible last Tuesday.

Perino, co-host of Fox News' "The Five," and a

former press secretary to President George W. Bush did a post-mortem analysis of the election and what the election of Donald Trump will mean for the country.

She called the election "a seismic shift in America."

"It has been a consequential election season, that's for sure," she said. "It's been six days. Is everyone breathing? Have you picked yourselves off the floor? What have we learned? We have the 45th president of the United States. It was considered the greatest political upset in modern political history."

Pollsters got it all wrong, for starters. Specifically, the polls didn't pick up on the crucial shift in voter attitudes in the upper Midwest, in states like Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin, she said.

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“State polling was terrible, and what they missed most was the polling in Wisconsin and Michigan.”

“He pierced the blue wall. This is something that George W. Bush and Mitt Romney could not do.”

A decline in union households may have played a role in that, she added.

Not only that, but 10 percent of those who voted for Obama voted for Trump.

Compared to Obama, Clinton just couldn't pull in the same mix of voters won over by Obama. Her voters included less Hispanics, unmarried women, Asian-Americans, millennials and African-Americans, Perino noted.

“She did not turn them out. You had the repu-

diation of eight years of Obama.”

And “Clinton lost with more of everything – more money raised and a lot more people on her staff” than Trump.

In Florida alone, for example, Clinton used 155 staff members while Trump only had five.

Also, 42 percent of American voters didn't bother to show up at all, she noted.

A poll taken near Election Day showed American's biggest fear was not terrorism, immigration or the economy. It was “government corruption,” and that hurt Hillary's hopes.

What lies ahead?

The transition period that lies ahead is critical. Trump must hire 4,000 government employees as soon as possible, and put forward his SCOTUS choice.

She called it the “73-day

sprint.”

“There are a lot of people are who bitterly disappointed (with the election) and there are some who are exuberant. But we can have a peaceful transition.”

She added: “Transition is a vulnerable time. Thank your law enforcement and pray for our national leaders.”

“He just needs to pick people he thinks are best, and not look at race or gender. What America said is they don't care.”

“I think the best thing that we can do is wait and see. Governing is very different from campaigning.”

Vice President-Elect Mike Pence seems to be a stabilizing force for Trump, and he knows the members of Congress well and how to work with them. That will be helpful, Perino said.

“He's well liked in Wash-

ington, on both sides.”

With the White House, Senate and the House under Republican control, there will be real opportunities to create new policies on a wide range of areas, including tax reform, immigration and trade deals, she said.

And the friction of political gridlock will subside.

“You might actually see some things get done,” Perino said.

Also, already there are signs Trump is moderating on some of his key issues, such as building the “Southern wall” and the notion of congressional term limits.

Term limits won't happen, she predicted, because long-serving members of Congress have too much experience to lose.

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