

## **A RECENT HISTORY OF 'DIRTY TRICKS' IN PENNSYLVANIA**

**1999** - During Philadelphia's Democratic mayoral primary, a staffer for candidate Dwight Evans created a bogus Web site for opponent John White Jr. The phony site featured a quote from an interview White had done with a Spanish-language newspaper, in which the African American candidate said, "The black and the brown, if we unite, we're going to control this city." White claimed that the quote was taken out of context.

**2004** - Letters printed on "official" county letterhead were distributed in a Pittsburgh shopping mall falsely claiming that Democrats were now scheduled to vote on Wednesday, the day after the election.

**2004** - Students at the University of Pittsburgh had their party affiliations changed by people purporting to be collecting signatures for the legalization of medical marijuana. They also changed their registered addresses, relocating their polling site locations without their knowledge.

**2006** - A phony group called the Progressive Policy Council sent out mailers slamming the socially conservative Democratic Senate candidate, Bob Casey, for not being "progressive" enough on issues like gun control and gay marriage. The group -- and its mailers -- were created by a Philadelphia-area election law lawyer and veteran GOP operative.

**2007** - Fliers circulated on election day portrayed Philadelphia Democratic mayoral candidate Michael Nutter's law enforcement proposal as racist. The fliers, which were distributed anonymously in predominantly black neighborhoods, were printed with an image from an infamous police raid on the Black Panthers that featured black men being strip-searched at gunpoint by white policemen. The caption on the fliers, which were circulated on the day of the 2007 election, proclaimed: "Welcome to the Reality of Mike Nutter's 'Stop and Frisk' Philly."