# Dario Hunter

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| **Dario Hunter** | |
| [Dario Hunter YCSD (cropped).jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Dario_Hunter_YCSD_(cropped).jpg) | |
|  | |
| **Member of the** [**Youngstown Board of Education**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Youngstown_City_School_District) | |
| [**Incumbent**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Incumbent) | |
| **Assumed office**  2016 | |
| **Personal details** | |
| **Born** | April 21, 1983 (age 36)[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dario_Hunter#cite_note-meet-dario-1) [Livingston, New Jersey](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Livingston,_New_Jersey), U.S.[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dario_Hunter#cite_note-meet-dario-1) |
| **Political party** | [Green](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Green_Party_of_the_United_States) (2018–present) [Democratic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Democratic_Party_(United_States)) (Before 2018) |
| **Education** | [Princeton University](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Princeton_University) ([BA](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bachelor_of_Arts)) [[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dario_Hunter#cite_note-CPD-2) [University of Windsor](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_of_Windsor) ([LLB](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bachelor_of_Laws)) [University of Detroit](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_of_Detroit_Mercy) ([JD](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Juris_Doctor)) [Wayne State University](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wayne_State_University) ([LLM](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Master_of_Laws)) [Jewish Spiritual Leaders Institute](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Steven_Blane) ([Semikhah](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Semikhah" \o "Semikhah)) |
| **Occupation** | Rabbi of [College of Wooster](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/College_of_Wooster) [[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dario_Hunter#cite_note-CPD-2) |
| **Profession** | [Attorney](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lawyer) |

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| |  |  | | --- | --- | |  | This article is part of a series about Dario Hunter | |
| * [Politics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dario_Hunter#Politics) * [Career](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dario_Hunter#Career) * [Activism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dario_Hunter#Activism)   **Presidential campaigns**   * [2020](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dario_Hunter_2020_presidential_campaign)   + [Primaries](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2020_Green_Party_presidential_primaries)   **Political party affiliations**   * [Green Party of Ohio](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Green_Party_of_Ohio) * [Green Party of the United States](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Green_Party_of_the_United_States) |
| * [v](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Template:Dario_Hunter_series) * [t](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Template_talk:Dario_Hunter_series&action=edit&redlink=1) * [e](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Template:Dario_Hunter_series&action=edit) |

**Dario David Hunter** (born April 21, 1983), also known as **Yisroel Hunter**,[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dario_Hunter#cite_note-unicorn-3) is an American lawyer, [rabbi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rabbi), educator, and politician. He is considered the first [Muslim](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muslim)-born person to be ordained as a rabbi.



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## Background

Hunter is openly [gay](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gay) and was raised by his [Iranian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iran) Muslim father and [African American](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/African_American) mother in [Newark](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Newark,_New_Jersey) and [Jersey City](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jersey_City,_New_Jersey) in New Jersey.[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dario_Hunter#cite_note-arabiya-4)

## Rabbinic career

Hunter converted to Judaism, first through the [Reform](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reform_Judaism) movement and then through an [Orthodox](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orthodox_Judaism) process.[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dario_Hunter#cite_note-unicorn-3) He was ordained as a rabbi in 2012 by the [Jewish Spiritual Leaders Institute](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Steven_Blane) in [New York City](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York_City).[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dario_Hunter#cite_note-vindy-5)[[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dario_Hunter#cite_note-ynet-6)[[7]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dario_Hunter#cite_note-tablet-7)[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dario_Hunter#cite_note-arabiya-4)

A former environmental attorney in Israel, he currently lives in [Youngstown, Ohio](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Youngstown,_Ohio), and is a rabbi at the [College of Wooster](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/College_of_Wooster).[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dario_Hunter#cite_note-CPD-2)[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dario_Hunter#cite_note-arabiya-4)[[8]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dario_Hunter#cite_note-votedario-8)

Hunter was fired from his position as rabbi of Ohev Tzedek-Shaarei Torah synagogue in after critical comments he made about [Israel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israel) were published in a Cleveland.com article.[[9]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dario_Hunter#cite_note-9)[[10]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dario_Hunter#cite_note-10) Hunter said tat he does "not believe the United States should be providing any form of aid to Israel or any human-rights abusers” and referred to Israel's treatment of [Palestinians](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palestinians) as "horribly atrocious".[[11]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dario_Hunter#cite_note-11) The synagogue initially told reporters that his statements about Israel had were unrelated to the firing.[[12]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dario_Hunter#cite_note-12) The synagogue has confirmed that he was fired because his statements about Israel are not in accord with the views of the synagogue members.[[13]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dario_Hunter#cite_note-auto1-13)

Hunter is a member of the [Jewish Voice for Peace](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jewish_Voice_for_Peace).[[14]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dario_Hunter#cite_note-14) Hunter has made fighting anti-[BDS](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boycott,_Divestment_and_Sanctions) laws a part of his campaign, telling German paper [Jüdische Allgemeine](https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/J%C3%BCdische_Allgemeine), "We will fight the attempt to curtail our rights to freedom of expression through laws that ban the boycott of Israel and the criticism of its human rights violations." [[15]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dario_Hunter#cite_note-allge-15)

## Political career

### Youngstown politics

Hunter was a [Democratic Party](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Democratic_Party_(United_States)) candidate for Youngstown City Council in the 2015 primary election.[[8]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dario_Hunter#cite_note-votedario-8) In the 2015 general election, he won a write-in campaign for a seat on the Youngstown Board of Education.[[16]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dario_Hunter#cite_note-results-16) In May 2018, he joined the Green Party, becoming the only Green elected officeholder in Ohio.[[17]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dario_Hunter#cite_note-17)

Hunter has been noted in the media for his outspoken stances on a number of school board issues, including what he sees as the Youngstown Board of Education's responsibility for low scores on state report cards,[[18]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dario_Hunter#cite_note-scores1-18)[[19]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dario_Hunter#cite_note-scores2-19) [ethics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ethics) violations,[[20]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dario_Hunter#cite_note-ethics-20) [nepotism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nepotism),[[20]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dario_Hunter#cite_note-ethics-20) [creationism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Creationism) in the curriculum[[21]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dario_Hunter#cite_note-storm-21)[[22]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dario_Hunter#cite_note-video-22) and the general dysfunction of the board.

### 2020 presidential campaign

Main article: [Dario Hunter 2020 presidential campaign](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dario_Hunter_2020_presidential_campaign)

On January 21, 2019, Hunter announced he was forming an [exploratory committee](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Exploratory_committee) with the intention of seeking the [Green Party](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Green_Party_(United_States)) [nomination](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2020_Green_Party_presidential_primaries) for [President of the United States](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/President_of_the_United_States) in [2020](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2020_United_States_presidential_election).[[23]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dario_Hunter#cite_note-23) He formally launched his presidential candidacy on February 18, 2019.[[24]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dario_Hunter#cite_note-24)

## Activism

### Legal actions

In 2017, Hunter filed a lawsuit against the Youngstown City School District in the Ohio Supreme Court for failing to provide public records. His request focused on a company contracted to hire principals for the district. The district settled with Hunter, providing the records and paying him costs. Hunter planned to donate the $100 awarded for court fees to the Boys and Girls Club.[[25]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dario_Hunter#cite_note-video1-25)

In 2018, Hunter sued the Ohio Department of Education in the Ohio Supreme Court for failing to provide public records on an investigation into Youngstown's CEO for alleged inappropriate conduct.[[26]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dario_Hunter#cite_note-26) The Department of Education settled with Hunter, providing the records and paying towards his costs. Hunter donated the funds to the United Negro College Fund.[[*citation needed*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Citation_needed)]

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