

Axios Nashville



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Happy Saturday! As 2022 comes to a close, we wanted to reflect on who's made the biggest difference in our city this year.

- Today's special edition of Axios Nashville is all about local power players.
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Today's newsletter is 912 words — a 3.5-minute read.

1. Ward Baker, political strategist



Photo: Courtesy of Baker Group Strategies

The conservative powerbroker **oversaw the successful campaign strategies of U.S. Sens. Marsha Blackburn and Bill Hagerty, to name a few.**

- Baker served as [executive director of the National Republican Senate Campaign committee in 2016](#), famously leading the GOP to a surprising turnaround.
- Baker Group Strategies, which he founded, has grown into one of the state's most influential consulting firms.

What we're watching: It's never too soon to look toward the next election. The 2026 gubernatorial race figures to be a free-for-all, so it will be interesting to see which candidate Baker backs.

2. Adrienne Battle, MNPS director