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Methodist Medical employees approve new contract

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ANDERSON COUNTY, Tenn., (WVLT) - Members of the Service Employees International Union Local 205 overwhelmingly approved a new contract with Methodist Medical Center of Oak Ridge.

Union members tentatively approved the new contract on Wednesday. It was brought up for a vote Friday evening and according to union officials, a record number of its more than 1,000 hospital employees participated.

"The two-year contract provided employees with annual raises, reigned in employees' costs for [health insurance](#), preserved earned sick leave, added a new benefit for some of the hospital's lower-paid workers, addressed staffing issues, and a host of other improvements for over 1,000 employees," Sondra Bryant, a registered nurse who served on SEIU Local 205's bargaining committee said in a news release.

Methodist Medical is the only unionized hospital in East Tennessee. SEIU's new contract with the facility will run until October 2011.