

# Poll: Gov't Should Butt Out of 401(k) Business

By [Danielle Sottosanti](#), [Ignites](#) [subscription only]  
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A government mandate on 401(k) contributions is not the solution to low participation rates in defined contribution plans, say *Ignites* poll respondents.

Roughly 66%, or 265 respondents, say the government should not require employees to allocate a portion of their paychecks to their retirement accounts. That was the majority response to an *Ignites* poll, published Tuesday, that asked readers whether the government should mandate employees to make 401(k) contributions.

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“I think it’s going too far to mandate retirement savings through a statute or a law,” says Niels Holch, executive director of the [Coalition of Mutual Fund Investors](#). Instead of such a mandate, he supports automatic deferrals, which give people the ability to opt out of contributions, and better retirement education programs. “We have to encourage people, and not require them, to save for their retirement,” he says.